



Greer Community Ministries

# Spread The Word

MEALS ON WHEELS • SENIOR DINING • FOOD PANTRY • CLOTHING CLOSET

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Every weekday morning like clock-work Burt and JoAnne Best arrive at Greer Community Ministries to start working in the Food Pantry. On Mondays and Fridays, they stop sorting and bagging food long enough to deliver a Meals on Wheels route. When the ministry has fundraisers and special events, the two are always there working long hours and doing whatever is needed of them. And when monthly board meetings take place, JoAnne is always in attendance.

You would almost think the Bests are employees of the ministry, but they are just two of the valuable volunteers who make Greer Community Ministries function smoothly. The couple is a fixture at GCM, absent only when they visit their beloved home state of Maine or go on one of their other fun vacations.

The Bests began volunteering at the ministry not long after moving to Greer from Florida.

"We really like the people," responded Burt, when asked what he and JoAnne like the most about volunteering and being at GCM. "Plus, it gives us something to do."

"You get attached to the people you see on the route," said JoAnne, who also volunteers at Greer Memorial Hospital. "We just really enjoy it."

To find out more about volunteer opportunities at GCM, please visit [greercommunityministries.org](http://greercommunityministries.org) or contact Lori Sondov at 877-1937.

## A Busy and Blessed Time at Greer Community Ministries

The last three months have been busy, productive, and quite frankly a blur. Since arriving at Greer Community Ministries on March 7, I am excited to report the following. We have:

- received a grant from Spartanburg Regional Foundation;
- hosted the 14th Annual MOW Golf Tournament;
- prepared next year's budget;
- hired Cam Morris as our Events Coordinator;
- conducted two yard sales at Collins Corner BiLo;
- shopped for buses for our Senior Dining Program;
- participated in the Postal Carrier Food Drive;
- held our annual senior dining picnic at Lake Robinson;

We are now in the planning process for the Benson Classic Car Show, the 5K Twilight Run-Walk-Crawl and Big Thursday. I have even driven a couple of MOW routes and conducted eligibility assessments on potential participants. Wow, and I was told this is the slow season!

Most importantly I have witnessed how God works through the ministry - each and every day. I am thoroughly impressed at the devotion and dedication of the volunteers. The generosity of the local churches and the people of this community blows me away. Shortly after I started here at the ministry, Linda Teems, our MOW Coordinator informed me that we were in need of purchasing new insulated bags to transport meals. That afternoon she was at my door almost in tears informing me that one of our drivers wanted to purchase new insulated bags for the program. Another day one of our drivers indicated that a recipient on one of the routes needed an air conditioner due to breathing problems, made worse by the heat. It was posted on our Facebook page and within an hour we had a commitment for a window unit and it was installed within 24 hours.

I could go on and on but primarily I want you to know that your prayers, service, and donations make a difference in the lives of the people we serve. I haven't been here long but I have seen how this community serves God's purpose - helping those who need a hand. I continue to be humbled by the opportunity to serve at this wonderful ministry.

Please feel free to stop by and see what's going on and I hope to visit with many of you at the local Churches and community organizations during the next several months.

Thanks again for your continued support of Greer Community Ministries. I look forward to meeting you.

In His service.

Craig Dittmar  
Executive Director  
Greer Community Ministries

## Food Pantry Needs

\*Dry Beans

\*Saltines

\*Corn Muffin Mix

\*Canned Carrots and Soups

\*Mustard, Ketchup and  
Salad Dressings

## Clothing Closet Needs

\*Men's and Kid's Clothes

\*Socks and Underwear- All Sizes

## Greer Community Ministries

### Board of Directors

JoAnne D Best

Susan Bogan

Wayne Cole

Dana Hill

Gary Griffin

Jeanne Harvey

Jane Hawkins

TJ Horton

Paul Lister

Travis Long

Josh Massey

Lesa Patton

Becky Pickett

Jeff Pitman

Dan Ray

Chris Rayburn

Martha Wright

### Staff

Craig Dittmar

Executive Director

Cyndi Atkins

Head Cook

Doris Cooper

Assistant Cook

Martha King-Lafoy

Meals on Wheels Director

Kelly Lee

Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

Coordinator

Cam Morris

Events Coordinator

Judy Ponder

Senior Dining Coordinator

Janice Smith

Accounting Manager

Lori Sondov

Operations Coordinator

Linda Teems

Meals on Wheels Coordinator

## Benson Automotive Classic Car Show and 5K Twilight Run-Walk-Crawl

Handsome vintage cars, tasty barbecue, yummy ice cream, energetic runners and great musical entertainment are among the highlights of the fifth annual Benson Automotive Classic Car Show and 5K Twilight Run-Walk-Crawl, set for Saturday, Oct. 1st at Greer First Baptist Church in downtown Greer.

