Tricounty Family Ministries is a Christian faith-based nonprofit organization that serves families and individuals in Charleston, Dorchester, and Berkeley counties who have fallen on desperate times.
Greetings:

Thanks to YOU, 2019 was an amazing year of service, challenge, and redirection at Tricounty Family Ministries. Our sincere and humble thanks to every one of YOU, our stakeholders, including our donors, Board of Directors, volunteers, loyal dedicated staff, and members of our at-risk community. We are a team devoted to fulfilling The Great Commission—service above self.

As a result, you have allowed us to hold ourselves and our guests accountable, which has had an exponential impact on our at-risk community. We were able to touch, empower, and help change the lives of so many in our community—those just seeking a safe haven, without judgment, offering compassion and a hand-up to those in need.

This past year our incredible staff and volunteers provided an array of vital services to 10,372 families.

These services were: Our Feeding Program—meals to 256,000; acquiring food donations of 412,470 pounds, plus catered food valued at $389,666; Clothing to 7,185 families; Families in Transition Program to 1,445; and Healing Hands Ministries assisted 1,398 patients. These programs were served by staff, along with 1,456 regular or on-call volunteers! Phew!! (Over 6.3 million services since 1983!)

A huge challenge to our ministry came in July. Due to a shift in focus of one of our largest funders, we lost a major source of resources for our programs. It turned out to be a learning experience for TFM as well as for our donors and supporters. Even though $.95 (audited) out of every dollar went directly to programs we now had to strategize to keep our Feeding and Health ministry programs afloat. What a wake-up call! Believers and champions of our ministry jumped in and began soliciting help to offset the tremendous financial loss. Once again, Divine Intervention.

With ultra-fiscally conservative steps in place, TFM was in the black again this year. Amazing!

Some History: Did you know that Tricounty Family Ministries is familiar with turning challenges into opportunities? Since our humble beginning in 1983 as a task force and ecumenical outreach by Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches, Lutheran Social Services (led by Skip Tapp, Director) began as a soup kitchen and then a clothes house. In 1992, once again Divine Intervention prevailed, and the ministry was redirected into what is now known as Tricounty Family Ministries, and the ministry greatly expanded in response to community need. A multitude of programs and services were developed as a result of “listening and observing.” This effort resulted in focusing on services or programs that enabled guests to rise from crisis to stability and ultimately to self-sustainability. Our ministry is committed to pushing forward regardless of setbacks, turning them into opportunities.

2020 promises to be another amazing and transitional year for our ministry. After 30 years, I am finally able to retire as Interim Executive Director of TFM, continuing as an ambassador and community outreach advocate for the ministry. Kara Joy Stewart has been selected as the new TFM Executive Director. She brings a wealth of experience in ecumenical community outreach and healthy living.

Kara is an ordained Pastor, with a Bachelor’s degree from Furman University. Kara’s responsibility is to preserve the history of TFM and scale the ministry to the next level. Please drop by the ministry to congratulate and welcome Kara Stewart.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Dean Stephens, and myself—a heart-felt thank you! We are profoundly grateful for your ongoing support of this incredible ministry and invite you to be a part of our transition.

Sue Hanshaw
Chairman & CEO Emeritus

Dean Stephens
Chairman of the Board

How You Can Help

There are many ways to help so we can continue to provide our services and programs. Here are a few:

Pray * Volunteer * Donate Funds * Organize a Food Drive

For more information, visit our website: www.tricountyfamilyministries.org
Evolution of Tricounty Family Ministries

Tricounty Family Ministries began in 1983, known at that time as Lutheran Social Services of the Greater Charleston Area, Inc. (LSS). Located on the grounds of Advent Lutheran Church in North Charleston, LSS operated as a soup kitchen and clothes closet funded by several Lutheran and Methodist churches in the Tricounty area.

In 1991, LSS transformed into Tricounty Family Ministries, when the original churches and many non-denominational churches and volunteers came together to make TFM the largest ministry of its kind serving the Tricounty area.

Over the years we added other programs designed to assist those in crisis and urgent need, such as clothing distribution, home-bound meal delivery, and a food pantry.

In 2002, we added the Healing Hands Ministry to promote healthier lifestyles and increase access to care through advocacy, education, intervention, and networking.

