Last month we chatted about having a thankful spirit. It appears Jerry Seinfeld missed that article. Subconsciously, I am afraid many of us believe that “someone else” will make sure needy children have gifts under the tree or food to eat. Christmas is a busy season for all of us. Benevolent acts often take a back seat to shopping, parties and family gatherings. The Cullman business community, however, seems to look for ways to pay it forward. Below you will find a few of the activities that can help with your shopping list and assist local charities:

CoC Opportunities:

“Art After Hours” Purchase unique gifts by local artists. Half of the proceeds will benefit our local food bank. Chamber for Children - We encourage members to purchase gift certificates for local businesses that would benefit low income families in the Cullman area. Standard Furniture will be taking gifts for Angel Tree. Chick-Fil-A donated five sandwiches for tablespoon for Operation Christmas Child. Mac’s BBQ is holding a fundraising dinner on December 6 with live music and a silent auction to benefit Cullman Caring for Kids. The Child Development Center will be displaying Christmas ornaments at People’s Bank and selling them for $10. Proceeds will benefit the Child Development Center.

Cullman Regional Medical Center Foundation’s annual Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will benefit Hospice of Cullman County.

Wallace State’s Student Government Association (SGA) is sponsoring a red dye drive through December 13 for Cullman Caring for Kids.

Warehouse Discount Groceries, Highway 147, is collecting canned and boxed food items for the annual Cullman County’s Holiday Food Drive.

Melissa Betts at the First United Methodist Church of Cullman to learn about the knapsack program. This program provides weekend food for children at West Elementary. The students learned how valuable and necessary this program is and were given the opportunity to work on this program at their school.

Chamber to host “State of the Community” on January 16

On behalf of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce’s Governmental Affairs Committee, we would like to invite you to attend a panel presentation on the “State of the Community” sponsored by Freedom Insurance - Gloria Williams Agency on January 16. The event will be held at the TP Club from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

Each of the 11 municipalities of Cullman County have been invited to speak. The purpose of this forum is to provide the county and each of the municipalities in Cullman County the opportunity to share information on their community with Chamber members and the business community.

Thank you also to our program sponsor Premier Bank of the South.
CoC TRC reaches record total

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, volunteers, sponsors and staff gathered together on October 24 to celebrate the end of the Chamber’s first annual 10-week Total Resource Campaign and announce the final total of more than $200,000, the largest amount ever raised for the campaign. The presenting sponsor for the event was Freedom Insurance Agency. Eleven corporate teams consisting of 80 volunteers sold sponsorships to the Chamber’s programs, meetings, events and publications – all of which is returned to Chamber members and the community in the form of business-building initiatives.

We would like to thank you to our leadership again for their service to the Chamber and our community:

Team Captains:
- Susan Copeland, Cullman Regional Medical Center
- Ginger Hogeland, Cullman County Schools
- Mike Donaldson, Quality Staffing Solution, Inc.
- Sally Holley, Freedom Insurance Agency
- Kristy Amendola, Cullman Times
- Jack Speckman, Lee Hardware
- Taylor Powers, Christy Farm, City of Cullman Public & Housing Department
- Mala Morgan, Iron & Metal, LLC
- Joyce Fuller, PROVIT
- Kim Crabtree, Cullman Electric Cooperative

Firms/Institutions:
- Fairview Feed and Farm Supply
- 7525 Alabama Hwy 69, Cullman

As we approach the Christmas season, all of Cullman County will be bustling with activities of the season. Please be sure to check the Chamber’s event calendar online at www.CullmanChamber.org regularly so you don’t miss out on these great specials and events.

If your business will be offering specials, events or a way for the community to “GIVE BACK” during the holidays, please be sure to send a link to the Chamber so we can post it on our Facebook page and our calendar of events. Email your information to info@cullmanchamber.org.

Nominate your favorite small business today

The Retail Committee of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to provide special recognition to our small business community by presenting one (1) monthly recognition award and one (1) yearly award. Monthly award winners will be considered the nominees for the yearly recognition award to be presented at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting held each February. Visit CullmanChamber.org to show some love to your favorite business.

Christmas in the Cullman area

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In case you missed him...

“Buddy the Elf” had so much fun with the kids he will be coming back to Cullman!

Fairview Feed and Farm Supply
7525 Alabama Hwy 69, Cullman

SMALL BUSINESS of the MONTH

WERNER’S trucking company
1115 4th Street SW, Cullman, AL 35056
(256) 734-6673
www.wernerstruck.com

Brought to you by BellaFaire.com

Chamber helped to celebrate growth in the Cullman area

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We are now offering Workshops!

Come and learn how to select the best paint in the world!

1. We are offering basic & advanced workshops from the first four hours.
   - Basic workshops are 125.00
   - Advanced workshops are 195.00
   - Free product included

2. Cracked Up Class
   - Cracked up class learning how to add the cracked effect to your painted piece.

3. Tint Technique Class
   - Tint technique class learning how to paint to a piece using Annie Sloan chalk paint.

Paint Your Own Piece Class
   - Bring your own piece to paint.
   - Call us to talk about your piece and sign up! - Cost $150

Paint your piece $154.00 and make your reservation Space is limited