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February 2015 — March 2015 Newsletter

Activities



ReStore offers:

- **Crockpot Tuesday:** Tuesday 4-6
- **Dances:** second and fourth Wednesday 2-4
- **Lunch program:** Daily 12-1 (beginning first week of March)
- Non-denominational **Bible study:** Thursday 1
- **Zumba:** Thursday 9-9:45

And much more! Please stop by any time to see us.

Easter Alert! Please RSVP for **ReStore's Easter Dinner** March 31 (at Crockpot). The menu: Ham, turkey, cheezy potatoes, and more.

Kids Coats Warm Community

In December, ReStore temporarily became a coat distribution center. And ReStore staff couldn't have been happier.

Recognizing that many local children didn't have warm winter coats, the community stepped up. Individuals donated coats, and Knights of Columbus in Canton provided an additional 120.

"It was a very blessed time; we are able to help a lot of people," says Dana Walters, ReStore executive director.

Word spread quickly, Dana recalls. "People came in, they heard, people called. We gave out 80 the first few days – it was that much of a need." (see "Kids Coats' on next page)



Eight cases of winter coats! Paul Kleinfelter and Christopher Spiese of Knights of Columbus share the bounty with ReStore's Dana Walters and Robert Kanziq.

("Kids Coats" continued)

ReStore staffer Linda Dearth was "behind a pile of coats probably 3 feet high," recalls Robert Kanzig, ReStore assistant director.

"It was an awesome journey, really," said Dearth, "being able to give those kids the coats they needed."

She matched kids with hats, scarves and mittens to complete their outfits, just as winter weather rolled in.

"It's wonderful to have that kind of giving that time of year," says Walters. "We realize people have their own family and agenda, but it's nice that everyone comes together at Christmas."

Felicia Smelser: Cooking for the Lord

Standing behind the counter at ReStore, Felicia Smelser loves seeing people dive into her chicken salad or ham and bean soup.

Felicia is ReStore's Crockpot Tuesday coordinator, organizing volunteers to provide ReStore's signature dinner.

And Felicia cooks some of the food as well, carrying on a passion that she's had for most of her life.

She began cooking at age 16, with her grandmother, a restaurant cook and caterer. "It's in my blood," says Felicia, noting that she has two chefs on her father's side as well.

At ReStore, she brings together her passion for cooking and for service. "I cook for the Lord and for people who are guests at his table," says Felicia. "I pray when I cook: 'Lord, this is your meal.'"

Felicia is originally from Ada, but lived in Michigan for 20 years. She returned in 2014. "God's doing something in this area, and I feel very blessed that he brought me back to be part of it," she explains.



At ReStore, she sees the sense of community she values. "ReStore is a place for people can gather, if they want to play cards, talk, just share a cup of coffee. It provides services – for shut off notices, back rent, food. It's the whole package."

"Crockpot Tuesday is a jewel of the community," says director Dana Walters. "We're so glad to have Felicia leading it, and sharing her spirit with us."

Community Giving

In 2014, ReStore gave out **\$11,560.57** in meals, emergency assistance and donations. We want to thank all the volunteers and donors who made this generosity possible. Special gratitude to the Western Methodist Conference, for providing \$2000; Steve Eaton and his partner, for donating services to the ReStore auction, which raised \$700; and Imperial Cup for paper goods.

In 2015, we will be looking for **grants to redo our floor**: eliminating bumps and making it safe, especially for seniors.

And, we continue to need **volunteers**, especially a treasurer, volunteer drivers to take overflow donations to Kenton, and staffers for the annual Tax Clinic (training provided). Contact ReStore to get involved!

Stop by! ReStore's hours are: Mon 12-4 PM | Tues 12-6 PM (community dinner 4-6 PM) | Wed 12-6 PM | Thurs 12-6 PM | Fri 12-4.