

Many needy families in county

Helping hand may be perfect

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

There are more than 550 Brunswick County families who need a helping hand this holiday season, yet not even 100 have been adopted by more fortunate residents.

"It would be so nice -- I guess it's a pipe dream -- if everybody in Brunswick County would pull together," said Angie Fisher, Volunteer and Information Center executive assistant who has been busy for days putting together Christmas food baskets and gifts donated through the Tree of Hope.

"A little from everybody becomes a whole lot," she said.

The program helps low-income families with children age 17 and under and senior citizens. Those families with extra burdens, like a terminal illness, are often adopted as a whole by individuals or groups, Fisher said.

"I suspect we reach a substantial portion of the county, but there are many, many people who fall through the cracks," VIC director Pete Barnette said, pointing out that the newly organized chapter of Habitat for Humanity recently determined there are nearly 1,500 families living in substandard homes throughout the county.

All families who meet specific income guidelines will receive a Christmas basket filled with food for the holiday. Barnette said he expects to spend \$3,500 purchasing certificates from local grocery stores for turkeys or baking hens to complete the baskets. Several groups, like the Council on the Status of Women, hold food drives to collect non-perishable items for the baskets.

"What we need now is money," Barnette said. "It would be awfully nice to have an influx of money."

There's a long list of people who need help this holiday season, Fisher pointed out.

There are numerous single mothers with two or more children who are struggling to support their families while attending school in the hope of getting better jobs.

There's a family of five where the father, in his mid-40s, has been out of work since October and is awaiting open heart surgery.

There's a woman who lost her home in July, her job in October and is raising four children ages four to 13.

There's a grandmother caring for her daughter who has cancer and her two children, ages seven and eight.

There's a woman whose husband is in prison and she is left to care for five children between the ages of

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Angie Fisher
VIC assistant

four and 11.

"These people are really in need at Christmas," Fisher said. Families who live on a tight budget the rest of the year paying for electricity, food and a place to stay, can barely afford gifts for their children during the holiday season. When some children talk about the video games Santa will bring them, these children hope for a pair of new shoes, socks or jeans, Fisher said.

"If you're on a budget there's no way you can afford to do Christ-

mas," she said.

"It's hard to see those children and know they're not going to get anything for Christmas because they don't get their names off the Tree of Hope because they're beyond that cute little age." Fisher said it's often the pre-teen and teenage children who are forgotten during the holidays.

Churches, businesses and school groups take individual tags from the Tree of Hope and purchase gifts and clothing for children. North Brunswick High School's DECA chapter has been a staunch supporter of the program for several years.

"Most people will buy the children one big thing, or if it's not a whole lot they'll buy everything," Fisher said.

"All the children from every (low-income) family, their names are on the Tree of Hope. You can only hope someone will buy them a present," Fisher said.

The Christmas baskets and gifts will be distributed at Southport and Supply on Monday and Tuesday. Food, clothing, gifts and money can still be contributed this week at the VIC office at Supply or at the former Schaeffer Buick building on N. C. 211 near Western Sizzlin'. More information can be obtained by calling 754-4766.

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BUSINESS REVIEW

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Special Times Video's high-tech post-production facility performs editing, duplication, film to tape transfers and conversion. They videotape weddings, family reunions, and special events and occasions. Commercial, corporate and industrial concerns utilize their services for promotions, legal depositions, and real estate, insurance and business seminars as well as demonstrations and commercials. Preserving memories is another specialty of Special Times Video. This distinctive service allows them to transfer old movie slides or film to long-lasting video tape, enabling their clients to cherish memories forever.

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Airlie Mortgage Co., Inc. Pamm Jones, President

Today, interest rates are lower than we have seen in years. Many people are considering refinancing their home or buying new homes with long-term fixed interest rates as low as 8%. This makes possible affordable mortgage payments, and in some cases, the answer to overloaded budgets. With so many companies offering home mortgage assistance, it's hard to make a wise decision regarding loan arrangements.

Airlie Mortgage Co., located at 720 Market Street in Wilmington, phone 343-0027, specializes in home mortgage loans, and has been serving the area for many years. Their professional personnel are highly trained and are leaders in their field. They can expertly answer any questions you may have concerning refinancing first and second mortgage loans, VA, FHA or any of the many programs available. Long-term or short-term mortgage loans are offered with various interest options. They will carefully explain the benefits of each loan option, and will design the loan best suited to your family's needs.

