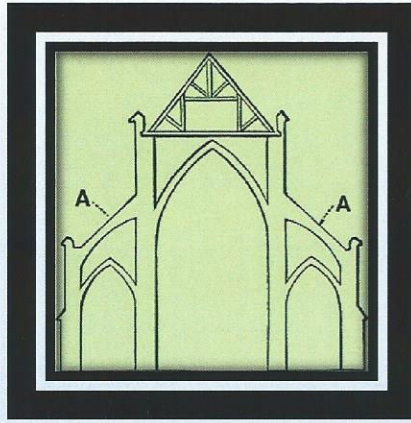
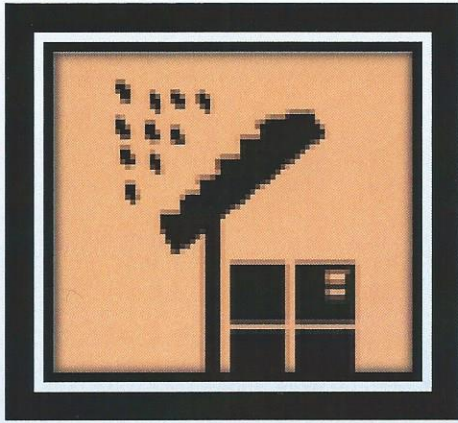


2015



# Annual Report

A YEAR IN REVIEW

PARTNERSHIPS

COMMUNITY HELP, INC.



## OUR MISSION

To improve the quality of life of economically challenged families in the city of Savannah and Chatham County, Georgia through assistance to youth and senior citizens by focusing on education economic development, and safe, secure housing.

For more information about  
COMMUNITY HELP INC.

Call 912-228-3539 or go to  
[www.communityhelpinc.org](http://www.communityhelpinc.org)

# President's Letter

Greeting to Everyone.

I pray that God's Blessings are upon you and your family as we embrace the spring of 2016.

Our organization, Community Help, Inc., celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2015 and that allowed us to pause for a moment to reflect on the work we have done since 2005. We did this with a gala affair where we told our story to the community. Now I want to briefly talk about 2015 and where we are headed in the future.

As a board we recognized that a lot had changed in ten years, including the board's membership and goals. For us to work toward our goals, we revisited our By Laws and brought them up to date to serve the current organization. For the first time, we developed and adopted a strategic plan to guide us in our work.

Let me tell you about our work. For the past five years we have been providing assistance to Savannah and Chatham County citizens. That assistance comes in the form of repairs to leaking roofs and unsafe foundations. By partnering with the City of Savannah we have moved from one roof repair in 2011 to fourteen homes in 2015. With an investment of \$20,000, through our partnerships, we leveraged repair work on fourteen homes that is valued at \$96,000.

I have had an opportunity to talk with and make presentations to the students in the Savannah Chatham County Public School system, through the Historic Preservation classes of the Early College Program. The young and eager learners ask questions that demonstrate they want to learn even more. Classroom presentations, with the help of visual aids, is a proven way to press a point. The informed conversations that take place during the field trips to local sites and landmarks, and the discussion of topics like Savannah's role in the Atlantic slave trade, really causes all parties to lean forward and enter the conversation.

Our volunteer work force dramatically increased in our collaboration to deliver meals to the sick and shut in seniors, creating a niche that we excel at. We continued and improved our practice of collaboration and partnering with others to meet the needs and serve those who have fallen short.

Please pray that we continue to grow and partner with the Chatham County schools, the City of Savannah, St. Phillips AME Church, and other partnerships that will help us achieve our mission.

Bernie Polite  
President  
Community Help, Inc

# Board of Directors

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***Bernard Polite, President  
Community Volunteer  
Retired Mgmt. International  
Paper***

Bonzo Reddick, Esq.  
Attorney and Judge

***Claudia Clark, Secretary, Vice  
President and Senior Lending  
Officer, Carver State Bank***

Keith Lord  
Information Technology

Marsha Verdree  
Associate Minister

George Bowen  
Retired Military  
Former Education Administrator  
International Consultant

