

Volume 3; Issue #7

Grace Klein Community Newsletter

July 2017



the 50K50days initiative. <u>READ MORE</u> and <u>GIVE TODAY</u>!

UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHT – No More Safety Pins

Grace Klein Community, in partnership with <u>Liberty Church</u>, will be hosting our 2nd annual <u>No More</u> <u>Safety Pins</u> event benefiting the Local Food Delivery Outreach Program of Grace Klein Community. No More Safety Pins is a clothing trade event for the frazzled mama who doesn't have time for sorting, tagging, and safety pins. Clothing children for the next season does not have to be a stressor or a budget breaker. Help us serve and unite families in Birmingham.

Shopping scenario: "Frazzled mama has no time for hangers, tags and safety pins. She participates in "No More Safety Pins" by bringing 50 excellent quality items and paying \$25 on a "drop off date." She trades in the 50 items to receive 50 new items on the shopping weekend. If she wants 20 more items, she pays in another \$25. Frazzled mama's friend comes with her without trading any items, so she pays \$25 for every 20 items she selects."

Trade Days:

August 17, 2017 from 5pm til 9pm (Early Shoppers Only) August 18, 2017 from 10am til 6pm August 19, 2017 from 8am til 4pm

Email <u>natalie@gracekleincommunity.com</u> for more details on how to be an early shopper. Volunteer opportunities are available and we need all hands on deck. <u>SIGN UP</u> today!

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GRACE KLEIN

OUR PURPOSE

To Demonstrate the Love of Christ

Grace Klein Community exists as an educational and charitable 501(c)3 nonprofit providing relief to the poor, the distressed and the underprivileged, lessening community tensions, eliminating prejudice and discrimination and combating community deterioration and juvenile delinguency.

www.gracekleincommunity.com



TIN 80-0569639



"Back to School" Drive

Before Grace Klein Community could announce this year's "back to school" drive hosted by Precision Chiropractic of Alabama, volunteer and friend, Diana Martin, purchased various school supplies while items were BOGO at Publix this month, and immediately messaged Grace Klein Community excited to encourage others to do that same, to love on the less fortunate, while the specials were still available.

In awe of Father God and His timing in all things, He brought Shelby County Dentistry on board, partnering with Precision Chiropractic and Grace Klein Community, to host school supply drives supporting children in need. Kingdom purpose is a beautiful thing.

READ MORE about how you too can get involved to love on families who need it most!

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds." - Psalm 9:1

Local Efforts Jack's Gives Back

Refrigerator and freezer space at the Grace Klein Community office has always been a challenge. We have dreamed of having a walk in cooler/freezer, but could never have imagined how God would bring a long chain of events and relationships together to provide one for us. On Monday, July 17th, a team of volunteers traveled to Fort Payne, AL to pick up a walk in refrigerator/freezer donated from a Jack's restaurant. The cooler is huge... 22 feet long by 12 feet wide, two separate rooms, one for a freezer and the other a refrigerator. Community friends graciously offered warehouse storage space for our big addition of "Jack's Gives Back" until Grace Klein Community has sufficient space.



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Moon Take Thy Flight – Update on Evan "Shaggy" Moon

"Evan has been doing well and has been busy. We are on our own for physical therapy and that has been a challenge. He has to work in "sets" throughout the day and we try to make everyday tasks a part of therapy as much as possible. The therapists evaluate his progress once a month and they have been pleased. His walk has improved and strengthening his left leg is a big goal. His left arm and hand still do not function, but he continues to challenge both and some feeling has returned. Speech and spelling are also something he has to work on each day."

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<u>Global Efforts</u> Swaziland Mission Trip 2017 Reflections

"After the first quick, simple trip to visit friends in Swaziland, Africa in May of 2011, God clearly showed me that He was calling our family to partner with our full-time missionary friends and to join His work there in the community of Lesibovu on a long-term basis. It was with great joy that the next summer, my husband James and I traveled with a team including our two oldest children and several friends from church. The next summer, our team consisted of more local friends, and the same 4 members of our family. Then, a season of wandering and wondering what He was doing. It was a long, nearly three year season that still brings up many emotions as I type it out.

The GKC family and others continued to remind us that even when our good plans do not pan out, the best kind of good can come from those times. Our missing the precious ones in Swaziland was so difficult. Our hearts longed to see and tell them we hadn't forgotten and we wanted to be there. We know how fragile life is, especially in Swaziland, and we feared not seeing some of the same children whenever we could return. Fear fought to control our thoughts. We felt so responsible to meet expectations and needs and to be present, in their community, to remind them that Jesus was faithful--while also struggling to remember that Truth ourselves. The irony wasn't lost on me.



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To God Be the Glory – Great Things He has Done!

For the past five years Grace Klein Community members have had the honor of building relationship with the *Smith Family, a loyal mama and her sweet girls. The Varvoutis Family met *Sarah, Jane (16) and Kristen (10) approximately five years ago, through the monthly food delivery ministry of Grace Klein Community.