This event is a fundraiser for Greer Community Ministries and it is being hosted by Jim Benson, owner of the Benson Automotive dealerships throughout the Upstate.

The car show will be held from 2-6 p.m. in the church parking lot, and it offers free admission to spectators. Persons wanting to show a car are asked to pay a \$15 donation and are encouraged to arrive early to get a good spot for displaying their auto.

The 5K run, which is open to both runners and walkers, will begin at 6 p.m., to be followed by an awards ceremony at

7:15 p.m. The race course is the same as last year: a gentle looping route that runs through the downtown Greer area.

Cost is \$20 per runner if you register before September 1st; group discounts are available. Registration will be held on site starting at 3 p.m. and continuing until just before the race starts.

Chelsea's Catering will be providing the BBQ while Bruster's Real Ice Cream will be selling frozen treats throughout the afternoon.

Check out our website, [www.greercommunityministries.org](http://www.greercommunityministries.org) to register and for more information about the Benson Automotive Classic Car Show and 5K Twilight Run-Walk-Crawl. All proceeds from the event will go to GCM's four programs: Meals on Wheels, Senior Dining, Food Pantry and Clothing Closet.

For more information, please call Cam Morris at 877-1937.

## Time To Think About Big Thursday

It may seem like the time to think about heading toward the beach or finding someplace to cool down, but it's actually time to start thinking about Big Thursday. Greer Community Ministries' largest fundraiser is set for Thursday, Nov. 3 at Fairview Baptist Church. This year marks the 32nd annual Big Thursday.

Many of our traditional favorites will be included in Big Thursday, and we are working on adding new features at present time. Last year's big hit, the Book Nook, will be returning thanks to First Presbyterian Church.

We are looking for persons in the community who would like to help as a volun-

teer or donor with the following areas of the event:

**Silent Auction**

**Live Auction**

**Baked Goods**

**Frozen Casseroles**

Please contact Cam Morris or Craig Dittmar at 877-1937 to find out how you can help make Big Thursday the most successful one ever. Also, keep visiting [www.greercommunityministries.org](http://www.greercommunityministries.org) for updates about our fundraiser.

The proceeds from Big Thursday are vital to keeping GCM's four programs operating. Those programs are Meals on Wheels, Senior Dining, Clothing Closet and Food Pantry.

## New Events Coordinator Hired

Cameron Morris has been hired as the part-time events coordinator for Greer Community Ministries.

She will be working on planning the ministry's fundraisers, including the Meals on Wheels Golf Tournament, the Benson Automotive Classic Car Show and 5K Twilight Run-Walk-Crawl, Big Thursday, and other tasks.

A Greer native, Cam is a graduate of

USC Upstate. She is a longtime member of Fairview Baptist Church, is married and has two children.

She comes to the ministry having previously worked with the Greenville Chamber as a Manager, Graphic Design and PULSE Representative.

Cam enjoys photography and spending time with her family.

We extend a warm welcome to Cam!



Greer State Bank golf team: Billy Harrill, Rick Medlock, Vic Grout and Jim Boyd.

## MOW Golf Tournament Raises \$75,000

The 14th Annual Meals on Wheels Golf Tournament was a big success for Greer Community Ministries as it raised just over \$75,000 on May 6th at the Greer Country Club.