***Charles Nelson, Treasurer  
Retired Supv., International Paper  
and Retired Military***

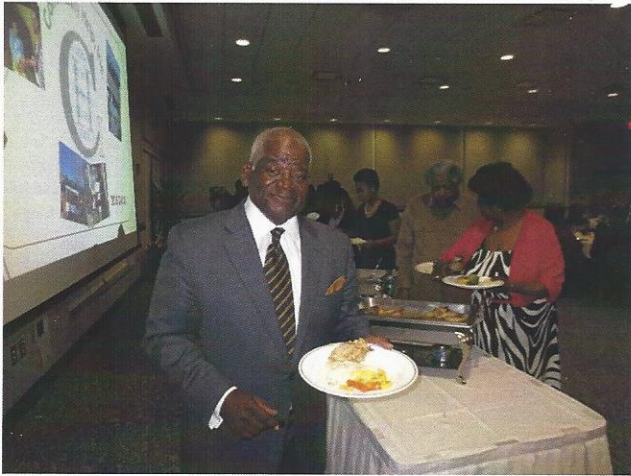
Dr. Frank Williams  
Special Assistant  
Academic Affairs  
Savannah State College

Ruby Lipscomb  
Retired Educator

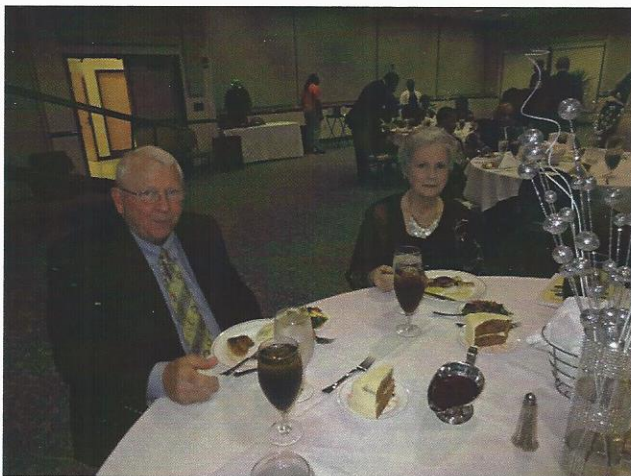
Earvin Hamilton  
Engineer, Gulfstream Aerospace

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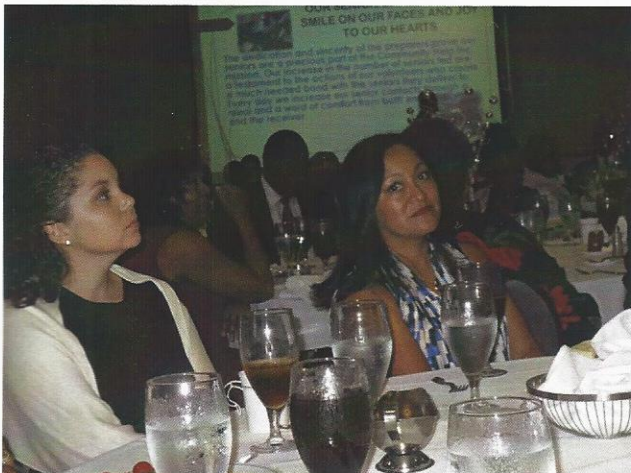
# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala



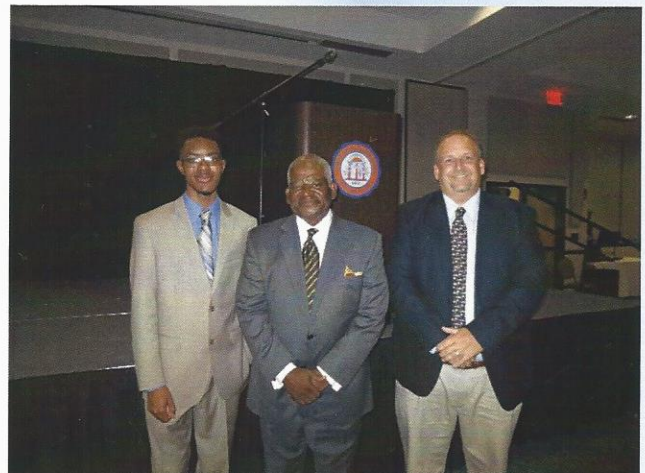
Bernie Polite leads the food line.



Volunteers Charles and Brenda Elmgren enjoy the evening.