Sarah recently notified Grace Klein Community that her family no longer needs a food box and would like for Grace Klein Community to share her box with another family in need. Who knows?! Maybe Sarah will meet someone that she can encourage as she delivers a box of food to another mama who needs it? She will be able to share what God has done and remind her new friend, "God did a miracle in my life and He can do the same in yours." <u>READ MORE</u>

"Not to us, O Lord, but to Your name give Glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and Your faithfulness." – Psalm 115:1

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"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12: 4-5

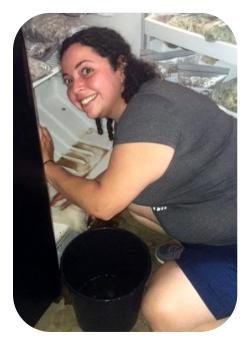
Our "better togethers" introduce various members of Grace Klein Community and help us understand how our different giftings work together to form one body. We are better together.

"My Name is Annie. Like Orphan Annie."

"Ever meet someone that became your instant friend? I mean, the first time she opened her mouth, you knew she wouldn't remain just an acquaintance...because she wouldn't allow it. She takes on life with a joy that crushes opposition. Not because she's never experienced opposition. She's had PLENTY, but because she chooses not to let circumstances take her or her family out. She's a fighter, a mother, a daughter, a friend, a volunteer, and she sucks you into her life and gives you a place there...and you love it.

And so it goes of my experience with Annie Stewart. If glitter trails were visible, you would see hers everywhere she goes. She's a mom of 4 incredible boys. She's tough and sweet. She pulls people in and walks through life with them. She's the friend you can't help but cry with and two seconds later laugh with because she can laugh when things are hard...and her laughter is contagious." <u>READ MORE</u>





It's A Beautiful Thing

"God has plans. Big plans. He is constantly working to bring everything together. We don't get to see it from beginning to end, but if we look back, sometimes we can see roads He crossed on purpose, roads He protectively kept us from walking, and roads we thought were permanent ones, He used as stepping stones to the ones He was leading us to. It's a beautiful thing. Not always happy and easy, but definitely done in His wisdom, love, and grace.

Gwendolyn and I met at the gym. Both in a difficult place in life at the time and having trouble staying afloat in life's crashing seas. The manager, and friend, put us together as workout buddies and a friendship began. We met at 10am every weekday and talked about everything while we huffed and puffed. 11 weeks went by.

I started working for Grace Klein and our workouts together ended. We kept in touch. Three months later, life happened and Gwen moved in with our family. When the gym manager put us together, that was God. Our roads crossed and then curved until they were running parallel to one another. Gwen fits in perfectly at our house and we all love her and her furry sidekick, Griffin."

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Volunteer Opportunities – No More Safety Pins

DID YOU KNOW??? Volunteers who commit to serve for a minimum of 4 hours before or during the upcoming No More Safety Pins event are entitled to trade as "Early Shoppers!" Early Shoppers have the privilege of trading on August 17th, 2017 from 5pm till 9pm, having first site on all the amazing clothing and other items available.

We still have a number of volunteer opportunities available... so what are you waiting for... sign up today! We need floaters, sorters, hangers, organizers, volunteers manning the check in and check out tables, snack and beverages hosts etc.

Email <u>natalie@gracekleincommunity.com</u> for more information.

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy!" - Psalm 126:3

HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED

Mission Serve – NC to AL

To sum up a week of work, fun, work, play, work, eating, work, prayer, work, singing... in just a few words... IS VERY HARD TO DO!!! The team of young people, middle schoolers, college students and their wonderful adult advisers from Elizabeth Baptist Church, Shelby, NC were a REAL JOY to Metro CME and the community of Ensley!

Summer Serve Days

What a summer!! We want to thank ALL the serve teams, students and adults, who came out to Grace Klein Community, in the heat, and helped us scrub this place clean, weed our garden, give our chickens a cleaner area to live in, assist with yard work, give our blessed box truck a shine, paint signs and boxes, help with repairs to our building, and so much more!

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No Wonder It's Called Community

IOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In August of 2016, The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham gifted Grace Klein Community with an amazing grant, allowing us to purchase a box truck. The box truck opened many new opportunities, including our ability to receive more rescued food. After an accident at the end of May 2017 community truly realized how hard it is to operate without the use of the box truck. How did we manage the load before? **READ MORE**

READ MORE







this month!

thank

THANK YOU to the 126 individuals and families as well as the 11 businesses and churches who gave financially this month!

MEET OUR NEWEST BUSINESS PARTNERS

"It is my honor to partner with Grace Klein Community. They selflessly serve families locally and abroad and it is because of their work, along with partners who pray, donate and volunteer who help make this a better world, one family at a time. - Amandalyn Moore, Realtor - Keller Williams

Grace Klein Community would like to express our sincere thanks to our Business Partners for their support. Business Partners help make it possible for Grace Klein Community to provide food, clothing, and essential household items to aid individuals and families in need throughout the Birmingham Metro area and around the world.



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