

*"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his deed." Proverbs 19:17*

The Respect Life Ministry supports our local community organization, Christian Service Center. In 1988, the Pleasure Island Ministerial Association was created to unite churches to recognize important dates for the Christian community and to form a united group of congregations and individuals to help with the social needs of residents in this area. These various congregations recognized the value of combining their resources to serve the continuous requests for aid, and with a collaborative effort with Catholic Social Services the Christian Service Center was opened in 1991 to serve Fort Morgan, Gulf Shores, and Orange Beach.

Staffed entirely by volunteers, the Center is a "Hand Up" rather than a "Hand Out" agency. Clients are given immediate help with their financial emergency whether it be housing, utilities, food or medical emergencies and then are shown a way to a more permanent solution by providing counseling and given access to other resources for assistance.

In the first 6 months of 2025, the CSC has had 1,868 client visits, providing food for 5,357 individuals. A total of 458 clients has received emergency financial aid through rent and electric assistance. There are many programs within the Christian Service Center such as their food pantry, availability of medical equipment, Meals on Wheels for the homebound, Summer Backpack program providing meals and snacks for income qualified children attending our area schools, Children's Birthday Club to provide a birthday celebration for children up to age 12 as well as holiday programs like the Christmas Cheer food box and Angel Tree gifts for children and Christmas Spirit focusing on our citizens who might welcome a visit and small gift during the holiday season.

The Respect Life Ministry encourages you to remember the baskets in the back of the church for your non-perishable items. These items are delivered to the Christian Service Center 10 months of the year, the other 2 to Catholic Social Services. Also, the Thanksgiving Day Mass offertory supports the CSC. The Respect Life Ministry will be planning a service opportunity to do together for the CSC – stay tuned for more information.

Lord, help us to see your face in the poor and vulnerable. Inspire us to act with love and compassion, and guide us in our efforts to support those in need. Amen.