

## **MUST (Ministries United for Service and Training)**

**MISSION** Serving our neighbors in need ... transforming lives and communities in response to Christ's call, to become Georgia's most respected Servant Leader - restoring lives one person and one community at a time.

For 47 years, MUST has established itself as a servant leader caring for those in need in the Marietta, Smyrna and Canton/Cherokee county communities. Founded in 1971 by the Rev. Wayne Williams, MUST Ministries' initial programs included a grocery bus ministries for the elderly, a youth tutoring program and outreach ministries to "alienated" young people. Since its inception, MUST has fulfilled Wayne's vision of connecting people who have a desire to help with those who need help the most. Today, MUST encompasses more than 10,000 volunteers who are continually helping MUST Ministries achieve its goal of being Georgia's most respected servant-leader. In Cobb county MUST provides food, a homeless shelter, and services to the poor.

Key themes and statistics

- MUST responds to God's call to serve the needs of the poor and troubled.
- MUST is an organization supported by SPSP and numerous Cobb County churches of various denominations.
- MUST offers a wide range of services to help people break the cycle of poverty: emergency shelter, transitional housing, meals, groceries, clothing, job readiness and placement, substance abuse counseling, financial assistance, children's programs, community support groups, access to free health care, access to affordable housing.
- In a typical year, MUST helps 36,532 people with emergency groceries; 22,036 with free clothing; 590 with job placement; 2,672 with medical care; 5,237 children with clothes, school supplies and gifts; 2,373 people with emergency and transitional housing; and serves 64,882 hot meals.

### **We grow Disciples of Jesus Christ through . . .**

For over 30 years SPSP has been supporting MUST ministries with a variety of activities. Teams from our parish prepare meals, pray and serve:

- Breakfast, Bible reading and prayer at MUST Elizabeth house every Friday throughout the year
- 5th Wednesday MUST lunches from 10:00am-2:00pm
- 4th Tuesday and the 5th Thursday morning breakfasts with Bible reading and prayer throughout the year at MUST Elizabeth House
- 4,000 MUST summer lunches program for kids without a school lunch during the summer
- run a clothes closet that transfers all unused clothing items and shoes to MUST every two weeks

### **Value of this Ministry in one's walk with Christ**

- For recipients – experiencing support of God's love through food, clothing, Bible study, prayer and fellowship
- For SPSP MUST volunteers – living our Mission of Growing Disciples of Jesus Christ by participating with those less fortunate than us in the type of areas Jesus provided his ministry in

### **SPSP MUST Volunteer Time Commitment**

- Breakfast, Bible Study and Prayer – 2 hours a week
- 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday lunch – 2 hours 3 to 4 times a year, whenever there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in a month
- Summer Lunches – 1 hour per week in the month of June

## **MUST Christmas Gift Tree**

**Mission** Growing Disciples of Jesus Christ by serving Christ through offering family based gifts to MUST families.

### **We grow Disciples of Jesus Christ through . . .**

- We set up a large Christmas tree soon after Thanksgiving in the Bell Tower at the end of the hallway
- We decorate it with 3 different types of tags requesting donations for toys, socks, hats, gloves
- We hang a pair of socks (one inside the other) and people fill the sock with small fun items for a boy or girl of a specific age (tag attached with details)
- We set up a small tree in the downstairs Sunday School area for Sunday school children to take tags from.
- The gifts are returned by mid-December and our committee then takes the gifts over to the MUST donation Center for their store where parents can go and “shop” for their children in time for Christmas.

### **Value of this Ministry in one’s walk with Christ**

- For Ministry Recipients - Parents who cannot afford gifts for their children can choose gifts and feel wonderful on Christmas day when they see the delight on their children faces, parents also feel the loving hand of God
- For SPSP volunteers - Committee members as well as parishioners feel great about helping those less fortunate and living our Mission, MUST is always super excited to get all the donations.

**SPSP MUST Christmas Tree Volunteer Time commitment** – the committee performs these tasks, with the time commitment spread across several people

- sets up large tree upstairs and small tree downstairs and also takes them down after Christmas – 2 hours
- writes a paragraph for November and December Breaking Bread and Weekly Blasts, starting at the beginning of November going through mid-December, put details on SPSP Facebook – 2 hours
- makes tags for tree and hangs them, also replenishes as they are taken – 2 hours
- buys 60 pairs of long white socks and hangs them – 1 hour
- arrange volunteers to take all the donations to MUST once a week – 1 hour
- communicate with MUST about donations – 2 hours