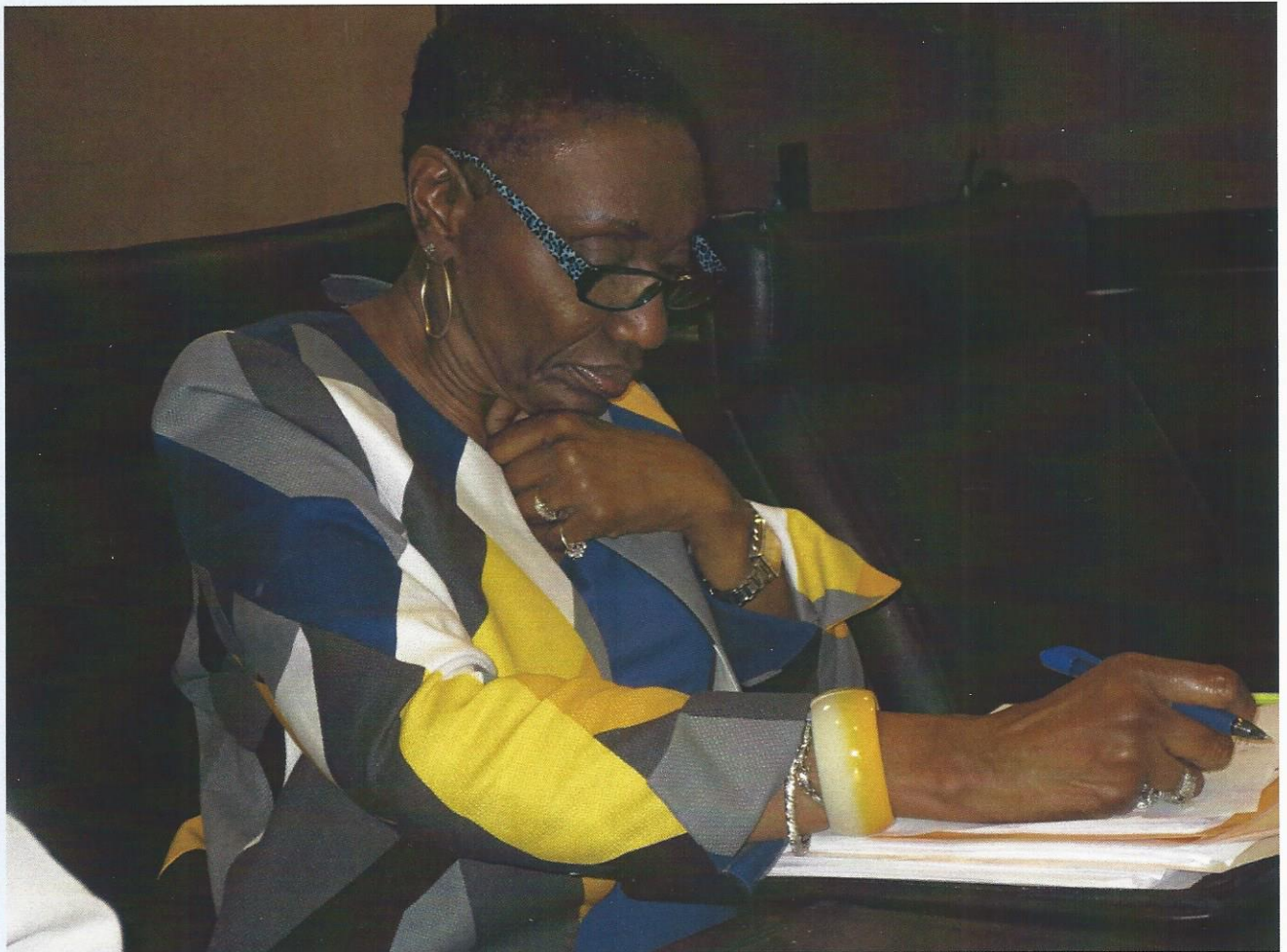


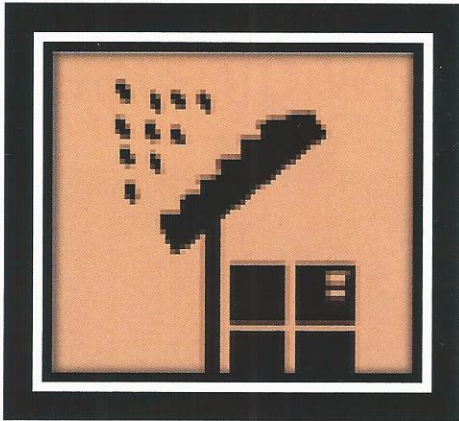
Guest from the Historic Savannah Foundation enjoys the evening with Mrs. Brent Armstrong.



