



"A shoot will come up from the stem of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit." Isaiah 11:1

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We've Gone Mobile!

Message from Ted Hanley, Executive Director

We are still here; we have just gone "mobile". The Jesse Tree office at 27th and Market Street closed at the end of December.

With the help of The Moody Methodist Permanent Endowment Fund, we purchased three vans; one for cargo, one for passengers and one outfitted as a wireless office. The "Mobile Care Unit" began visiting the Peninsula and established a hub at the Port Bolivar Volunteer Fire Department. It has proven a cost-effective, efficient approach to helping more individuals and large gatherings of people, as seen at the regular Bolivar Food Fairs. Evacuation is a snap with a mobile unit – when we drive away, everything goes with us.

Mainland Medical Center has generously provided The Jesse Tree with beautiful office and warehouse space where the administrative offices are now located and the Health Equipment Loan Program has been expanded by a generous grant from the Dr. Leon Bromberg Charitable Trust Fund. It will function as the operational hub, as The Jesse Tree continues to respond to the growing needs of the uninsured, working poor from the woefully under-served Bolivar Peninsula to the far reaches of Galveston County and beyond where access to care is severely inhibited by lack of transportation and other factors.

The Jesse Tree has established branch sites at several other county locations (mostly churches) at which services are provided with little or no overhead and plenty of volunteer support. Greater St. Matthews in Hitchcock is one of our long-term partners at which all services are provided by the Congregation with planning, training and data-management provided by The Jesse Tree. The Spirit and Truth Worship Center and Greater Victory Community Church in League City, Dickinson Community Church Network, Greater Barbour's Chapel, Texas City, Port Bolivar Volunteer Fire Department, New Life Church and St. Paul United

Methodist in Galveston constitute the present network.

By temporarily using the Mobile Care Unit to serve The Island, the annual savings include; \$38,000 in rent; \$31,000 in utilities/services and \$42,000 in staffing totaling \$111,000. Our Diabetes and Chronic Conditions Management classes will be held (rent-free) at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on Broadway and New Life on Hears Lane. Food Fairs will continue to be held at New Life and on Market Street until a more desirable spot is located and The Mobile Unit will be available to take applications and continue to offer Jesse Tree services on a limited schedule.

We are open to new affiliations and partnerships to better serve the island. If interested, please contact us at info@jessetree.net or call 409-762-2233.



Uplifting
Rebuilding
Connecting

Mobile Care Unit
409-762-2233
info@jessetree.net www.jessetree.net

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2011 Annual Report



"In collaboration with the Houston Food Bank, we held 109 food fairs!"

Our annual reports are now up on our website (www.jessetree.net).

Here is a summary of what we accomplished in 2011.

In collaboration with the Houston Food Bank, we held 109 food fairs! Our nutritional programs (food fairs, pantry, family food boxes, senior food boxes, snack packs and hospitality) served 21,350 individuals or households. Total value of food given out was \$1,019,647.

We taught 266 classes in our Chronic Conditions Management with 1,911 attendees.

We had 7,122 client visits throughout the year.

Number of assistance/services totaled 13,906 with a total value of \$766,194.

We gave 2,086 external referrals.

The top health problems reported by clients who came in for case management were hypertension (19.44%), disabled (10.98%), diabetes (9.52%), mental illness (7.98%) and asthma (7.51%).

The top reasons for visit were financial (25.61%), employment (25.59%), health (21.15%), food (13%) and housing (7.49%).

Please go to our website to view the details.

Ninth Annual Empty Bowl Event

"Whether purchasing tickets, donating soup or volunteering, this is an event for the entire community."



Mark your calendars - The Ninth Annual Empty Bowl Event 2012 will be held Friday night, April 20th at the Garten Verein (at the corner of Avenue O and 27th Streets, in Galveston, Texas) 6pm to 9pm. Tickets will sell fast - don't miss it. Table sponsors are welcome (please call us at 409-762-2233 for more information).

Advanced tickets are on sale now for \$45 each. You may purchase tickets online or call us at 409-762-2233. If any tickets are left, they will be available at the door for \$50.

Your donation provides a handmade

bowl, to be filled with your choice of delicious soups, plus bread, dessert and beverages.

Proceeds from The Empty Bowl Event support the nutrition programs of The Jesse Tree.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Galveston has sponsored this event since 2003. The Unitarian "Bowlers" produce approximately four hundred bowls annually.

Whether purchasing tickets, donating soup or volunteering, this is an event for the entire community.

Spare Change for Systemic Change© Campaign



"We cannot do it without your generosity and support."

Last year we were able to collect one million pennies for our One Million Pennies Campaign thanks to you.

This year our campaign is Spare Change for Systemic Change© and we are asking you to collect any spare change whether it be coins or bills.

