

Stable Housing...



A young couple came in to GN seeking assistance with their rent. The couple had just returned from active duty in Iraq. While there, family members had taken care of their 4 children. Once they returned to the states they had difficulty finding employment. They came to GN on several occasions working through the situation. On the third visit a celebration was in order as the husband had found employment and the wife was considering signing up with the reserves. Through the Grace Fund GN was able to assist with rent and many resource referrals.



Early in the summer a family with 2 young children came to GN in need of rental assistance. They had attended an Emergency Food and Shelter informational session and hoped that they might qualify for some assistance. Both parents had been out of work and looking for work since the winter months when they both lost their jobs. The husband had just found work through Staffing Solutions and the wife had enrolled in a local college program to begin in the early fall. In the meantime she had also found a part-time job. The landlord had been working with them but reached a point that he could no longer wait for their payment. GN referred this family to HPRP and other local resources (food pantries, Welcome Table, etc) for further assistance. This family did qualify for EFSP/FEMA funding and one month's rent was paid. With both adults working this family is on the road to stability.

Transportation For Continued Employment or Education...

Many neighbors come to GN asking for gasoline to get back and forth to work or school or even to get back and forth to medical appointments. Some even need gasoline because they are living in their cars and need fuel for heating or cooling especially at night. On more than one occasion this year GN has authorized a fill up at a local gas station so that a neighbor can find employment and a second fill up so that our neighbor can get to work at the new job until a first pay check is received. Sometimes medical appointments have been scheduled in middle Tennessee and cause an extra burden on an already limited budget. A simple tank of gas can make a big difference!

This year United Way offered GN the opportunity to assist with transportation for families transporting their loved ones back and forth to dialysis treatments. More than 25 families are being assisted each month through this special UW funding.



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Good Neighbors of Blount County
1021 Hampshire Drive
Maryville, TN 37801

www.goodneighborsbc.com



Good Neighbors of Blount County

2010 Stories of Hope

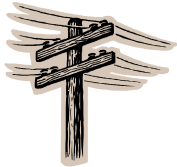
Helping Our Neighbors Find Their Way

A ministry of the Blount County Ecumenical Action Council

Partner in United Way of Blount County

2010 Stories of Hope

Keeping Utilities On...

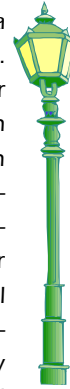


Early in the winter months a young woman (single parent) came in asking for assistance with her utility bill. This young woman had been to see GN about 18 months ago and the coach highly encouraged this neighbor to pursue her GED. Great news!! Not only had this young woman achieved that goal, but she had enrolled in Pellissippi State and is now pursuing a career in nursing. Her family is trying to help in any way that they can but once in a while she gets a little behind. GN was able to congratulate, encourage and celebrate with her on her accomplishment and new goals as well as offer a small amount of assistance with her utility bill.



A young woman came in asking for help with her utility bill. She and her husband have two children of their own and do well to make ends meet for their own family. When she arrived in the office she had 6 children with her. Four of these children had just arrived

at her home in the middle of the previous night. They had been removed from a local home because of suspected abuse. Her home will serve as a temporary foster home for these children. These children were well behaved and seemed to be in shock. The counselor was much impressed with this family and their generosity and compassion. GN was able to refer this family to local food pantries, Angel Food Ministries, Welcome Table, TN Career Center, Community Action Agency and also encourage our neighbor to enroll in the GED program. GN was able to cover \$75.00 of the utility bill and the neighbor was able to raise the balance.



A local skilled care facility called GN to inquire about assistance for one of their employees. This young woman had been working at the facility for some time and is completing the CNA program. She had passed the written exam and is attempting the skill section of the exam in a few days. The administrator shared that she was an exemplary employee and that the other staff was concerned about her situation. This young couple had been living in an apartment without utilities. They had been on the public housing list for some time. The husband was out of work and the woman was only able to work a limited number of hours until she passed the skill section of the CNA exam. As soon as she completes the CNA requirements she had the offer of a full time job and a pay increase. Because her utilities had already been disconnected a new deposit fee was required. After an interview with the neighbor GN was able to help with the utility

situation and the utilities were cut back on that very day! The family was grateful to have lights hot water once again!



Furthering Job Skills and Education...

A 21 year old man came in asking for help paying the GED exam testing fee. He had made a great effort to turn his life around. Previously he had served time in jail and once released, moved to Blount county to distance himself from the situation. He had prepared to take the GED exam and scored quite well on the pre-test. He has plans to attend a technical school and focus on HVAC repair. In order to be able to enroll in classes more quickly he has scheduled his test for Knoxville Testing Center. GN was able to assist with the exam fee. This young man walked to Knoxville to take the test and passed! GN was excited to be a part of this neighbor's move toward self-sufficiency and to have the opportunity to celebrate with him.



GNbc

Good Neighbors
of Blount County
1021 Hampshire Drive

Phone: 865.681.5420
Fax: 865.681.5447

E-mail:
goodneighborsbc@gmail.com