Bernie Polite and Brent Armstrong enjoy a moment with former student Zachary Brown, who told the attendees what the Historic Preservation program meant to him.

Thanks to Ruby Lipscomb for all her hard work in making the Gala such a success.

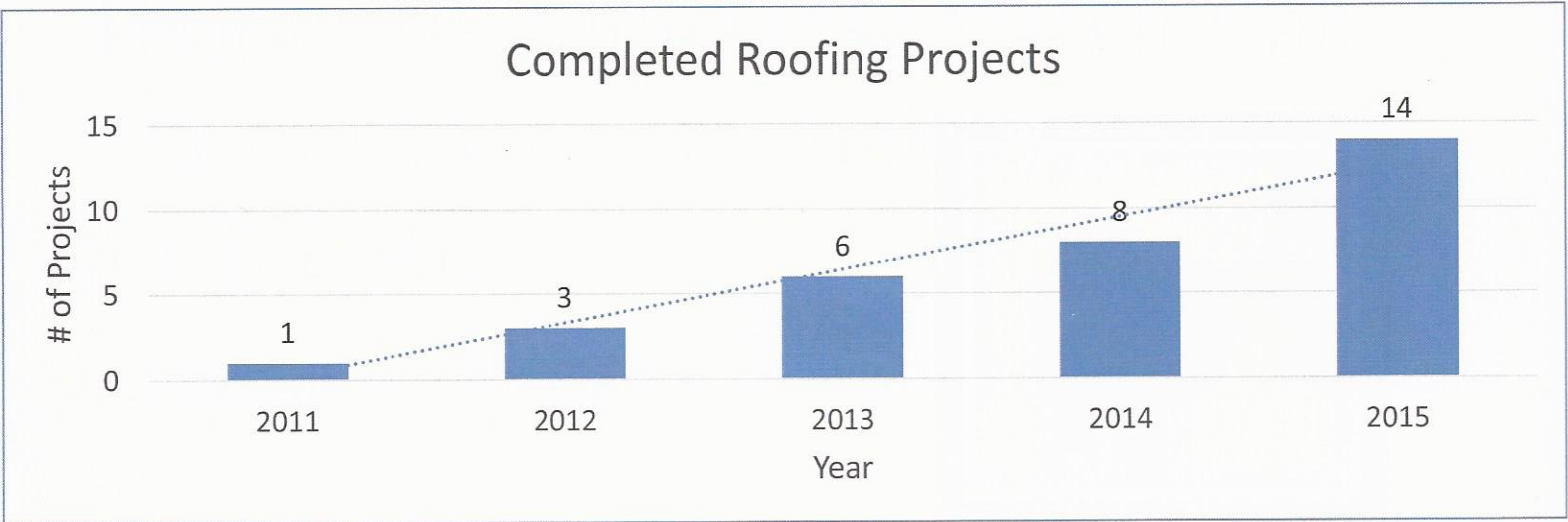




# SAFE SECURE HOMES

Community Help Inc. offers "Minor Home Repair & Paint Program" to "home owners" in need of assistance with home repairs and painting. Community Help, Inc. is a Community development corporation created in 2005, in response to the City of Savannah's Anti-poverty Taskforce report to the community. Community Help's primary focus is "to foster improvements in low to moderate income communities and neighborhoods in Savannah and Chatham County, Georgia. This work is accomplished through partnerships with local government entities and donor partners to pursue our core objectives. Over the years Community Help has devoted much of its energy and resources to meeting the needs of qualified applicants, 14 this year, falling within the scope of its core programs.