Our in-house and volunteer staff includes nursing professionals, social workers, and physicians – whose areas of practice include internal medicine, neurology, psychiatry and general practice.

Through partnering with dental practices, mental health/addictions counseling facilities, vision care centers, and prescription funding, we are changing the community’s standard of health.

Families in Transition began in 2003 with residential apartments and life coaching. The program expanded to incorporate counseling, financial education, computer skills, and job training. Led by our licensed counselor and volunteer licensed professionals from the community, we strive to teach sustainable solutions through individual empowerment. In this program, TFM partners with SC Works, which aids us in providing literacy skills, employment keys, job placement, and job fairs.

In 2017, we opened the doors to our new facility at the corner of Cosgrove Avenue and Rivers Avenue, in the first floor of Cherokee Place United Methodist Church. The expansion includes an indoor dining area to provide clients a safe, comfortable place to enjoy meals out of the elements.

As we reflect on our history of caring and advocating in our community, we move toward the future with hope that, as much as we have enhanced many lives through our programs in the past, we will continue to aid and support those in need and move them toward brighter futures.

Boxed lunches and our food pantry are critical programs at TFM.

Left: Several police departments, including North Charleston’s force, have been instrumental in helping TFM with our programs. Above: Our 30th annual Christmas party brought smiles to many.
Tricounty Family Ministries is a non-denominational, non-profit providing food, clothing, medical care, counseling, job placement, shelter, financial assistance and vital services to the impoverished. Though we began as a soup kitchen providing bagged lunches to the hungry, meeting basic human needs for survival is only the beginning point of our organization.

Our programs and services fall into three areas: Crisis, Stability, and Self-Sustainability.

**Feeding Programs**

Since we opened our soup kitchen operation in 1983, TFM has provided over 7.5 million meals in hot lunches served four days a week at our Center, meals delivered to the home-bound, and emergency groceries given to families from our food pantry.

Much of the food used in our kitchen is donated from caterers including Feed the Need, Embassy Suites, and local retail stores. Both staff and volunteers pick up food products from routes across the Tricounty area. These items are then lovingly prepared into nutritious meals by our TFM staff and volunteers.

For several years, Chuck Lauer of Embassy Suites has provided meeting space and meals for our monthly Board meetings. Space has also been donated to TFM in the Atrium for our annual holiday gatherings, along with several large fundraisers such as “Big Band Charity Galas.”

Mickey Bakst, founder of “Feed the Need,” has been a Godsend for TFM. Not only does he encourage the restaurant industry to cater a meal twice a month, but he and Steve Palm- er hosted a huge fundraiser for three agencies, including TFM, which netted $150,000 each.

**Clothing Pieces Distributed:** 55,481

**Clothes House**

Our center holds a small room filled with a variety of donated clothes for men, women, and children: pants, shirts, coats, dresses, shoes, and more. Volunteers sort through these items daily and distribute them to those who show up in need.

If a client needs any specific items not found in our clothes closet, we have a reciprocal agreement with Goodwill to provide those items. Likewise, any items that cannot be used at TFM are donated to other ministries.

**Families in Transition**

The TFM Life Center is home to an apartment (renovated and furnished by Navy, Americorps, local business, and church volunteers) as well as additional space for our job training programs, a community classroom, computer center, and chapel. Plans are underway to turn the TFM Life Center into nine affordable apartments in 2020.

Families chosen for the residential portion of our Families in Transition program receive needed training and counseling in key life skills, including relationship building, conflict management, parenting, budgeting, vocational skills, and more. This training is provided by our licensed social worker and other agencies, empowering these clients to make positive choices that enable them to get their lives back on track.

Job placement training and educating clients on how to maintain employment are offered through volunteers and professionals. We have partnered with SC Works to offer quarterly job fairs.

Canned goods and other non-perishable foods are also collected during frequent food drives at area churches, businesses, and civic organizations, as well as from retail stores and the local food bank.
We take a holistic approach to changing lives. We offer a safe, compassionate, and inviting place for all people in need. Clients come to our center in need of food, clothing, or shelter. We meet those needs and work with them to understand the cause of the crisis in their lives and then open the doors to opportunities through our array of onsite programming and extensive referral network.

Our programs and services fall into three areas: Crisis, Stability, and Self-Sustainability.

