

CCEA Human Interest Stories

May 2010 - Did you know...

CCEA Food Pantry Volunteers touch lives in various ways!

A young man came in today asking for help to get a prescription filled. He said he needed it because he was in a great deal of pain. The medication was not pain medication; it was to shrink his prostate. He is scheduled for surgery the end of May. Without the medication, the pain keeps him up nights.

He is only in his mid twenties and he is taking care of his little daughter and his father. His father had been in a car accident that has left his memory impaired. He has limited short-term memory. Something about the young man struck me. He was up against a lot, needed some help, but still seemed strong and determined.

I faxed the application to the CCEA and told him a representative called him later. Before he left I just felt the urge to pray with him. When I asked if I could, his eyes lit up and he welcomed it eagerly.

He said, "Nobody asks if they can pray with me or for me."

I took his hands and prayed. I do not know exactly what I said. I just asked for all that came to my mind for the young man who needed healing on so many levels. I thanked God and went to pull away.

"Wait!" he said, "I want to tell Him something, too."

He prayed, "Help me be a good dad for my little girl, God and make me strong and heal my dad and bring him back to how he was before the accident and remember all I asked you in my heart when I was 18."

It was simple – but it spoke volumes to my heart and I hope it speaks to yours.

That is why we are here, to see God's wonder in the simplest of things. It is not just handing bags of food out. It is not about helping people fill out financial aid forms, handling emergencies, and paying their bills. It is about seeing Christ in the face of everyone that walks in seeking assistance. It is about watching God do wondrous things in the people around me, and doing a new thing in me.

September 2009

Testimony from a Food Pantry Volunteer - In late July, a young widow who has three children came to the CCEA Food Pantry. She is only 36 with two boys and a little girl. The widow was filling out paperwork while I went down to get the food bagged up. I came out with the four bags into the hallway and the youngest child came up the steps with her stuffed cat. The lady who brought the family in asked, "Is this all for us?"

When I said yes the little one's eyes lit up and she kept looking at me and at the lady. Her eyes were asking, "Really?" with such a smile. "Oh... thank you" she breathed. Her eyes danced!

I went upstairs to get mom and check on the paperwork. As we walked down to get the food, the littlest one was telling the lady, who drove them, all the items she found in the bags. "There's cookies!" "There's juice!" She looked up excitedly.

As her mom gathered up the bags, something caught the youngest attention. She looked at me with excitement in her eyes. “Is that?.....” as she peeked in the bag she spun and looked at me again with almost wonder. “It’s macaroni and cheese!! I LOVE macaroni and cheese.” She was so excited and kept saying thank you. Her mom and the kind one who drove them kept saying thank you all the way out the door.

Oh, that God would give me such a treat today! Praise His mighty love! To get a front row seat to watch Him in action doing what He does best because it’s who He is.....Love.