

## A Holiday Season of... *Blessings*

The holiday season is a time for gratitude and a time for giving. It is a time to be grateful for the many blessings that God has showered upon us and the opportunities we have to share those blessings with others.

Even in the midst of extremely challenging and stressful times, an “attitude of gratitude” can lift our spirits and allow us to sincerely celebrate God’s goodness this Thanksgiving.

And then Christmas, the traditional time of giving, is the perfect time to think of ways to bless others with the gifts God has given us.

**GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF YOU SOME SPECIAL ABILITIES;  
BE SURE TO USE THEM TO HELP EACH OTHER,  
PASSING ON TO OTHERS GOD’S MANY KINDS OF BLESSINGS.**

| Peter 4:10 TLB

Tim and Janson, residents in the Sunshine Ministries’ Work Program, recently started full-time jobs in the maintenance department of Barnes-Jewish Hospital.



Blessed with musical talents, both men have been taking part of their lunch break during the holiday season to play the piano in the lobby of the Siteman Cancer Center.

BJC doctors and staff as well as visiting patients stop to enjoy a moment of joy in the midst of their demanding schedules or personal concerns. By sharing their God-given gifts, Tim and Janson are blessing these people by putting a smile on their face and a song in their heavy hearts.

One lady stopped on her way to a Doctor’s appointment and asked Tim if he could play a special song for her. As he was playing, “Bridge Over Troubled Waters,” she walked away with a tear in her eye and said, “Thank you!”



Martin Luther once said, “My heart . . . has often been solaced and refreshed by music when sick and weary.” Tim and Janson offer melodic healing and hope to the sick and weary at the Barnes-Jewish Hospital’s Siteman Cancer Center.





**SUNSHINE MINISTRIES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Carol Clarkson  
Zachary Fay  
Chris Griesedieck  
Timothy Hanser  
Harry Langenberg  
Karen Slimack

**LOCATION**

1315 Howard Street  
St. Louis, MO 63106

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 66880  
St. Louis, MO 63166

**PHONE**

(314)231-8209

**FAX**

(314)231-5177

**WEBSITE**

[sunshineministries.org](http://sunshineministries.org)

**MISSION**

Sunshine Ministries is committed to providing high quality Christian social services to the poor and needy of St. Louis by offering healing from the past, help for the present, and hope for the future.



**LIKE US!**

Sunshine Ministries  
of St. Louis

# A Note from the Director

Dear Friends,

Due to the 2020 pandemic, the holiday season will be very different at Sunshine Ministries this year. No festive Family Thanksgiving or Christmas events. No fun Kid's Club Christmas party. No jolly visits with Santa. No Preschool Parent Christmas celebration. No chapel volunteer groups sharing inspirational holiday messages with our men.

Whew! Thinking about that could really be depressing! But all of us at Sunshine are unwavering in our commitment to serve our men, women and children with "the joy of the Lord" . . . no matter what! Instead of worrying about what we can't do, we are choosing to think about what God has already done. That has been a game changer! An old gospel hymn sums it up well:

*When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

When we started focusing on our blessings and allowing God to guide us through the holidays, He provided. The holidays may not be the same, but they are surprisingly wonderful! We may be socially distanced when delivering bags of holiday food to the ladies or allowing the children to visit Santa's workshop one by one to pick out their own special gift, but the masks can't hide the joy we see in their eyes!

As I was counting my own blessings, I definitely included the many faithful donors who have blessed us through the years by supporting the work of Sunshine Ministries. Thank you all . . . and may God bless you and your loved ones this holiday season!

Sincerely,

*Carol Clarkson*

## Students Collect a TON of Food for Sunshine

As a part of ITSOG (In the Spirit of Giving) week at Westminster Christian Academy, the students lived out their faith by collecting more than 3,000 pounds of food to stock the pantry shelves at Sunshine Ministries!

Their service, generosity and caring spirits will be a huge blessing to many families at this time when help is so greatly needed!