If you are interested, please email

info@jessetree.net or call 409-762-2233.

We cannot do it without your generosity and support.

We are also seeking monthly donors. We are trying to rebuild our monthly donors that we lost after Hurricane Ike. Will you be one?

Food Fair Schedule

- Mar. 2, 2012 Greater St. Matthews – Hitchcock, TX
Gospel Missionary Baptist Church – Galveston, TX
Volunteer Fire Department, Bolivar, TX
- Mar. 3, 2012 Mt. Carmel Baptist Church – Dickinson, TX
- Mar. 10, 2012 Greater Victory Community Church – League City, TX
- Mar. 16, 2012 Greater St. Matthews – Hitchcock, TX
The Jesse Tree – Galveston, TX
Volunteer Fire Department, Bolivar, TX
- Mar. 17, 2012 Spirit & Truth Worship Center – League City, TX
- Mar. 24, 2012 New Life Fellowship, Galveston, TX
- Mar. 30, 2012 Greater St. Matthews – Hitchcock, TX
The Jesse Tree – Galveston, TX
Volunteer Fire Department, Bolivar, TX

In collaboration with



Please go to our website www.jesstree.net for an updated schedule of our food fairs. We offer diabetes classes both in English & Spanish at our food fairs as well as Greater Barbour's Chapel in Texas City on the Friday's opposite the Food Fairs. Read the next article for more details concerning our chronic conditions management classes.

Location (Food Fair Partners)	Address	City	Phone
The Jesse Tree	2622 Market St.	Galveston	(409) 762-2233
Gospel Missionary Baptist Church	3818 Avenue H.	Galveston	
Iglesia Monte Calvario (New Life Fellowship)	6320 Heards Ln	Galveston	(409) 744-2581
Greater St. Matthews	6333 Hwy. 6	Hitchcock	(409) 986-5453
Greater Victory Community Church	110 Park Ave	League City	(409) 739-2701
Spirit & Truth Worship Center	1701 League City Pkwy (Verizon Parking Lot)	League City	(281) 338-2300
Volunteer Fire Department	1806 Broadway	Port Bolivar	
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church	2920 Hwy 3	Dickinson	



Chronic Condition Management Classes



"Classes are currently available at the food fairs."



"Volunteers are the foundation of The Jesse Tree. We cannot do it without you!"

"wheelchairs, hospital beds...coffee, tea, creamer, sweetener, coffee cups...canned meats, canned fruits...blankets"



The Jesse Tree offers **Chronic Condition Self-Management Program**. The program is a series of classes for individuals with any chronic illness and their families; the classes empower the participant to live healthier lives. Some topics include how to make the most of clinic visits, making treatment decisions, medical directives, healthy exercise and nutrition. Classes starting on February 28 at The Jesse Tree mainland office, class size is limited; please call 409-762-2233 to sign up.

Take Action; A Diabetes Self-Management Program. Classes are currently offered in English and Spanish at the food fairs. The Galveston Food Fair Friday classes are at 1:00 PM, English is at St Paul's United Methodist Church at 15th and Broadway, side entrance and Spanish classes are at New Life Church on Heards Lane. The Diabetes Program is a series of 6 classes with an intake day and an evaluation day. Participants receive a

cholesterol screening and an A1c at the beginning and end of the program. The program is designed to empower individuals to take control of their diabetes.

Cooking Healthy Eating Healthy. This is a series of eight hands on classes developed in collaboration with the Texas AGRILife Extension Family and Consumer Science program. Topics include: Less salt, sugar and fat, Using herbs, spices, citrus and vegetable for flavor, Portion size and meal planning and a grocery store tour. A new series is starting on March 1st at 10:00 Am at the AGRILife Extension office at Carbide Park.

We also offer classes for hypertension, nutrition and stress.

Our class schedule is on our website.

Call The Jesse Tree to find out how these classes can be provided at your church, to your employees or other group.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteer Opportunities: The Jesse Tree needs volunteers Monday through Saturday. Volunteers help in virtually every possible way.

At present, we need help delivering senior food boxes to the residents of Holland House and Gulf Breeze; assisting at Food Fairs (mornings Fridays/Saturdays),

managing donations; answering phones; assisting with fundraising activities; picking up donations; etc. If you are interested in volunteering, please call (409) 762-2233 or email us at info@jessetree.net.

Volunteers are the foundation of The Jesse Tree. We cannot do it without you!

Items Needed

Medical Equipment and Supplies: wheelchairs, hospital beds, canes, crutches, walkers, commodes, shower stools, transfer boards, adult diapers, bed pads, ostomy and diabetes supplies, etc.

Hospitality Supplies: coffee, tea, creamer, sugar, sweetener, coffee cups, napkins, stir sticks, paper napkins, paper towels, boxed or bottled juice, kiddie snacks, trail mix, fruit snacks, etc.

