

Crazy 'Bout Math



Submitted Photo

Students in the Carl H. Russell Sr. Community Center Math Club, an after school and summer tutorial program led by graduate students from Winston-Salem State University, show off some of their work. WSSU students Brenda Smith, Kevin Alston, LeShan Cunningham and Theodore Akinyele and professor Dr. Lynn Zudor instruct students in the Club.



Photo by Todd Luck

Keith Davis fits Eric Nunnery with a new pair of sneakers.

Shoes

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"elevated experience" that every other Fleet Feet customer receives. Volunteers, including Fleet Feet employees and members of the Davises' church, River Oaks Community Church, will help measure and custom-fit each man.

"We want to give them much more than a pair of shoes, but kind of get to know them as individuals and make sure that we're giving them something that truly is tailored to their needs," said Keith Davis.

Fit will be especially key for some residents. Several have signed on to take part in the Mission 5k Run and Mission Mile on Aug. 11. The annual trek through downtown raises money for both the Rescue Mission and Mission: Feet First.

The Davises say they started Mission: Feet First as a way to merge their business with their strong Christian faith. The non-profit has given shoes to Special Olympics athletes, participants in the youth group Girls on the Run, those in the transitional housing program God's Repair Shop and other families and individuals in need.

"We try real hard to visibly live as Christians in the store, and the staff has really embraced what we're doing," said Emily Davis.

Shoes will be given to residents at two of the Rescue Mission's shelters. There are 70 men in the 90-day program at the Mission's Oak Street shelter and 25 in the one-year program in the adjoining New Life Center on Trade Street. The Mission also runs an Alpha Acres recovery program in Yadkinville. Mission: Feet First, which began donating shoes to the Mission in 2011, has increased its support this year. Last year, only men in the New Life Center received shoes. Rescue Mission Executive Director Dan Parsons said the impact of the donation is huge.

"Some of our men have never, ever had a nice pair of tennis shoes that they could be proud of," said Parsons.

Mission: Feet First organizes the annual run/walk, which generates funds through entry fees paid by participants. Parsons says the money raised helps the Mission stay afloat during the summer, a time when nonprofits typically experience a lull in contributions. Last year, the race drew 366 runner/walkers. The one-mile walk is making its debut this year. Organizers hope it will encourage even more people to take part.

Fleet Feet Sports designed a training program to prepare Mission residents who plan to take part in the event. The store also offers such training programs to its customers.

Eric Nunnery, a resident of the New Life Center, is gearing up to run. He wants to give back to the Mission for all that he says the agency has given him. From ages 16-21, Nunnery was addicted to prescription drugs. He was ordered by a court to go to Alpha Acres after he was caught stealing to fund his habit. He recently arrived at the New Life Center from Alpha Acres.

Now 22, Nunnery is drug free and plans to get his life back on track by first earning his GED and then enrolling in college. He dreams of working as a veterinary assistant.

"I wouldn't be where I am now without (the Rescue Mission)," he said.

Nunnery already has some running experience. He took part in a 5K fundraising run at his church, Peacehaven Baptist in Yadkinville. Prior to that run, he received his first-ever pair of running shoes from a fellow church member. Since those are the only shoes he owns, he's put quite a lot of miles on them. Nunnery said he is glad he'll be receiving his pair of new shoes on Sunday.

"It tickles me when people who don't even know you want to give you a new pair of shoes," said Nunnery, who added that clothing that he was wearing was also donated to him by kind strangers.

The Davises said they hope all the men benefit from the trip to the shelter

on Sunday.

"Just having a good fitting pair of shoes is part of it, but the biggest thing — especially for these guys at the Rescue Mission that are really going through changes in their lives — is we are showing love for them that they might not otherwise get on a daily basis and that someone cares about their basic needs," said Emily Davis.

To sign up for the Mission 5k or Mission Mile go to www.fleetfeetwinston-salem.com/mission5k.

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Photos by Layla Gams

The Ogburn Station Shopping Center now sports a sunny red and tan facade.

Ogburn

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pated needed a little help to push them over the top. It was a very ... good way for them to upgrade their business."

City native Elaine Oakes said it was the presence of the RUCA program that inspired her to set up shop in Ogburn Station. She is currently in the process of renovating the former Bell Brothers Cafeteria, which for decades was the anchor of the Ogburn Station Shopping Center. Oakes will open Malone's Family Restaurant, which she said will feature a healthy approach to traditional Southern cuisine, there in the very near future.

Oakes, who has owned The Bunny Stop Preschool on Old Vineyard Road for the past 17 years, is no stranger to entrepreneurship, but she needs more than business savvy to make the nearly 6,000-square foot structure fit for Malone's, which will include a home furnishings store. She needed cold hard cash to bring her restaurateur dreams to fruition.

"I think it has a great impact on the city," she said of RUCA. "It's a great program to help small business people like me that don't have a lot of money to invest."

When she opens her doors this fall, Oakes plans to pay the city's kindness forward, by bringing 35-40 jobs to the area.

"I enjoy doing stuff like this," said the Parkland alumna. "I just thought there's a lot of people in this area that need jobs, and this would be a good way to bring something positive to the community."

RUCA is "a breath of fresh air" for many Ogburn Station merchants, said



Husband and wife team Jerry Anderson and Paula McCoy stand in front of one of the shopping center's stores.

Paula McCoy, president of the Ogburn Station Retail Merchants Association. The program has already provided for some much-needed improvements, including ones at Ogburn Station Shopping Center, which is home to an African grocer, thrift store and several other shops.

The shopping center has received a new exterior facade with the help of RUCA and will soon receive new signage and a repaved parking lot, according to

McCoy's husband, Jerry Anderson, who was responsible for much of the shopping center's improvements.

Anderson, the owner of the contracting and landscaping company JPA, Inc., said RUCA is the answer to many distressed urban areas' problems.

"This is exactly what urban commercial areas need," he declared. "This part of Winston-Salem is historic. It has always been vital for the people in the community."

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Sunday, July 22nd @UWF

11 am - Morning Worship and Homecoming Fellowship immediately following the worship service

Tuesday, July 24th @UWF

7 pm - Guest Speaker: Pastor Olivia Allen

Wednesday, July 25th @Skate Haven

7 pm - Family Fun Night

Thursday, July 26th @UWF

7 pm - Worship Service

Guest Speaker: Pastor Kenneth Yelverton

***Friday, July 27th - 30th Anniversary Gala & Banquet**

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6:30pm - Marriott Hotel, Hearn Ballroom - Cost: \$30 per person

Sunday, July 29th @UWF

11 am - Worship and Rededication Service

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