



**THERESA
CAMPBELL**
DAILY SUN

Their mission is simple

The Wildwood Soup Kitchen continues to do good work. Some 52,790 meals were served in 2007, which is a 5,256 increase from the previous year, according to Judy Chaffin of the Village of Calumet Grove, who serves on the kitchen's board of directors.

Judy and her husband, Jim, also write the Soup Kitchenette, the monthly newsletter.

"We have been with the soup kitchen for about three years," Judy said. "Jim and I felt that, at this point in our lives, we needed to give back. We are also involved in New Covenant United Methodist Church, and we know that Jesus has tasked us to feed the hungry. There is a huge amount of hunger in this area, so we got involved."

In addition to the Wildwood Soup Kitchen, at 203 Barwick St., the couple also work once a month at the Wildwood Food Pantry.

The Chaffins are pleased that the Seeds of Hope fundraiser will benefit both the kitchen and food pantry. From Feb. 21 to March 7, residents can help support the cause by bringing non-perishable food items and/or monetary donations to any of the following concerts and special events hosted in The Villages:

The Lenny Wilson Trio concert at 6 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church on Feb. 21; Chick-fil-A Spirit Night from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 28 with music by 2nd Verse, clowns and chance drawings; Two Guys and a Gal featuring Sandi Henson, Jeff May and Norman Lee at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 29 at New Covenant United Methodist Church.

The Southern Gospel Sing with His Purpose, Omega and Mary Joye Bexley will be held at 7 p.m. March 1 at Oxford Assembly of God; Nancy Heyman and Friends will entertain March 4 at Temple Shalom; and Chick-fil-A Spirit Night will be held 5 to 8 p.m. March 6 with music by Jerry Byrd, clowns, and raffles.

Several locations will be set up during the Seeds of Hope drive where residents can drop off their nonperishable food donations, or they can mail checks to Seeds of Hope-WSK (Wildwood Soup Kitchen), P.O. Box 243, Wildwood, FL 34785.

The Chaffins noted in the newsletter that Wildwood Soup Kitchen delivers about 110 meals each weekday to homebound folks living within the city of Wildwood and the surrounding countryside.

These are people who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to come directly to the soup kitchen for noon meals. Many are ill and recuperating from surgery, others are elderly and unable to drive. Still others have no means of transportation. To

accommodate these individuals, meals are delivered each Monday through Friday between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. by 51 regular and substitute volunteer drivers. Anyone wishing to be a driver or substitute at the soup kitchen can call Don Lozier at 751-5144.

The Chaffins noted in the newsletter that volunteers are needed for other areas, too.

• **Computer skills:** Do you have word-processing skills or Web experience?

• **Correspondence:** Are you good at sending cards or notes?

• **Publicity:** Would you like to work on a committee to see that Soup Kitchen articles are written and placed in the local newspapers or on local radio or TV stations?

• **Speakers:** Would you like to help by attending social club or group meetings and giving a PowerPoint presentation about the soup kitchen?

• **Baking:** Would you like to bring a dessert to the soup kitchen once a week? Pick your day, make a dessert, and deliver it to the soup kitchen.

To learn more about the kitchen, Villagers may contact the Chaffins at 751-5126, or by e-mail at: mail@wildwoodsoupkitchen.com. The volunteer coordinator will respond.

In the newsletter, the Chaffins shared the mission of the soup kitchen and why they and others volunteer:

"Our mission is simple: To provide healthy and appetiz-

ing meals to all who come to us - to the poor, the hungry, and the lonely. We also deliver these same meals to area shut-ins and others who are unable to visit the soup kitchen. In fulfilling this mission, we are constantly reminded that when we show mercy to the least of God's children, we show mercy to Jesus Christ himself."

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