# Partnership with the City of Savannah



• Community Help City of Savannah

• Palm Ave	\$2,519	\$2,500
• Birchfield Dr	\$2,000	\$2,303
• 34 <sup>th</sup> St	\$2,016	\$2,500
• Raybun St	\$2,000	\$9,143
• Chevy Chase Rd	\$2,060	\$2,500
• Murphy Ave	\$3,000	\$11,961
• Duffy St	\$2,000	\$7,595
• Duffy St	\$2,800	\$10,000
• 36 <sup>th</sup> St	\$1,350	\$7,500
• 37 <sup>th</sup> St	\$2,000	\$4,350
• McAlpine St	\$2,000	\$1,465
• Norton St	\$ 170	\$3,847
• 34 <sup>th</sup> St	\$1,104	\$2,500
• <u>41<sup>st</sup> St</u>	<u>\$1,217</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
	<b><u>\$26,232</u></b>	<b><u>\$70,644</u></b>

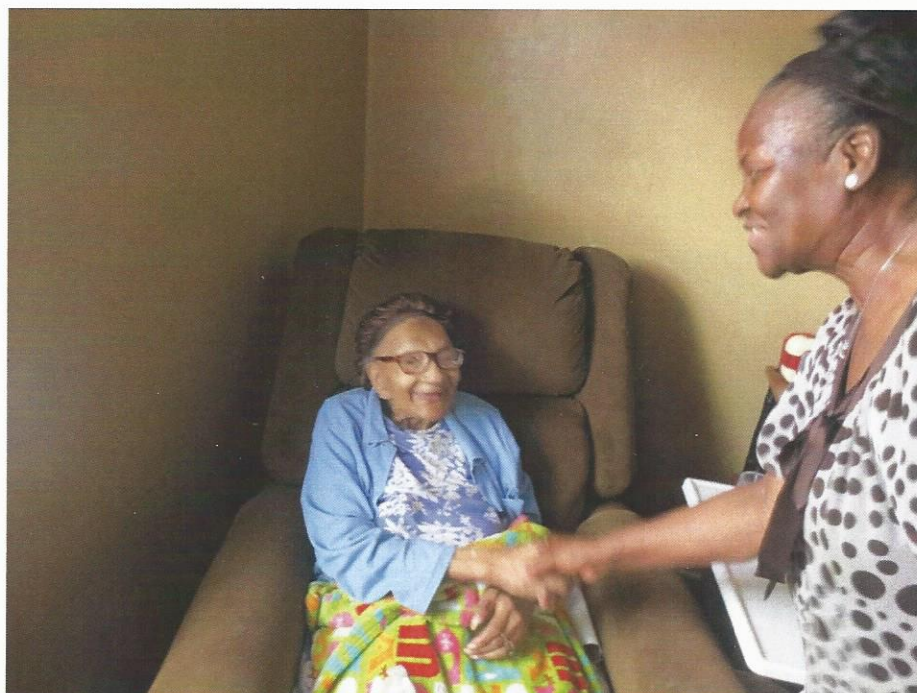
Through collaboration with the City of Savannah in 2015 **this \$26,232 was leveraged into a \$96,000 investment** in our community.

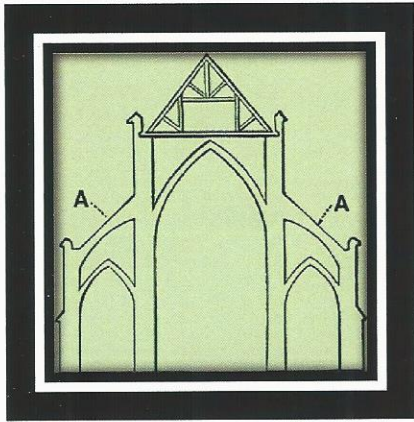


Roofing Projects were completed in partnership with the City of Savannah.



# Fourteen Roofing Projects in 2015





## YOUTH & PRESERVATION

Savannah is indeed a beautiful city. That beauty is made all the more wonderful by the historic homes, statues and other structures that deserve to be cared for - that is to be preserved. Each summer The Historic Savannah Foundation conducts a one-week camp for kids called "Hands on History". It is a collaborative effort; so they have a number of partners. Elementary and Middle School students are recruited into this broad ranging and hands-on introduction to historic preservation. Community Help, Inc. has provided camperships funds for kids and assisted with the actual conduct of the camp. With this exposure, a good number of these kids are enrolled into the first year Historic Preservation Class of the Early College Program. We have continued our support to this program through classroom presentations and color commentary of the actual tours conducted by the class instructor.

