

At the Crossroads

It all began when John Butler, a resident of Big Cedar, was baptized into Christ. John & wife Deborah committed themselves to obeying God's commands in Matthew 25:31-46 to feed the poor and bring hope to those in need. Since there were no area facilities available the Butlers created a non-profit corporation for that purpose. On October 4, 2004 the doors opened in a small hunting cabin with a roof and an outer shell. There was minimum electricity and no water. It was a rustic start. Food was stored in plastic bins and freezers were placed near the few electrical plugs available. In the following years the building has been converted in to a clean modern family friendly facility. Every 3rd Saturday of the month they welcome the families in the Whitesboro School District that come for food and basic essentials.

Because John was a computer technician it was natural for him to begin a computer ministry. Computer parts and computers are donated and refurbished. Computers are available to any one in need. Recently this ministry has expanded to other non-profits like orphanages, women's crisis centers, and other facilities. Each donated computer is enhanced with a Bible study software called E-Sword.

Neighbors began to want to share with neighbors. Donations of clothes were received every week. So the Clothes Room was created to provide basic necessities to anyone in need. All available donated clothes at CFC are either new or like new.

One in every 5 child in the US is hungry. Children who rely on the school's breakfast/lunch programs during the week often are hungry on the weekend. So the Food-4-Kids backpack program was created. It is a partnership of CFC, and Tulsa's Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma to serve Whitesboro School District. Backpacks provide 6 meals and 2 snacks every school weekend to any child that is food insecure. There is no expense to the parent or the school since each child in the program is sponsored. Every backpack contains a fun activity that uses the Bible to help the child with their reading and comprehension skills and designed to be shared with a parent.

Often mothers are financially unprepared to have a new baby so a New Moms Ministry began. Quilts are made for newborns that say "God loves you" and baby food is available. Quilts, blankets and pillows are also provided to the pre-K every year.

Tulsa's Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma has provided a new Senior Servings program available to all low-income seniors. The only cost to the Food Center is fuel for pick up in McAlester.

Loneliness and isolation often create deep needs. There is a sign inside the building says “Enter as a stranger, leave as a friend” that captures the spirit of service of Christ’s Food Center. The Butlers often say, “It is important to remember that people do not wear signs on their backs that say ‘my child died last month’ or ‘my husband beats me’ or ‘I am trapped in a web of addiction’. Each person we meet is treated with respect and dignity. We cannot solve anyone’s problems. We are servants of the God that can and does provide for every need. We hope that people who come to us learn that God is real, the Bible is true, Jesus is the Son of God and that God deeply loves them and is able to give them the solutions they need. We provide Bibles to every family and cross over the lines of separate church denominations by being simply Christians.”

Christ’s Food Center is an example of ordinary people doing extraordinary things by quietly providing to those in need in a way that points people to God.