**Healing Hands**

In 2014, two physicians offered to donate their time to provide clients with primary care. This program allows clients to meet with our volunteer physicians on Monday mornings to obtain medical care at no cost. Clients are assisted with prescriptions, referrals, and general care without needing to go to an alternate facility or experience lengthy delays to obtain the initial appointment.

Professional nurses volunteer their time, and college interns gain practical clinical experience running the program. Classes focusing on diabetes care and nutrition are also offered to help clients learn to take better care of themselves.

Thanks to past years of generous support of Trident United Way and Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina, Tricounty Family Ministries has been able to bring dentists, optometrists, and audiologists on site for screening clinics. The patients are ranked and provided follow up dentures, glasses, and hearing aids as funding permits.

**Community Needs**

TFM’s Community Needs Assistance Program (CNAP) provides limited emergency assistance to help pay mortgages, rent, utilities, transportation, and other basic needs for those experiencing temporary financial setbacks.

We coordinate with other area agencies offering this type of assistance to extend available resources to benefit the most people in need.

**Pass the Purse**

With our Pass the Purse project, new or gently used donated purses are filled with a wide range of items, such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, tissues, hair ties, feminine hygiene products, nail files and clippers, deodorant, soap, lotion, candy or gum, inspirational books, and other useful products for women.
Donors

Major Donors

$75,000 and above
Trident United Way
Feed the Needs Charleston

$10,000-$74,999
Charles & Haye Croft
Coastal Community Foundation
Robert & Linda Fetch
David K. & Lisa M. Floyd
Charles & Brenda Larson
NewSpring Church Inc.
Robert Rutherford

$5,000-$9,999
Boeing Puget Sound Employees Comm Fund
Robert Bosch Corp.
Carry Dunn
B.C. Killough
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Star Gospel Mission Good Cheer
St. Philip's Church

$2,000-$4,999
Larry & Cynthia Amick
Bank of South Carolina
Frank Brown
Charleston County
Charleston Area Men's Interclub
City of Charleston
Enterprise Holdings
Exchange Club of Charleston
Folly Beach Baptist Church
John & Barbara Hildreth
Junior League of Charleston
John & Marnie Kerrison
Sheila D. Pace
Eric & Margaret Selle
Sister of Charity Foundation
S.C. Synod
SunTrust
Caden Wernzt

Community Investors

$1,000-$1,999
Air Force Chaplain Corps
Michael Alford
Benefitfocus Fund of CCF
Mary Ann Blitt
William & Diana Brown
Jack & Elaine Canter
Martha Cummings
Albert V. Esteve

Community Supporters

$250-$999
Brandi Aycock
Jacki Baer
Jenna Bowers
Robert R. Castro
Eddie & Erlie Edmonds
William F. Lankford
Julius & Rebecca Ivester
Eliza Goodwine

Friends of TFM $1-$249

Michaela Aldenderfer
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Women
Loretta & Charles Aldridge
Peggy & Timothy Barnes
BB&T
Deborah A. & John W. Beahm
Cynthia Belovitch
D. Darby
Rebecca Boyer
S.A. Carlin
Charleston United Methodist Church

Community Donors

$100-$249

Bennett Firestone, Jr.
Albert (Al) Estee
Robert and Linda Fetch
Bennett Firestone, Jr.
Kevin Alford
Brian Ansley
Mickey Bakst
Richard Burke
Cari Ehmann
Albert (Al) Estee

Board of Regents

The Board of Regents includes individuals with an outstanding commitment to the work of TFM. They have committed to significant financial support and act as ambassadors of our mission.

To find out more, please contact Kara Stewart at kara.stewart@tricountyfamilyministries.org

Kevin Alford
Brian Ansley
Mickey Bakst
Richard Burke
Cari Ehmann
Albert (Al) Estee
Robert and Linda Fetch
Bennett Firestone, Jr.
Bruce Freshley
W. Clark Hanger
Sue Hanshaw
B.C. Killough
Charlie and Brenda Larsen

Robby & Swain Marion
Karen McCormick
R. Bryant McCulley
Carolyn Murray
Fr. Andrew O’Dell
Douglas Sass
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David Yarborough, Jr.

