



December 2018

Philippians Place



A Year of Change & a Constant

A little over a year ago we were pinching ourselves to make sure what was happening was real! My team had just decided not to put a deposit down on a retail space because we weren't ready, and if God wanted us to be there then it would be there when we were ready, and if it wasn't, then God had something better in mind. Two weeks later God partnered us with Brookwood Baptist in a space two times larger than what we had originally chosen! We were still working with our fourteenth & fifteenth clients in our transitional housing program, but we knew it was time and God was leading us to something bigger and better than we could ever imagine.

For six months a handful of dedicated volunteers and many Saturday work party groups tackled all the remodeling projects at our new facility; from painting walls, removing playground equipment, cleaning everything, sanding and painting shelves, to building a wall to make an office. A once rainbow-colored daycare quickly transformed into a beautiful warm and inviting Resale Store, Program Office, Bible study & class room, and volunteer room. To top it off, the Chamber of Commerce Leadership class transformed the playground into a beautiful community garden.



Our last transitional client graduated from our program in February, and instead of working with and impacting just a few clients a year, we now work with and impact a few clients almost every day.

We've gone from five dedicated board members to eight, and from two contract employees working a few hours each week to two part-time employees and one full-time employee. Some of our longtime volunteers are still with us, some have moved on to new adventures, and some new volunteers have joined us in our mission to end the cycle of homelessness one person at a time.



A new volunteer teaches clients how to knit a hat using a loom

In the midst of all this change this past year, one thing has remained constant and that is God's faithfulness. From the very beginning of Philippians Place, God has led our decisions and actions, and He continues to lead us through this change and new mission. Just like He did during our transitional housing, He continues to bless us with miracles every day, which grows our faith so we can follow Him wherever He leads us. God is ever present in all that we do, and we know that without Him none of this would ever be possible. We are blessed and thankful for change, but more importantly, we are thankful that God is faithful and constant!

NEW ADDRESS & CONTACT INFO

**Philippians Place
Resale Store & Learning Facility**

901 Henderson Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28540
910-378-7908

info@philippiansplace.org

In Their Truck Six Days a Week

A couple in their late fifties were ready to move into their own place in this warmer climate from where they just came from, but when they got here the landlord had rented it to someone else. With the experience he had at a large retail store, he figured it would be easy to get a job in this small town, but he was wrong. The money they saved went quickly and they struggled to make ends meet on her disability. They ended up sleeping in their truck six days a week and in a hotel one day a week in order to take a shower and clean up at least once a week for a month. Then they found out about us. They participated in our Bible studies and classes and volunteered to complete various projects. We found them an apartment, paid their electric deposit using their earnings, and shared in their happiness when they moved in to their new place and out of their truck.

A Different Company

An older lady on disability wanted to move closer to family and into a better place. She saved her money to pay the deposit and first month's rent and planned to transfer the electric. A couple weeks before moving in she found out the electric was under a different company but she didn't have the large deposit that was needed to turn the power on. She had good credit with her current electric company, but they told her it would be thirty days before she would receive her deposit back. Her current landlord told her the same thing, but that she needed to move out because she had already rented it; her new landlord told her she couldn't move in unless the electric was on. She was desperate for some assistance. She came in for our intake and was relieved that she could work to get assistance. She enjoyed participating in our Bible studies and volunteering; she even helped a couple of other clients with rides and advice. Within two weeks we paid the first half of her electric deposit with her earnings, her electric was turned on, and she was able to move into her new place.

Making an Impact

Since opening our doors in May, we have served many people in our community who are struggling just to make ends meet. One goal with our new facility was being a place to provide community resources to those in need. Philippians Place is doing just that and more; we are making an impact in the lives of many. The numbers speak for themselves:

From May through October 31:

- Applicants: 66
 - Female: 49
 - Male: 17
- Homeless: 34
 - Put in housing/shelter: 16
- Resource Information Provided:
 - Food: 46
 - Housing/Shelter: 45
 - Transportation: 37
 - Employment: 35
 - Childcare: 12
- Program Participants: 23
 - Pantry Items: 23
 - Resale Store: 16
 - Financial assistance: 5

Program Office Hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 9am – 2pm

Wed: by appointment only

Resale Store & Donation Center

Business Hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat: 10am – 3 pm



A Chair and Some Clothes

"S" came to us looking for shelter. She had moved out of her apartment because it was infested with fleas. She then moved into the shelter and stayed there for a couple months but she didn't save her money to move into her own place; she ended up homeless again. We found her a place; two of our volunteers took her to a shelter in a nearby city; but first they took a detour to an income-based apartment to complete the application and paperwork. She took some of her clothes from the storage unit that she was staying in; she left only a chair and some clothes behind.

We are hopeful that her apartment will be ready before Christmas, but until then, she's safe and sleeping in a house on a bed instead of in a storage unit in a chair.

COME TO THE TABLE FASHION SHOW & DINNER



Join us on Friday, March 22nd for our Inaugural "Come to the Table" Dinner & Fashion Show. Be a sponsor, host a table, or join us at the table for a delicious meal, fashion, fellowship, & entertainment. All proceeds support our programs and clients. Contact us for more information. 910-378-7908

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Help Us Help Others

items but didn't want to spend an "arm & a leg". They visited our store and ended up purchasing most of the items they needed, including a table that two of our clients repaired and refinished. A lady at the shelter participated in our program; by the time she had to exit the shelter she had saved enough of her program earnings to purchase all the furniture and household items that she needed for her new home.

These are our stories, but we wouldn't have them without you! Your donations make this happen: you donate, our clients work and use their earnings to get what they need, you shop at our store and make purchases, and we keep our doors open to serve our clients in need and you! It's a cycle that works!

Be a blessing to those in need in our community—donate and shop at our Resale Store today!

A Life Change

We are currently adjusting our Earnings Program from a three-month to a six-month process to include mentors for our clients. How would you like to: guide, teach, converse, pray, assist, listen, and work with someone who is trying to make a life change? Give us a call and we'll get you an application and set you up for our mentor training. 910-378-7908

Christmas Open House

Are you unable to visit our Resale Store and Program Office due to work schedule and family weekend fun? Mark your calendars—we're staying open late just for you! Our Christmas Open House will be Thursday, December 13, from 10am – 7pm. Stop by and enjoy some warm apple cider, cookies, shopping, and a tour of our facilities. Come see the place where we are making an impact, and blessing those in our community!

It's a Cycle

A young mom came to us one morning; she had been sleeping in her car. We called shelters and got her an appointment in a neighboring county; we gave her some hygiene items and a sleeping bag. A family was moving but they needed to get rid of some furniture and other items, so they contacted us to drop their stuff off the day before moving. A young couple just moved here; they needed a couch and household