Pantry/Nutrition Center: (healthy foods - those that are low in sodium, fats and carbohydrates) canned meats, canned fish, spaghetti sauce, pastas, rice, beans, canned

goods, canned fruits (in own juice), crackers, powdered milk, soups, oils, salt, spices, ready to eat foods with pull-tops.

Clothing: blankets, bed linens, towels, please only donate one or two of the following items: good, comfortable shoes/sneakers, men's shirts, pants, sweater, jacket; women's blouse, pants, sweater, jacket; duffle bags, back packs, hats, gloves; new socks, underwear, undershirts.

If you are interested in donating any of the above, please call (409) 762-2233 or email us at info@jessetree.net.

Uplifting Story

I was introduced to The Jesse Tree through my church, Catedral de Fe in La Marque, Texas. The Jesse Tree was hosting Friday Food Fairs and diabetic classes at this site and I got to know the staff and volunteers. In fact, my first involvement with The Jesse Tree was when I became a volunteer, distributing brochures and Jesse Tree Journals.

In 2004, when I was 38 years old, I suffered a massive stroke that left me hospitalized for over a month and having to learn to adapt to paralysis on my left side. I attended outpatient clinics in Houston for two months after that, learning through physical therapy and rehabilitation how to work around my disabilities. Before the stroke I had worked as a landscaper and in restaurants. As I look back, I realize that the work was difficult and stressful. But, I also realize that I was never taught how to prevent a stroke or even how to manage my blood pressure.

Toward the goal of becoming self-sufficient again, the church offered an opportunity to get my GED and when I finished that I entered College of the Mainland to pursue higher education. I sent an email to the Executive Director of The Jesse Tree seeking employment. He immediately offered me a position, but, I felt I should finish up my classes and become more proficient in

English. In 2010, I began employment at The Jesse Tree as a bilingual receptionist. I am still employed at The Jesse Tree.

After the stroke, the starting point in my life was being a volunteer for The Jesse Tree. At that time, I was also receiving help from The Jesse Tree – checking my blood pressure, blood sugar levels and going home with nutritious foods. I discovered that The Jesse Tree teaches people how to take better care of themselves; good nutrition, exercise, and classes on how to manage chronic medical conditions. All of this has helped me as I have become an independent and self-sufficient person.

My faith in God has been with me through it all. My faith is a very important part of my life and my recovery. Working for a faith-based organization is a perfect way for me to achieve the goals that I have set for myself and to help others along the way.



Martin Rubio

“I discovered that The Jesse Tree teaches people how to take better care of themselves; good nutrition, exercise, and classes on how to manage chronic medical conditions. All of this has helped me as I have become an independent and self-sufficient person.”

The Jesse Tree is a
501 (c) 3
Organization

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FAX:
(409) 995-0977

E-MAIL:
info@jessetree.net



We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.jessetree.net

About Our Organization...

"We see people; not problems"

The Jesse Tree is a faith-based, non-profit organization that connects people with the health care, social services and ministerial resources they need to rebuild their lives and uplift their spirits.

Connecting: Through direct services and a network of partners and service providers, The Jesse Tree ensures that clients receive all the care and services they need. Our intake process is designed to screen people in - not out. We work to determine every service for which a client is eligible and then we work with clients to connect them to those services.

Rebuilding: The Jesse Tree rebuilds lives by addressing common problems in our community. From hunger to education to chronic medical conditions, The Jesse Tree works to alleviate suffering for all residents in our area.

Uplifting: It was the hope of our founders that the roots of The Jesse Tree would be works of mercy, through which those seeking help would be uplifted, their dignity restored and their independence and self-sufficiency re-established. For this reason, the name of the organization was taken from a passage from the Book of Isaiah (11:1): "A shoot will come up from the stem of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit," and signifies the growth of mercy and compassion that we hope our work inspires in the community.

History

The Jesse Tree was founded in Galveston, Texas, in 1995. The founders were a group of individuals, led by Ted Hanley, at the invitation of Reverend Charles Millikan of the Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church. The group gathered to explore better uses for emerging technology to address dwindling local resources and to provide direction to those attempting to find help in the community.

The Mission of The Jesse Tree

- Create an ecumenical network of support promoting coordination, collaboration, open communication and integration of the healthcare, social service and ministerial delivery systems in our community;
- Develop programs and services that link or fill gaps in the existing delivery system and establish an ongoing evaluation component for each Jesse Tree program or service to determine its effectiveness and efficiency.
- Provide services and develop resources that nurture and encourage the social servants in our community and their existing programs.
- Advocate and promote all endeavors that lead to improved community health, living conditions, and happier, healthier community members, and ...
- To spread the message of God's mercy through deed, word and prayer.

Give us five minutes; there is something we can do to help you!

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