Airlie Mortgage Co. stays on top of current market trends to offer their customers the lowest interest rates possible. Sooner or later, we all need counseling on a home purchase. When you are faced with the decision of choosing a mortgage company, turn to the one so many others have come to know and trust—Airlie Mortgage Co. You will appreciate their old-fashioned courtesy and their high standards of excellence.

Impact Computer Centers, Inc.

Teresa Campbell, General Manager

Businesses both large and small live by the phrase "time is money" and can't afford to be faced with computer "downtime" due to software or hardware problems. The professionals at Impact Computer Centers, located at 5410 Oleander Drive in Wilmington, phone 392-5600, are computer specialists who offer the support and service needed to keep your system up and running.

In today's highly competitive and technical world, computers have become a vital part of our success. Protect your valuable investment by having your computer system checked by this reputable firm. Along with preventive maintenance, Impact Computer Centers offers a complete line of computer support services. Don't take chances on employing technicians who guess at the solution to your computer problems. These professional consultants will determine and correct the problem for your business in the shortest time possible.

Drawing upon their years of experience in this highly technical field, Impact Computer Centers can turn "downtime" into productivity. Personalized, professional systems analysis is only one of the many reasons they are so well-known among successful businesses in this area. We wish you a Merry Christmas from everyone at Impact Computer Centers, Inc.

Vision Cable Of North Carolina Bill Greene, General Manager

If you haven't investigated the exciting options of cable television lately, you are missing an avenue of enjoyable entertainment for your entire family. Your entertainment connection in this area is Vision Cable Of North Carolina, located at 1949 Dawson Street in Wilmington, phone toll-free 1-800-222-8921. They offer the viewer a complete channel selection including 24-hour news and weather, 24-hour sports channels, music videos and children and family programs. For a wide variety of movies—uncut and commercial free, they offer HBO, Showtime, Cinemax and The Disney Channel.

This community-minded cable company constantly strives to meet the demands of the viewing public, and stays on top of the latest in cable technology. Pay-per-view service for live concerts, live sporting events and all of the top running movies is available with a phone call. Some of the programming offered by Vision Cable Of North Carolina offers closed-captioning for the deaf and hearing impaired. With the decoder available through any Sears store, the closed-caption signal can be transmitted on any brand TV through cable.

Give Vision Cable Of North Carolina a call today and let them explain their different packages—and the features available in each. They truly offer something for everyone—it's what you want to see, when you want to see it! The employees at Vision Cable Of North Carolina wish you and your family a Holly Jolly Christmas and a Happy New Year.

New Sound Hearing Service Addie Peterson, Owner

In America, there are more people with hearing impairments than any other handicap. Some people are born with hearing defects, others sustain hearing damage, and many suffer hearing loss with age. Of the five senses, hearing is the most easily damaged. Loud music, noise in the workplace and high volume sounds can damage your hearing.

To have your hearing checked, contact New Sound Hearing Service, located in Wilmington at 2317 South 17th Street, phone 799-4327 or toll-free 1-800-633-4245. They will be expanding to Southport soon, and have other service centers in Hampstead, Jacksonville, Wallace, Whiteville, Elizabethtown and Shallote. Call for the location nearest you. These specialists can give you a free electronic hearing test in their office, or the comfort of your home, to determine the extent of your hearing loss. They offer in-the-ear and behind-the-ear hearing instruments, and work with you to help you adjust to your new hearing device. They also offer repair, batteries and accessories for hearing aids.

New Sound Hearing Service has worked closely with the hearing problems of area children, adults and senior citizens for many years. They have a special interest in the effect of age on hearing, and recommend medical treatment when needed. Once you're fitted with the proper hearing instrument, you'll realize your hearing problem was more noticeable than your hearing aid. The caring staff of professionals at New Sound Hearing Service wishes all the families throughout the area a very safe and happy holiday season.

Brunswick County Farm Bureau Sam Kezian, Agent

The experts in this area for all types of insurance coverage is Sam Kezian at Brunswick County Farm Bureau, serving the Southport area, phone 457-9559. This agent fully understand all phases of insurance and can properly advise you concerning the type and amount of coverage for your individual needs.

