

4C's supports community, relies on community support



By George Broadstreet

Since its founding in 1971, the Clinton Community Christian Corporation (or 4C's) has been lauded for its positive influence on both the City of Clinton and the surrounding area. The 4C's is a constant reminder to all of the value of giving and of the joy that can be found through community service.

According to longtime 4C's Executive Director Laurie Lawson, the 4C's exists solely to "help the community meet the needs of people." And truly, she says, the 4C's has become a "place of service" for many in Clinton, as the organization is supported by over four hundred local volunteers each year.

And while this "support for others" receives a special emphasis during the holiday season, the work of the 4C's continues throughout the year through a variety of programs and forms of service.

School backpacks in the fall, GED classes and emergency assistance services are just a small sample of the 4C's work. Other traditional projects include the "Meals on Wheels" program, which provides up to sixty home-delivered meals each weekday to needy senior adults. More impressively, the 4C's makes these deliveries every week through the work of strictly volunteer drivers.

Another traditional service is the 4C's Thrift Store. In fact, many in the community identify the work of the 4C's solely through this operation. Each year, thousands of items of clothing and household goods are

donated from the community and then sold to customers at nominal prices through the Thrift Store. Proceeds from activity at the Thrift Store provide vital support to many of the organization's core programs.

However, the rebirth of another facet of the 4C's work has been particularly noteworthy during the past year. For several years, the 4C's has had a garden area located immediately behind the organization's building off Northside Drive. From time to time, this small rectangular plot of land was used to grow vegetables, with varying degrees of success.

But this past summer was quite different. Led by Phil Davis, a group of volunteers from First Baptist Church of Clinton took on the garden project with a renewed sense of purpose. From June through September, volunteers planted, tilled, maintained and harvested the 4C's Community Garden. From their efforts, fresh vegetables were provided to more than two hundred families (encompassing well over three hundred people) during the summer months.

The success of the garden project was not only valuable, as it provided many in the community with a source of healthy food, but it also provided a great object lesson of how a small plot of ground, well maintained and tended, can yield an amazing amount of quality food for an extended period of time.

The 4C's is located at 2001 West Northside Drive. To volunteer with the 4C's, or to find out more information about their programs, call 601-924-9436 or visit www.hello4cs.org.

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