



Monthly News & Updates

November 30, 2017



Thank you for the support!!!

We got to raise money and have fun doing it! Thanks to your help and support we were able to raise over \$300 at Monday Night Brewing's Percent Night!

20 Years of Central OAC!!!

Central Outreach & Advocacy Center became an independent nonprofit to serve the downtown Atlanta community in 1997. While the spirit of our organization existed before that, in the ministries and hearts of the people of Central Presbyterian Church, we became a separate agency 20 years ago. We are excited about the ways we have grown and changed over these past 20 years. It hasn't always been easy, but we are continuously grateful for the new things we learn and the people we serve. To help us celebrate 20 years, we would love for you to help us keep our doors open for another 20 years!



Click on the Picture to Donate today!

What's up in Main Frame?

Over the past few months we have seen some great people come and go through the Main Frame program. It is always our hope that people will find employment before the program is over, but often it takes a little while. In the October class, one man and his particular story stood out to me. He had experienced a large amount of personal ups and downs over the past few years but always found the determination to keep putting one foot in front of the other.



With his qualifications he could get a job very easily but he wanted to find one that he could make a home in and he certainly did not want someone pushing him to take the first job that came along. After weeks of nearly full-time job searching, several interviews, and some of the disappointments that come with job-searching, Joe found that job. He is now a store manager at a local McDonald's. His persistence and belief in his own abilities paid off.

During his exit interview from the Main Frame, Joe said something that I think encapsulates his journey with us well. "The Main Frame is for anyone who is ready to take the next step at getting employment and having the full support of an organization to help you." Joe was ready and he did have our support every step of the way. His readiness and dedication, combined with our personalized support and resources, proved to be a winning combination.

FANN's Fun Field Trip

Food Security. Community. This is what our food cooperative, also known as FANN (Friends and Neighbors Network), strives to promote. Our FANN was started at Central OAC in July of 2016 and since then it has grown to include six members, fourteen family members in total. We hope to increase this number in 2018. FANN meets twice a month and during that time the members start by meeting the truck (driven by our volunteers Ed, David, or Tom!) containing the food and goods outside, bringing the food and goods to the meeting area, and dividing them up according to family size.



Once that is completed, the meeting begins. During the meetings, the members are able to invite outside agencies to provide education for the group in regards to the services they provide. The groups we have had visit our FANN this year are: Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation to discuss job opportunities, a representative from Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to discuss Medicare/Medicaid and Social Security Benefits, and Habitat for Humanity to discuss volunteer opportunities and how interested members could start the process of owning their own home. At the end of the meeting, the treasurer collects a processing fee from each member and this fee goes into an account that the group members can do with what they choose. In October, our group members decided to go to a play on the Morehouse Campus and then to Golden Corral for lunch. FANN is much more than a food cooperative; it is a place where people can come relax, laugh, and spend time with each other. It's about building community.



Meet Cat, Our New Intern!



Hello to the OAC Community of donors, supporters, volunteers, etc! My name is Catherine Perkins, I go by Cat, and I am a 22 year old, 2017 graduate of Presbyterian College. I am currently participating in a year of service as part of the PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer program in Atlanta, which connects to the DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) program. I'm called a YAV and a Dweller as part of both programs. As part of my year of service I live in intentional Christian community with three other people who are all YAV/Dwellers. We all serve at local non-profits. I come from SC and so while I'm used to living in the South, I was definitely not prepared for living in the city! What I was really unprepared for was how this job has changed and shaped me so much in the three months I've been here. I

absolutely love coming to work everyday and love what I do. I adore the lovely people I get to work with. It can only be God's involvement and constant love and guidance that has led me to this place and this holy work. The OAC has inspired a love in me for working in the non-profit world as well as beginning to understand that I really feel called to social work. This year is about service, but it's also about vocational discernment and I feel that Central OAC has really helped me begin that process with a new sense of who I am. This community is a special place and I appreciate the work that is being done and I'm so grateful to be a part of it.

As an intern at the OAC I help with intake and working with the guests who come through our doors. I deal with filing paperwork and mail as well as helping make sure we are prepared in the mornings to open. I have also begun helping to write the newsletter. I have been fortunate to be included in going to two fundraising events we had in October and feel so lucky to be able to share this wonderful place with the wider Atlanta community.



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