*Thank You!!*



**WESTMINSTER**  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

# 1,2,3...Count with me!

To celebrate the holiday season at Sunshine Preschool, the children learn how to be thankful to God by counting their blessings. Topping everyone's list was their mommy, daddy, Granny or Pappy. Big brothers and sisters and "my new brother in mommy's tummy" were favorite blessings too.

Their teachers and the fun things they do at school were also on the list . . . playing games, learning all my letters, painting pictures, reading books in the library, dressing up like a princess and eating lunch!

But the kids aren't the only ones who are thankful to God for Sunshine School. The teachers and staff are truly grateful to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these precious children. Each one is special and uniquely gifted. We are blessed to be able to help them begin the journey of becoming all that God created them to be!

At Sunshine School we learn that Jesus is the greatest blessing of all!



## Family Fall Festival...Take Two!

Although the Family Fall Festival event that Central Presbyterian Church was originally planning for Sunshine Ministries had to be cancelled, the church still wanted to bless the men, women and children we'll serve this holiday season. They filled "Blessing Baskets" with holiday treats and crafts for moms, dads and kiddos to enjoy at home and provided holiday food boxes to deliver to every Sunshine family.



RANDY MAYFIELD  
AND THE ALL STAR BAND

And to make it even more special, **Randy Mayfield and the All Star Band** recorded a concert just for Sunshine that will be shared with all of our ladies and their families. Randy is the pastor of missions and outreach at Central as well as an accomplished singer and songwriter.

It is said, "music is the reminder that it is possible to feel alright." That's something desperately needed right now! The concert and Randy's words of encouragement will lift our spirits and share the holiday message of hope.

*Thank you, Randy, and all of our friends at Central Presbyterian Church for blessing the families of Sunshine Ministries this holiday season!*

# You can help us share these gifts this Holiday Season!



## CHRISTMAS NEEDS LIST

### HOLIDAY MEALS FOR OUR RESIDENTS:

- Gift cards for Schnucks, Walmart, or Sams to purchase fresh meat, fruit, vegetables, milk and other dairy products
- Bags of Christmas candy to help Santa fill their stockings

### CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR OUR KIDS:

- Black baby dolls with accessories
- Black fashion dolls or young girl dolls with accessories
- Makeup or hair styling sets
- Dolls or stuffed animals of popular Children's TV/Movie characters
- L.O.L. Dolls and Hatchimals
- Lego sets
- Play-Doh sets
- Play dishes, food and kitchen items
- Dress-up clothes and accessories
- Remote controlled vehicles
- Robots
- Electronic "gadgets" of any kind

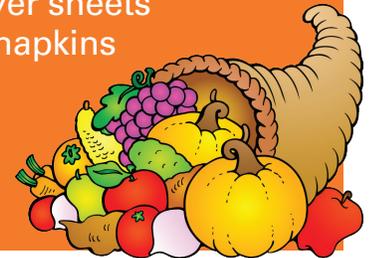
## COMMUNITY CLOSET NEEDS

### CLOTHING:

- Winter hats, gloves, and scarves for men, women and children
- Winter coats for men, women and children
- Children's winter clothing in all sizes
- Children's socks and underwear
- Ladies underwear and lingerie
- Hats, purses and dress scarves

### TOILETRIES AND SUPPLIES:

- Blankets, bed spreads, sheets and pillows
- Bath towels, hand towels and washcloths
- Hand sanitizer and lotion
- Kleenex and wet wipes
- Dish soap and dryer sheets
- Paper plates and napkins
- Toilet paper



**I would like to help Sunshine Ministries share God's blessings with the men, women, and children they serve this holiday season.**

- I want to support Sunshine Ministries with a gift of  \$15  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to partner with Sunshine with a new monthly gift of  \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My gift by check is enclosed.

Please charge my credit card  Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please clip and mail to Sunshine Ministries, PO Box 66880, St. Louis, MO 63166-6880**

*You may also make your secure donation online at [sunshineminstries.org](http://sunshineminstries.org).*

*To charge your gift by phone, call us at (314)231-8209.*

