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| **Office Address**:  705 Chatham Street  Sanford, NC 27330  919-776-8474  sanfordomi@gmail.com  **Board Members**:  Claire Hunt  Hamer Carter  Jayne Holland  Jenny Cabrera  Jimmy Walton  Laura Spivey  Mandy Moss  Marcia Johnson  Neil Coggins  Sam Parker  Steven Hill  Tim Burriss  **Ambassador**:  Earl Murphy  **Ex-Officio**:  Ken Smith  ***Messages From***  **The Secretaries**  *Recording Secretary* –**Marcia Johnson**  I have served in this position for 6 years, shortly after joining OMI as a board member. I will rotate off the Board after December 31. Though I moved to Fayetteville over a year ago, I have remained involved with OMI because of the outstanding growth and extraordinary success OMI has accomplished in such a short time. I have witnessed OMI go from the shelters being open only for dinner, sleep and breakfast, with all residents required to leave the premises by 8 am to being open 24/7/365. The change to low-barrier, housing-first accelerated activities, grant applications, job and housing searches. The most enjoyable experience is sitting with the ladies and children, listening to their struggles, talking of their hope for the future. OMI board members had to learn as we took on everything required to meet the needs of clients and the requirements of governmental guidelines, something akin to inventing the wheel. Challenges, frustrations, paving new pathways built the strong, dedicated persona of the board members. I want to be around when the new shelter is opened in 2022.  *Corresponding Secretary -*  **Claire Hunt**  *I became an Outreach Mission board member in January 2009. My past experiences working with the needy, from being the Site Manager of a food pantry, active member of several boards, and volunteering, is what prompt me to join the organization.*  *Although I have very little contact with clients themselves, I’m familiar with their situations. The faces change, but their stories are the same! I have seen many positive changes though out the years and am happy to be part of them. Outreach Mission has helped so many!*  *I took over the position of Corresponding Secretary in October 2012. This involves sending acknowledgements to churches, organizations, businesses, and individuals for their monetary donations, supplies for the shelters, building materials, etc.*  *My present term on the board will be ending by January 1, but I’ll be remaining on as an advocate working towards our goal for the new facility in the near future.*  ***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\****  **SPECIAL THANKS**  to a special Lady without a name for donating 160 sets of bed sheets. OMI shared these with HAVEN, Family Promise, and Bread of Life.  <><><><><><><><>  **Isaiah 25:4a**  "For you have been a strength to the poor, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat."  OMI  MISSION  STATEMENT  To assist the homeless with basic needs including food, clothing, emergency shelter, and emotional support. | ***Look at what your donations did in 2020***  ***Client Services Summary***  *Your contributions and support have never been more important than this year, so OMI wants to provide information showing the goals reached, the people served, the lives touched with this issue of our Newsletter. Thank you for all you did!*  *Clients Served 340 New Clients 118*  *Men 155 Women & Children 185*  *Veterans 2*  *Meals Served 17,556 Bed Nights 5,008*  ***Note from the Treasurer: Laura Spivey***  *Wow! What a year 2020 has been! OMI was blessed with Grants and Donations throughout the year allowing us to meet our goals of serving the clients and expanding staff with the new positions you see listed below. The positive changes of adding staff has allowed OMI to grow in the right direction. The consistent efforts to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness is in full swing at OMI.*  *Our financial focus for 2020 was to increase our sustainability in order to more effectively and efficiently help the clients. Then COVID hit and we were concerned our efforts to create sustainability would be very difficult. However, the community support increased with monthly donations from individuals and churches, plus federal and state grants have created a stable financial condition throughout the pandemic thus far.*  *OMI is now fully staffed and able to help more people return to stable housing in less time. We are looking forward to a very positive and productive 2021. Our hope is always to help our clients put their lives back together “One Piece at a Time”!*  *The Raffle for A Home for the Holidays Playhouse in December topped last year’s total with $7,050 worth of ticket purchases, donations and extraordinary support! The donors of the materials, the builders and movers of the ‘shed’ have our tremendous gratitude for their contributions.* ***Fix-It-Plumbing****,* ***Shed Depot, Service Building Supply and Lemon Springs United Methodist Church men*** *– OMI couldn’t have done this without all ya’ll. (see page 3 for the winner)*  *A big THANK YOU****...….****to* ***Tyson Food****,* ***Core Mark*** *and* ***GFL Environmental*** *for the monetary donations, computers and “IT Support” that have helped our new staff members with the essential equipment needed to do their jobs. Thanks to donations like these and the monthly supporters, we will go into 2021 with the beginning of financial sustainability we never had before.*  *To God be the Glory! ~ Happy New Year!!!*  *Tyson>>  GFL>>*  ***2020 In Review***  **January**  The 5 Year Plan was updated to show the 2020 focus on financial stability and staffing. Hired full-time case manager at the women’s shelter. OMI starts the first year of ESG grant funding.  **February**  North Carolina Housing Finance Agency toured the shelters, reviewed plans for the new shelter. Lot rezoning requested.  **March**  COVID-19 pandemic hits America and the World. A lockdown is ordered by NC Governor and the President.  