

Our Daily Rest celebrates 2nd anniversary

Published September 21, 2011 in The Journal – Seneca



Our Daily Rest, Oconee County's only homeless shelter, is celebrating completion of its second year of operation, having been able to serve over 400 clients since opening. "The prayers and generosity of Oconee County citizens have resulted in success beyond our expectations at Our Daily Rest," said Executive Director Steve Smith. The shelter is located at 525 E. Main St. and provides shelter, food, clothing and counseling to homeless men, women and children who have reached rock bottom in their lives.

"Most residents arrive with little more than the clothes they are wearing but with high motivation to improve their lives," Smith said. "That desire is evidenced by passing a detailed screening interview and ongoing drug and alcohol testing. There is a structured daily schedule and progress on individual goals is reviewed regularly with case managers. Smith said all clients are held accountable to stay drug free, do their chores and attain their personal goals.

"Our Daily Rest operates as a transitional shelter, not as a hostel or halfway house," he said. Of the 400 clients the past two years, 40 percent were women and small children. However this group has had the more pressing need since this part of the facility has been at or above capacity all year long.

Staff has over 50 percent of the clients working at any given time with the others actively looking for work. All clients are encouraged to attend church and Bible studies at local churches or at Our Daily Rest.

"The shelter is also blessed with many volunteers who assist with cooking for the homeless clients," Smith noted.

Our Daily Rest is dependant on financial donations from the local community to maintain operations so that clients can return to independent living. Contributions can be sent to: Our Daily Rest, PO Box 1246, Seneca SC, 29679.

Photo: Our Daily Rest Director Steve Smith accepts a donation to help fund the non-profit homeless shelter as other members of the staff look on. The shelter is marking its second anniversary, having served 400 people to date.