Lynn J. Land
Martin Luther Lutheran Church
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Sam Morton
Andrew Odell
Old St. Andrews Parish Church
Daniel Ravenel, MD
James Reeves
Steven Rockefeller
Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant
Royal Baptist Church
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
St. Paul United Methodist Church
R.D. & Charles A. Shimp
The Citadel Club
UMW of Grace United Methodist Church
Marlene S. Watts
Marcia Williams
Kurt Woods
Todd Wright
James Yoho
Andrew & Dianne Zobel

Robert Harriss
Frances T. Hay
Kevin Hegerty
Damon Hilton
Samuel M. & Laura H. Hines
Paula Hines
Gregory & Robin Hodges
Clarence & Mary Lou Hoover
J. Derrick & Pam Horres
Darryl & Carol Johnson
Kevin Keough
Alma Kiser
Norman & Mary Kline
Melvin C. & Paula S. Knight
Joe & Lynn Land
Nancy Lynn
Carrie Mackie
Nancy Mallard
Susan & Theodore Mappus
Steven & Rachelle McLees
Linda Middleton
David Morris
Tres-Ann B. Mount
J.R. Murdagh Trust
David Oberstar
Dianne D. Paul
Kimberly Perry
James Pierce
Nancy Plowden
Clara Polutta
Sara Prather
Franc & Ann Prochazka
Edmund T. & Martha Roberts
Sonia & Mat Roethchild
St. Mark’s Lutheran Church WELCA
St. Matthew’s WELCA Circle 4
Mary Richardson Schweitzer
Dave & Niki Sikes
Alfie Silva
Wade & Anne Spees
Jeffrey Spies
Susan Strobel
Judy & George Taylor
The GEL Group
The Hat Ladies
Charles E. & K. Truluck
Carl Ulmer
Linda & Michael Vaughn
Mason & Jay Ward
Vanessa & James Ward
Francis & Valerie Weston
David Whitten
Wayne & Raine Wilson, Jr.
Will & Rachel Wolfford
William G. & Marie D. Woodard
Brennie Woods
David Wright
Nicholas & Angeline Zervas

Board of Directors

The TFM Board of Directors sets the mission and vision for the organization as well as ensures a director is in place to oversee all operations. We are indebted to our current board members and Board Emeriti for their dedication and service to the least of these throughout greater Charleston.

Kevin Alford
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Internist
Roper St. Francis Healthcare
Sue Hanshaw
Chairman & CEO Emeritus
Dear Tricounty Family Ministries family,

I’m excited to be joining you as Executive Director. I got my start at Tricounty when I arrived as pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church almost 20 years ago. I wanted our church members to find ways to live our faith by serving their community, and Tricounty was the best place to do that. While many adults were already giving of their time and treasure to TFM, there was no youth component. So I started a weekly summer program, taking our teenagers to volunteer at Tricounty in the mornings and to the beach in the afternoons.

While this tradition continues at Redeemer Church, I have had many adventures in the years since then. I served at St. Barnabas Lutheran in downtown Charleston, St. Luke’s Lutheran in Summerville, Living Christ Lutheran in Flagstaff, AZ, and most recently as Campus Pastor at Texas Lutheran University.

My priority in all my work is to help people find ways to live out their faith by serving people in need. I have focused on creating partnerships between ministries and community organizations to multiply resources.

I value a holistic approach, acknowledging that our spiritual health is connected to our physical and emotional health. My experience is in helping organizations to become more focused on their primary mission, and to develop their gifts and talents to serve that mission.

I look forward to getting to know the many TFM supporters so that we can work together to serve our neighbors in need. Please don’t hesitate to reach out and introduce yourself. I’ll see you at Tricounty!

With joy,
Kara Stewart

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**Staff**

We are blessed to have these individuals bringing their gifts and skills to TFM to help us provide services to our neighbors in the community.
Your 2019 Annual Report is inside! Take a look to see how you changed lives last year!

Your Support at Work

In 2019, your support of Tricounty Family Ministries provided the following:

- **175,692** Total meals served by our kitchen
- **82,188** Bags/boxes of food from our pantry
- **1,563** Patients seen in Healing Hands Ministry
- **1,445** People received skills training or counseling
- **7,185** Families received clothing/hygiene kits
- **19,942** Volunteer hours powered our ministry

95% of all donations go directly to changing lives.