A decision was made to maintain the shelters open.  The Business Breakfast was postponed until May 5 due to COVID. The event was redesigned and created in a video format.  **April**  New protocols were written to protect clients and staff from the Coronavirus disease. OMI restricts incoming clients to residents of Lee County only.  **May 5**  The Business Breakfast event had good participation. Donations and pledges provided a sustainable flow of incoming finances.  The first issue of a Newsletter was published at the beginning of June.  **June**  An Internship Program was created to enable real life experiences of homelessness for the students working toward a Bachelor or Master in Social Work degree.  **July**  Four local colleges agreed to participate in the Internship Program. Fayetteville State University and Methodist University provided the first students for the fall semester.  Received Tyson Foods Grant funding.  **August**  OMI receives Lee County CARES Act funding.  **September**  Rezoning of lot for the new building was approved.  Four Picnic Tables were built by the Baptist Men of Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church for the clients at both shelters.  Five networking computers and associated IT support were donated to OMI by CoreMark.  OMI receives COVID RELIEF FUND funding.  **October 29** - **United Way – Day of Caring**  Even though an extreme weather storm cancelled the projects for that day, three projects were completed later in November.   * Tree Trimming at the men’s shelter was done by a team from Central Carolina Membership Corporation. * Power washing the outside of the women’s shelter was completed by Chase Andrews. * Installation of new blinds at the women’s shelter were completed by Youth Build of CCCC.   Received ESG-CV funding for 2020 and 2021.  **November**  Playhouse Raffle materials donated by Shed Depot, Service Building Supply and Fix-It-Plumbing; construction by Lemon Springs United Methodist Church men. The Playhouse was on display at Bubba’s Subs, Walmart and Camelback Brewery.  OMI now employs a Director of Client Services and seven other staff to carry out all the programs of OMI so homelessness is being faced with professionals who work together to meet clients’ needs, help find housing, employment, job skills, counseling if needed for additions, and basically CARING.  The security system at each shelter was upgraded to include cameras outside.  Thanksgiving dinner was provided for the clients by staff and donated foods.  **December**  *The Winner of*  *A Home for the Holiday” Playhouse*  ***Lonny Thomas of Sanford***    *Christmas was brighter for the clients because the staff and volunteers from Lemon Springs Ruritan Club made sure the holiday was not overshadowed by homelessness and loneliness.*  *COVID practices continued all year long since March.*  ***Not one*** *case of COVID entered either shelter. Kudos go to the staff and the clients for being so diligent with safety practices established since March.*  ***Employee Recap – OMI Now Employs 8 Staff***   1. *Director of Client Services Paul Tate* 2. *Case Manager – Women Tyesha Roberts* 3. *Case Manager – Men Stephen Chestnut* 4. *Housing Specialist Priscilla Ward* 5. *Shelter Supervisor – Men CeSar Villalta* 6. *Shelter Supervisor – Women Corrine Contreras* 7. *Shelter Supervisor – Both Marilyn Hoffman* 8. *Intake/HMIS Specialist Hasina Currie-Bender*   ***COVID CONTROL***  *Different from many shelters, OMI has been able to keep our shelters open since the start of the pandemic. One step taken to keep COVID out of the shelters was to minimize the number of clients to 12. Most of the clients are employed; and, during their shifts at their respective jobs, they’ve kept a social and safe distance, wore masks as advised and practice the washing and sanitizing of personal items and self. Consider being in the same housing with 12 strangers. Consider the stress of homelessness. Consider how someone can be irritating with their quirks and idiosyncrasies.* ***Kudos go to the staff and the clients*** *for being so diligent with safety practices established since March!*  ***SHALLOW WELL UCC RESTOCKED SHELTER KITCHENS***  *There are a multitude of ways any congregation, organization, or group can assist the men’s and women’s shelters. Gifts of money are completely essential and so appreciated. In-kind donations are so incredibly helpful. The shelters need things like: towels, washcloths, blankets, single bed sheets, personal hygiene items (toothbrushes/paste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.), glasses, dishes, flatware, serving bowls and platters.*  *We are sharing a narrative of a service project Shallow Well United Church of Christ did last Christmas in conjunction with their angel tree. Shallow Well was aware of the fact that both shelters were in need of bowls, plates, mugs, pieces of flatware, glasses, saucers, and the like. S.W.’s Missions Committee organized, promoted, packed and delivered a variety of kitchen items that were needed to the men’s shelter to be distributed to both houses. In the first two photos below, you’ll see staff accepting carefully sorted and packed kitchen items given by Shallow Well members.*  *This next photo (3) gives you an idea of the amount of gently used items that can be pulled together when a group of caring individuals go to work. These tubs and boxes were routed to the women’s shelter.*  *Our last photo (4) shows the tubs, boxes and bags filled with kitchen items essential for making, serving and eating food for the men’s house.*  *1  2  3  4*  *This writer challenges you to find a need and help fill that for the Outreach Mission. You all will certainly receive more than you will give. Thank you for your donations, be it monetary, volunteer time, or givers of items to be used.* |

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| *Disclaimer*: Any omissions or errors can be reported to the Editors. | ***Editors: Marcia Johnson, Claire Hunt, Joy Murphy & Tim Burriss*** |