With all the different types of policies available from such a wide variety of companies, most of us would have a difficult time choosing our own coverage. Sam Kezian is one insurance agent whose primary concern is finding you the best policy at the least cost. In addition, he understands that the most important factor in selling insurance is the individualized, personal attention he can provide you, year after year.

Be sure to consult with Sam Kezian when in need of any type of insurance. He will be able to assist you in selecting the kind and amount of insurance best suited to your individual needs. Don't take chances when it comes to you, your family, and your personal property. Call Sam Kezian today. You'll be sure to agree, choosing the right agent is the best insurance you can have. Sam Kezian takes this opportunity to express his thanks to all of his clients, and wishes each and every one of them a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

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Oxygen and respiratory equipment, heart monitoring equipment, wheelchairs, beds, walkers, crutches and more are just a phone call away. The friendly staff at Home Monitoring understand your concerns and needs, and will work with you to help you feel as comfortable as possible. They are conveniently located in Wilmington at 4303 Oleander Drive, phone 763-1981, and may also be reached by calling 1-800-522-9620.

If you or someone you know are in need of anything from air purifiers and breathing machines to a full line of respiratory equipment, make the choice so many others do. Call Home Monitoring for prompt, professional service you can truly count on. They will help make your recovery period as comfortable as possible. These local professionals wish Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Flowers' Metal Works David & Hilda Smith, Owners

One of the best sheet metal works in the area is located at 945 South Kerr Avenue in Wilmington, phone 791-9183. Contact Flowers' Metal Works for accurate estimates on any commercial or industrial job.

Various types of sheet metal work are featured, including spouting, cornices and other specialties of the trade. When it comes to installation of heating equipment you can do no better than to place your project in their competent hands. These professionals know just how this work should be done on a scientific basis, enabling them to produce an unsurpassed finished product. Flowers' Metal Works uses only the finest of materials on every job they undertake. They have successfully completed many contracts in this area for private businesses, industrial complexes, and all kinds of commercial buildings. They have been a great aid to the advancement, modernization and growth of this community.

For exacting workmanship in welding, fabricating or assembling of industrial sheet metal at an honest price, the company to call is Flowers' Metal Works. Their reputation is your guarantee of a job well done. The Wilson Family and Flowers' Metal Works wishes each and every one a happy and prosperous Christmas and New Year.

J. T. Stanley Roofing & Siding

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This firm can also be relied upon for all of your roofing or re-roofing needs. A good roof enhances the value of your property, and if you ever want to sell, you'll find that an attractive, durable roof will make your home or business more attractive to prospective buyers. J. T. Stanley Roofing & Siding's employees thoroughly understand roofing work and are careful to see that all roofing is correctly installed. If you are interested in beautifying your home, remember the name J. T. Stanley Roofing & Siding. Their reputation is your guarantee of a job well done.

Wheelin & Dealing Auto Sales

As dependable experts in the used car business, Wheelin & Dealing Auto Sales, located at 1949 Carolina Beach Road in Wilmington, phone 251-1173, offers the people of the area an excellent line of quality, dependable cars and trucks at reasonable prices, with some of the best terms available in the area.

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If you are in need of a top-notch used car or truck, with dependability, economy, performance and style at a reasonable price, be sure to see Wheelin & Dealing Auto Sales. Remember, you can stop here and always buy with confidence. The professionals at Wheelin & Dealing Auto Sales wish you and yours a very safe and joyous holiday season.

Plantation Shores Realty, Inc.

Joyce Warner & Marilyn Dowd, Brokers/Owners

Whether you are interested in real estate as an investment or are considering buying a home or selling your present home, you can do no better than to call the professionals at Plantation Shores Realty, located on Long Beach Road next to the Chamber of Commerce, phone 457-6187 or 1-800-722-2286.

For most Americans, buying or selling real estate is one of the biggest financial transactions they will ever make. Consequently, it only makes good sense to choose a real estate firm that has the experience to properly and promptly execute a contract. Speed, accuracy and efficiency are all so important to ensure you the best dollar-for-dollar value. You can depend on these experts to handle the sale in the most competent manner and to keep your interests first in mind.

For all your real estate needs, be they residential or commercial, these are the professionals to contact. These full-service experts are available to counsel you in all real estate matters. Whether you are buying or selling, remember to call the friendly people at Plantation Shores Realty, where honesty and integrity in every phase of every transaction is assured. The staff at Plantation Shores Realty wishes the area's families and businesses a safe, happy and prosperous New Year.