# Historic Preservation and Youth - In Partnership with Savannah Chatham Public School System



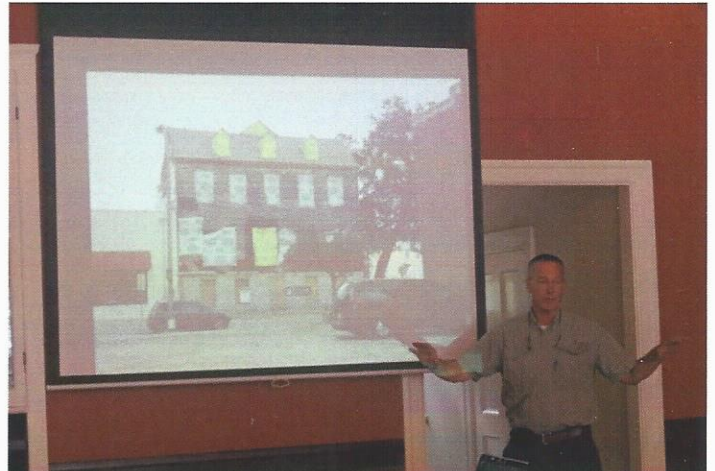
Daniele and engineers from J.T. Turner construction explain the scope of the "Berrier House" restoration.



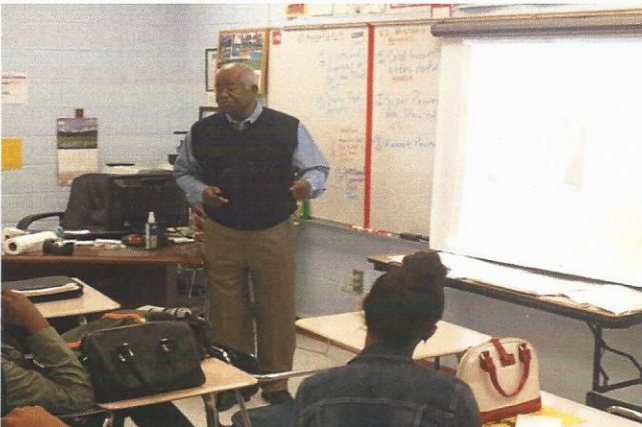
Brent Armstrong instructs his Historic Preservation class.



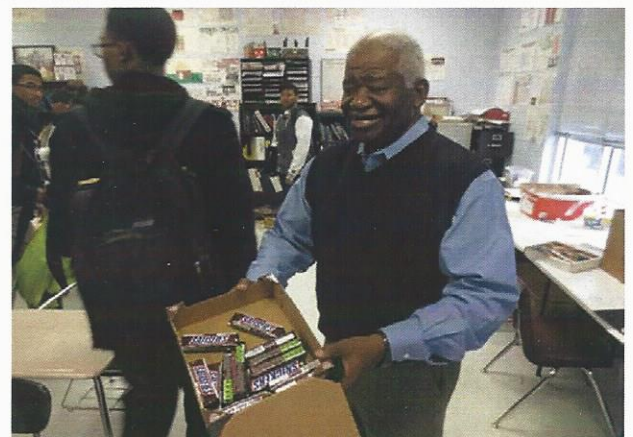
"Hands On History" summer camp, students get a first-hand view of the "Berrier House" restoration.



Engineer shows Historic Preservation class, the areas of restoration on the "Berrier House".



Bernie Polite gives a classroom presentation comparing Savannah to the structures he saw on his trip to Egypt.



Students earn candy bars during Historic Preservation classroom quiz.



## H O U R O F P O W E R

Our visits with the sick and shut-ins are always filled with conversation and prayer. People want to talk about the things that matter to them and are important in their daily lives. We listen, we share, we learn. There are now three teams of volunteers who deliver the Wednesday lunch to sixty people. The need for support and care continues to grow.

There does not seem to be enough resources focused on our seniors and the issues that they must overcome. Foremost among their concerns is that the dollar does not buy as much as it used to and then comes the need for care givers. The challenge for us is to find ways to solve these problems that the seniors within our community are talking about.

In 2015, in partnership with America's Second Harvest and St. Phillip Monumental AME Church, Community Help, Inc. held three special food drives for the needy, in addition to the weekly meals and visits to the shut-ins.

## Share the Harvest Food Distribution

Saturday, November 14, 2015

Community Help joined in partnership with St. Philip Monumental AME Church, International Paper Company, Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia, Savannah State University and individual community volunteers to coordinate and conduct three separate food distributions in 2015. These projects take place in the first, third, and fourth quarter of the year. Listed below is the summary statements for the fourth quarter project that took place on Saturday, November 14, 2015.

