

FRIENDS OF CPO

Summer 2008

The Friends' Mission

The Friends group exists to support the Catholic Parish Outreach in its mission of feeding the poor and the needy in the greater Wake Country area.

The CPO is eastern North Carolina's largest provider of urgent food assistance, providing canned goods, fresh vegetables, meat and bakery products to hungry families.

To receive this regular newsletter, email us at Friends_of_CPO@yahoo.com or write us at Friends of CPO, 5945 Big Sandy Drive, Raleigh, NC 27616

Bigger! Better! CPO's New Home

Catholic Parish Outreach has found a new home, a place where we can grow in continuing to meet the needs of our many clients. The new location is at 2013 Raleigh Boulevard in Raleigh.

To understand the need for this facility, let's go back to the core mission of CPO. As many of you know, the families coming to us have experienced events that have strained the family budget. These events include the loss of a job, an illness or accident, a major repair bill, and even devastating events like the loss of a loved one or the loss of a home. CPO is one of the few, and by far the largest, local organization where these families can be referred to obtain food assistance, even on the same day. By working as we do, those in need receive a prompt solution to an immediate need, as well as an encounter with



2013 Raleigh Boulevard

caring people that reminds them that they are not alone in the situation they face.

The need for this type of service has grown over the years. You can see this best on the

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Interviewing CPO's Terry Foley



We recently visited with Terry Foley, Director of Catholic Parish Outreach, to find out more about the new building and its potential for expanding the work of CPO. Here's what

she told us about this great opportunity.

Friends of CPO: Terry, thanks for taking the time to speak with us. Why did CPO need to find a new facility?

Terry: The number of client families served by the CPO has grown tremendously over the last several years. We keep count of the number of family members for whom we provide urgent food assistance, and that number has risen from 25,000 in the year 2001 to 55,000 in 2007. For various reasons, including the continued overall growth in the population in Wake County, we think that the numbers we serve will continue to rise.

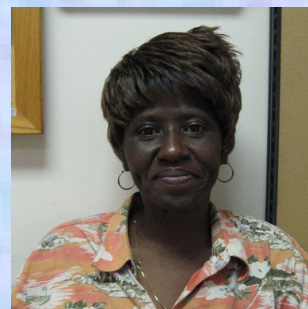
Friends of CPO: How did you find this new facility?

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Meet Our Clients

On a recent Monday where we served over 75 client-families, we stopped to chat with three of them. They each told us their story and what brought them to CPO on that day.

Gloria last visited CPO in October of 2007. Now she's back in June, 2008. Since October, she and her 15-year-old daughter have been in a situation where she is dependent on help from others. Gloria receives \$165 per month in food stamps, but that doesn't always pay for two people to eat for a full month, so she needs help from somewhere. While friends and family have been supportive, sometimes it is just too much, and Gloria has been grateful for the assistance provided by CPO.



Albert lost his construction job and then lost his home because he couldn't pay rent. He supports his daughter, who is trying to return to school, and his granddaughter. After living in the back of a car for a while, he has found temporary housing with a friend from his Catholic parish. He is hoping to stay there until he can find new work.

Beatris and her daughter, Elizabeth, came to CPO today because there is no food at all in the house. Beatris' husband works in construction, but has not had enough steady work to feed this family of 2 adults and 6 children. During the school year, the five school-age kids receive both breakfast and lunch at school, but that disappears in the summer months. This means it is hard to find enough food to feed eight hungry people.



Tour the New Building



**CPO's new home at
2013 Raleigh Blvd.**

Client reception area



**Client interview,
client services and
client waiting area**



**Warehouse area for
food storage and
order processing**



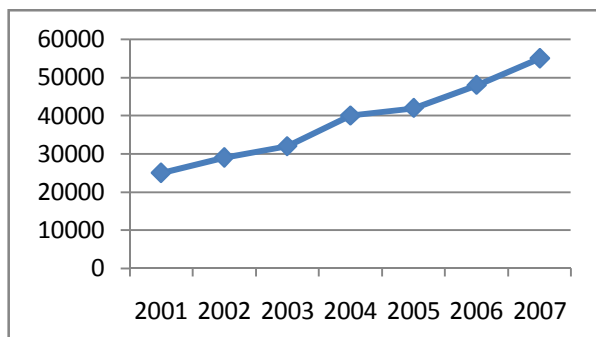
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graph (below), which shows the explosive growth over the years in the number of family members we have served.

This growth has created many new challenges for our current facility. Parking is an ever-increasing problem and we have taxed the patience of our long-suffering business neighbors on more than one occasion. We also have to bring the food orders through the waiting area and out the same door that clients use as an entrance. The many children that accompany our clients are a constant (though joyful) obstacle to the food carts.

All this will change in our new facility. We will enjoy 16,000 square feet of space, compared to the 7,500 square feet in our

Number of Family Members Served



**Note: On average a client visits
CPO 2.15 times a year**

current facility. This will allow for the growth we expect. We can also add classroom space for new client services like nutritional and financial education.

Further advantages of the new building include sufficient parking in an area where we will not compete with other businesses for space. The front of the building provides multiple entrances and access points, so food order deliveries can now be accomplished away from the clients' entrance and away from client waiting areas and children's play areas.

Take the tour of the new facility in this issue and see the good things coming for those we serve. Thanks be to God.

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Terry: We looked at over 20 different buildings around the Raleigh area. We had a long list of requirements: big enough to support our growth, plenty of parking for clients and volunteers, reachable by bus, etc. And, of course, the price had to fit as well.

We also wanted a place where we could add more refrigerator and freezer space. This will allow us to make better use of the food items we receive. Some of the Friends may not know that the timing of some perishable food is not always under our control. It arrives based on the needs of our donors. We are grateful for the donation, but we need more storage to even out that supply with our demand.

Now we have found just the place and it is almost around the corner from where we are now. Our clients coming by bus will be well-served and we have the space for parking and storage that is crucial to our vision.

Friends of CPO: When is the move-in date?

Terry: We hope to move in mid-September. The lease has been signed and we have all the necessary permits. As you can see from the pictures, a considerable build-out is needed. We have found the contractor for the build-out and we have a project plan and timeline for August and September.

Friends of CPO: What are the biggest opportunities represented by the new facility?

Terry: We will be able to expand our services. We plan to add nutritional, family and finance education that clients can receive while they wait for their food order to be filled. We also plan to add a case worker who can help take the urgency out of our clients' needs by helping them apply for other, longer-term assistance programs that will move them toward independence.

Friends of CPO: What do you need right now from the Friends?

Terry: We always need your prayers first. Then we will need volunteer help in the week of the move. If you can help, email the Friends at Friends_of_CPO@yahoo.com