

DESC seeks to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ by providing for the basic needs of those in emergency situations.



WINTER 2014

DESC NEWS

A Message from the Executive Director

Since our last newsletter, the staff and volunteers at DESC have been busier than ever. Working alongside them, my eyes have been opened to the challenges our clients face to balance feeding, clothing, and providing shelter for their families.

In this season of giving, we are thankful for you, our generous donors. With your help our endowment has grown and we raised more than \$20,000 as part of our deficit appeal.

We are still challenged by a budget deficit, though. In order to ensure that none of our much-needed emergency food, financial, and clothing services are reduced or cut, we are tasked with raising an additional \$80,000.

As our board, staff, and volunteers develop new fundraising opportunities and events, **I welcome you to reach out with any fundraising suggestions you may have.** I also encourage you to spread the word and share our mission. We would love to offer your family and friends a tour to learn more about the work our staff and volunteers do and the Jacksonville families we serve.

Feel free to email me at jeff@descjax.org or give me a call at (904) 358-3935.

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Stock the Closet Challenge!
Your support helps us do more for our neighbors.

Every Week DESC Provides:

- Clothing for 100+ Families
- \$50 of Socks*
- \$50 of Underwear*
- \$150 of Children's Clothes*
- \$500 of Adult Clothing*

Help us stock the closet.
Encourage friends and family to donate at descjax.org/donate.

*Clothing purchased at discount prices through our partners



A Walk in a Child's Shoes

Recently, a small child came into DESC without shoes on his feet; in fact, he didn't have a pair of shoes at all. After searching for and finding a pair of shoes in his size, his mother slipped his new pair of shoes over his tiny feet. The little boy was so excited that he modeled them off before posing for a picture.

That day, we were lucky enough to have the right pair of shoes in the right size for this child. However, as many of the families that stop by our office often come with children in tow, children's clothing is always a need for our Clothing Ministry. In particular for children sizes 7 and 8.

This season, offer a child the simple comfort of clothing and dignity in the right size by donating new and gently used clothing today.

The Bag Boy of DESC

The amazing work done at DESC is possible because of hard working of volunteers like John Clockadale. With the same dedication he showed during his career as a Secret Service agent protecting several presidents, vice-presidents, and foreign dignitaries, John has volunteered three mornings a week at the Clothing ministry for more than seven years.

As our self-proclaimed "bag boy," he diligently "bags and tags" each order of clothes. Despite the fact that the Clothing Ministry clothes close to 100 people a day, John offers our clients a sense of dignity as he takes the time neatly fold, number, and pack each and every clothing order. When prompted, John goes so far as to model some of our clothing and offer our staff, volunteers, and families some comic relief throughout his morning shifts.

John's hard work behind the scenes in the Clothing Ministry is equally matched by his generous heart and inexhaustible sense of humor. He makes a point of purchasing new toys and stuffed animals for every child in our waiting room. If a baby is crying or a child has nothing less than a smile on his or her face, John cheers them up in an instant.

When John is not volunteering, he spends his time with his wife, Laura. Together, they carve, paint original jigsaw puzzles, work out, and travel to visit family. From all of us at DESC, we thank you, John, for that you do for the families we serve.



Help Spread Much Needed Warmth

The weather has already taken a turn for the chilly. While most of us return to a warmed home each day, many of our clients and families either live without the heat in order to save on utility bills or simply because they do not have a home at all. **With your donations of blankets and large and extra-large men's and women's coats, you can help DESC offer some much needed warmth this winter.**

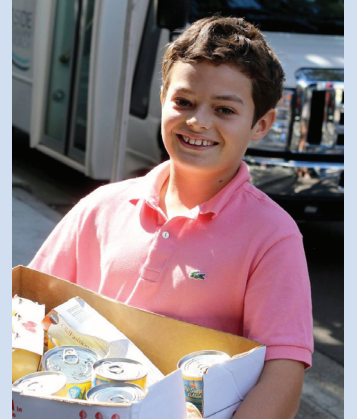
In addition to these key cold weather essentials, we welcome you to visit our website or our Facebook page to learn more about items our clients currently and always need.

www.descjax.org/current-needs

www.facebook.com/DESCjax

Remember, our clients always have a need of:

- Backpacks
- Tote bags
- Razors and other toiletries
- Work boots
- Men's shoes and sneakers
- Diapers



**Thank you to
Riverside
Presbyterian
Day School
for their amazing
food donation.**

Supporting Our Families

We are thankful for the moments God provides us to help those we are in a position to help. As a four-month follow-up, at least 90% of those aided with their finances are still stable and we are still the second-most referred agency of 2-1-1 at United Way.

DESC 2014 Year to Date:

Food	4,191 Families Fed = \$70,095
Clothing	134,280 Items for 5,595 Families = \$402,840
Emergency Financial	241 Households = \$79,946
Volunteer Hours	3,148 Hours = \$69,675
Total Value	\$622,556
Funds Donated	\$203,965
Value-to-Donation Ratio	3.05 : 1



DESC

Downtown Ecumenical Services Council

Downtown Ecumenical Services Council
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Who We Are and What We Do

DESC was founded in 1981 by churches in urban Jacksonville to be an emergency service ministry striving to provide food, clothing and financial assistance to working families struggling to live at or below the poverty level.

Who Receives Aid

DESC helps those with emergency needs regardless of age, gender, or race. Financial assistance is limited to cases involving children, the elderly or those afflicted with disabilities or illness.

THANK YOU

Thanks to the many groups who have given to DESC in the first half of 2014.

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| 4th Day of Cursillo Men's Group | Faith United Methodist | Prudential |
| Aeropostle (Do Something.org) | First Presbyterian Church | PW of First Presbyterian Church |
| Bank of America Foundation | First United Methodist Church | Riverside Avenue Christian Church |
| Baptist Health | Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation | Riverside Presbyterian Church |
| Carl S. Swisher Foundation | IM Sulzbacher Center | Riverside Presbyterian Day School |
| Carter Foundation | Jacksonville Women's Lawyer Association | Seniors on a Mission |
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints | Kirbo Charitable Foundation | South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church |
| Community Foundation of Northeast Florida | Lucy Gooding Foundation Trust | St. John's Episcopal Cathedral |
| Dignity U Wear | North Florida Lincoln | The Lord's Foundation |
| Edna Sproull Williams Foundation | Ocean Street Books | The Weaver Family Foundation |
| | Presbyterian Social Ministries | |