- Project summary:
- Church members and the community were give the guidelines and participation date (November 14, 2015).
- Eligibility forms were distributed and returned.
- Secured food items from America’s Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia at reduced cost.
- The distributed items consisted of meats, staples, snacks, canned vegetables, and fruits. Each food box weighed approximately 150 pounds.
- 144 persons received food boxes for their families.
- Approximately 80% was given to the community and 20% to members of St. Philip Monumental AME church.
- International Paper Company donated corrugated boxes and lids for this project.
- Community Help, Inc. in partnership with the church recruited and coordinated the volunteer services of Savannah State University students and other community volunteers.

### Food service program of hot meals each Wednesday Monthly Hour of Power Report April 2015 – March 2016

Community Help provides weekly assistance to the Hour of Power food service for persons in need. Last year, over 3,700 hot meals were prepared, served, and/or delivered to persons all across Savannah.

Many people come to the church to receive the hot meal, where clothes and books are available in addition to an inspirational talk.

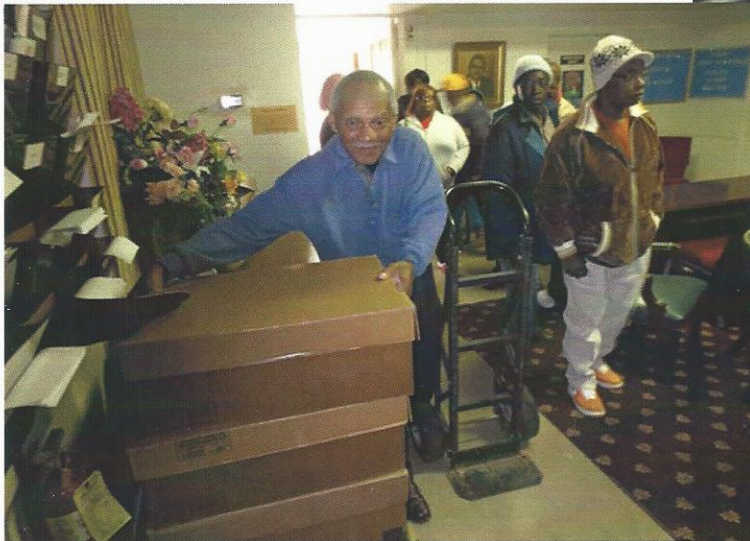
Three teams, “under the banner” of Community Help, Inc. deliver some 60 meals to seniors each week. It is during the delivery of these hot meals that we engage in conversation and receive unexpected uplift for ourselves as we spend time talking and listening to nuggets the seniors share,

MONTH	ATTENDANCE	SICK AND SHUT IN	OTHER	TOTAL
APRIL 2015	186	282	46	514
MAY 2015	176	260	48	484
JUNE 2015	179	276	40	495
JULY 2015	192	254	46	492
AUGUST 2015	208	286	52	546
September 2015	211	427	50	688
OCTOBER 2015	188	316	46	550
NOVEMBER 2015	151	238	32	421
DECEMBER 2015	220	351	48	619
JANUARY 2016	216	336	58	610
FEBRUARY 2016	182	377	48	607
MARCH 2016	263	336	48	647
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2372</b>	<b>3739</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>6673</b>

# Partnerships that help those in need.



Vincent Polite, Community Help volunteer, offloads meats for the food distribution.



Volunteer Raleigh Parker assists food box recipients during the distribution.



Keith Lord, Community Help Board member, offloads meats for the food distribution.

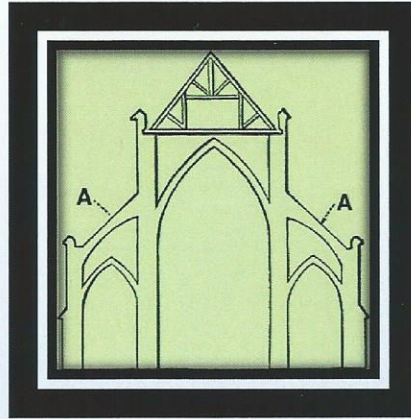


Volunteers work to prepare boxes for distribution.



Early morning crowd gathers for Share the Harvest food distribution.

# 2015



COMMUNITY HELP, INC.

[www.communityhelpinc.org](http://www.communityhelpinc.org)

P.O. Box 863

Savannah, GA 31402

912-228-3539