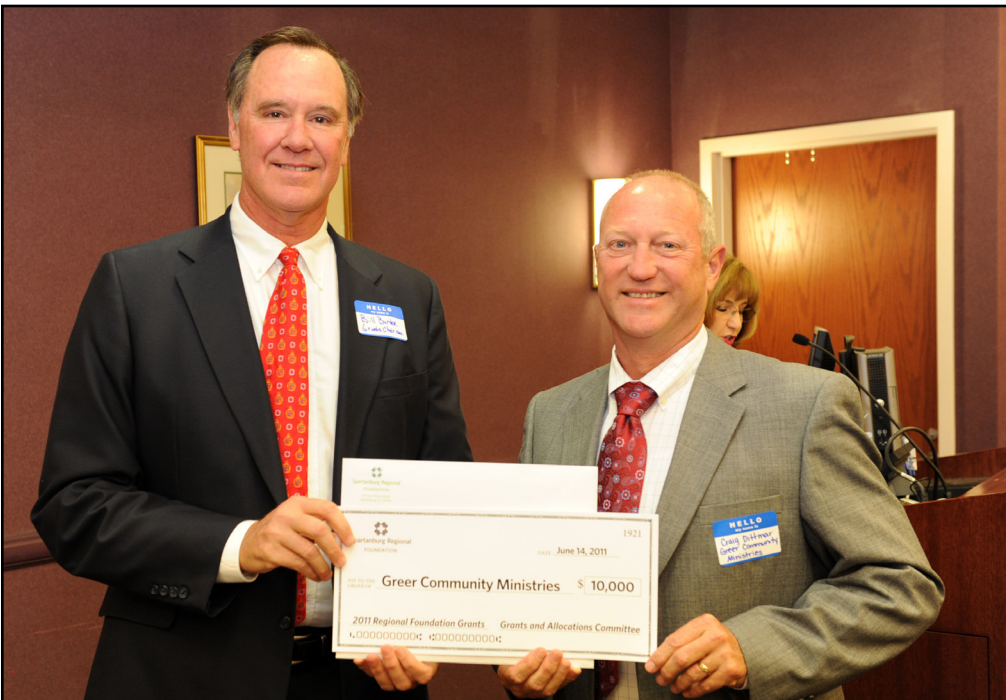
Proceeds from the tournament will be used for the ministry's Meals on Wheels program. "That amount will help buy over 25,000 meals, and that's about a fourth of what we provide annually," said Craig Dittmar, the new executive director of Greer Community Ministries.

Dittmar was pleased with the results of the tournament and thanked the committee members for their hard work. The

committee included Brent Jones, Ed Mason, Joey Finley, Jan Fosson, Travis Long, TJ Horton, Randy Kemp, Stacy Warren and Nikki Snow.

Morning and afternoon rounds of golf were played at the Greer Country Club. Golfers were treated to an All-American lunch of grilled hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings. They also received door prizes, goody bags, and a gift.

Money for the golf tournament was raised from each team's entry fee of \$500 and sponsorships. More sponsorships were sold for this year's event than previous ones, stated Dittmar.



Bill Burton, left, of Spartanburg Regional Foundation, presents Craig Dittmar, Executive Director of Greer Community Ministries, with the first of three \$10,000 checks. The grant money, to be paid over three years, will be used to purchase a bus for the Senior Dining Program.

## Thank you to our 14th Annual Meals on Wheels Golf Tournament Sponsors

Presented by



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 Pepsi  
 SK Builders Inc.  
 Spartanburg Regional  
 Springfield Tool and Die, Inc.  
 Super Suds Car Wash / Dr. Flush  
 Village Hospital



**Greer Community Ministries, Inc.**

PO Box 1373  
Greer, SC 29652

[www.GreerCommunityMinistries.org](http://www.GreerCommunityMinistries.org)

Phone: 864-877-1937

Fax: 864-877-1176

E-mail: [cdittmar@gcminc.org](mailto:cdittmar@gcminc.org)

## Craig Dittmar is new Director of GCM



As he begins his fourth month as the executive director of Greer Community Ministries, Craig Dittmar continues to be overwhelmed by the outpouring of support the ministry receives from the Greater Greer area.

"The support of the community, no doubt about it. It is amazing," he says, when asked what has been the most interesting part of the job since arriving at the ministry. "Also, the dedication and the devotion of the volunteers."

Craig began at GCM on March 7, replacing Randy Kemp, who resigned in January. Having previously worked at non-profits including A Child's Haven and the Greenville County Disabilities and Special Needs board, Craig had the perfect background to fit right in at the ministry. He has been delighted to discover that the staff has prayer each morning at 8:30 am, a time when the employees and several volunteers gather to share prayer requests and praises with each other.

With the Meals on Wheels Golf Tournament behind him, Craig has the Benson Automotive Classic Car Show and 5K Twilight Run-Walk-Crawl and Big Thursday in the planning stages. He would also like to have other family events planned between those three large fundraisers during the year.

As for his goals for GCM, Craig says, "To increase awareness of the ministry and to increase the support it receives."

He and his wife, Alicia, have been married 28 years and have a daughter, Elora, who is a sophomore at Wofford College. The Dittmars have resided in Greer for the past 16 years. They are members of Memorial United Methodist Church.

Welcome to Greer Community Ministries, Craig!

*If you are interested in receiving constant updates about the ministry, its needs and its programs, please email Cam Morris at [cmorris@gcminc.org](mailto:cmorris@gcminc.org) to be included on our email listing.*