

PO Box 607, Johns Island, SC 29457

We need your help for our Back-to-School Bash!



Summer may have just begun, but we want to ensure the youth in our community start the next school year off on the right foot. Mark your calendars for July 28 and join us for our Back-to-School Bash!

This free, fun-filled community event will feature games and activities for the whole family. We will also be distributing backpacks filled with school supplies to children in our community. While we prepare for the big event, we are asking for your help to collect essential supplies for a successful school year. Additionally, our food pantries are always in need of basic items to keep our communities healthy. Whether it's school supplies or food items, every donation makes a difference.

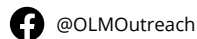
Get your company, neighborhood or church together and create a donation drive on our behalf! Thank you for your support!

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

Bookbags	Scissors
Tissues	Erasers
Hand Sanitizer	Glue Sticks
Disinfectant	Notebooks
Wipes	Hygiene Items
Highlighters	Cereal
Pencil Boxes/	Fruit Juice
Pouches	Soup w/ Meat
Protractors	Snack Items
Compasses	Canned Fruit
Rulers	Pocket Folders
3-Ring Binders	
Paper	
Pencils	

To join our donor program, The Neighborhood, please contact jermaine.husser@olmoutreach.org or 843-559-4109 ext. 111.

CONNECT WITH US! ▶



@OLMOutreach



@olm_communityoutreach



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NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

79 America St.
Charleston, SC 29403
843-805-8064

THE OUTREACH

1684 Brownswood Rd.
Johns Island, SC 29455
843-559-4109

A sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy



www.olmoutreach.org

COMMUNITY INSIDER

OUR LADY OF MERCY IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

2,459

Families thriving because of our services

\$156K+

In financial assistance given

\$349K+



In dental assistance given

31



Healthy babies born

266



Individuals able to stay in their homes

1,516



Food boxes given to seniors in need

83,860



Pounds of food given

34



Jobs obtained

Students making academic gains in

MATH: 42% READING: 82%

FINANCIAL LITERACY: 50% READING & SPEAKING (PER ESL STUDENT): 18.5%

Based on statistics from July 2023 - June 2024

Wow, I can't believe it has already been a year. I am elated to share the impact we've made during this time. Our students have made significant strides in math and reading comprehension, as shown by the data above. This spring, we had eight fifth graders "graduate" from the Yes, I Can! afterschool program, now better equipped with the tools and resources they need to start middle school successfully. To instill confidence in our fifth graders as they head to middle school, we identified and highlighted each student's superpower by providing end-of-year superlatives.

For the first time in over a year, we were able to bring our ESL program back to address the language barrier that we know exists in our region from the many community conversations that we hosted this year. I am proud to share that, through March, we were averaging eight students a day, and upon completion, all students improved in speaking and/or reading English. The impact of our day classes has allowed us to expand to an evening ESL class starting in the fall. Our career fairs have been incredibly successful, offering job seekers the opportunity to have one-on-one

conversations with our employer partners, with our last event leading to four individuals securing full-time employment.

In December, we had over 150 neighbors join us for an amazing time at our "Cookies with Santa" event, and we launched our first "Sip and Shuck" event to raise money for our growing wellness and education programs. It is our mission to empower our neighbors in need who walk through our doors every day to learn new skills, set goals and find hope in our services to improve their lives. We were able to help families stay in their homes despite the rising cost of housing with the support of our financial literacy program.

Each of you, our friends, corporate partners and over 300 volunteers play a vital role in the success above. I encourage you to stretch with us and embrace our collective responsibility to love our neighbors as we strive to build equitable communities from downtown to Edisto Island. My commitment to you is transparent, inclusive and transformative leadership.

Through consistent program evaluation, continuation of our community conversation series and accountability, we will build a



blueprint for self-sufficiency that will impact our neighbors for generations to come. Your investment is crucial to continuing to provide these life-changing programs and services. I encourage you to join "The Neighborhood," our monthly donor program, so that we can sustain the momentum that we have built over this past year. Our community relies on us, and together, we will build a better tomorrow for our community, one neighbor at a time.

Yours in Service,



D. Jermaine Husser,
Executive Director

Grants Update

We have received 15 grants since December 2023! We are grateful to our community partners for believing in our mission and trusting us as good stewards of funding our programs.

Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy: **\$10,000**
Town of James Island: **\$2,000**
State Farm: **\$10,000**
Trident United Way ALICE Grants: **\$58,333**

City of Charleston: **\$7,500**
Bishop Gadsden: **\$132,500**
Town of Kiawah: **\$30,000**
Roper St. Francis Physicians Endowment: **\$20,000**
Dollar General: **\$10,000**

Bank of America: **\$6,000**
Leon Levine Foundation: **\$50,000**
Maximus Foundation: **\$10,000**
Yaschick Foundation: **\$2,500**
EFSP: **\$15,000**
Mark Elliott Motley Foundation: **\$7,500**

From Struggle to Triumph

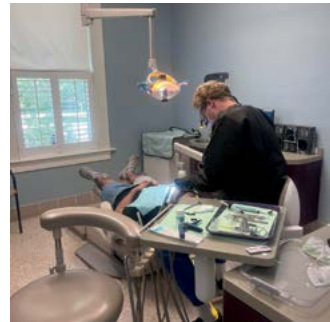
Meet Grace*, a spunky fourth grader, who truly didn't care about reading. Her favorite things to do are coloring and sharing stories about what she's done throughout the day. Unfortunately, while she loves telling stories, she doesn't like reading them. Reading is not something that comes easily to her, and she didn't understand why it was important.

When Grace first joined the Yes, I Can! afterschool program, she was determined to not touch any books, let alone read them. However, Yes, I Can! allows students to learn creatively, and Grace loved playing spelling games and silly word rhymes.

This open approach paired with guidance from passionate and patient volunteers encouraged Grace to sit down and sound out words in picture books during free reading time so she could improve her spelling. This slowly progressed to reading sentences in small chapter books, which taught her about the meaning of words.

One of the most exciting days was when Grace pulled a team member over to the library area and showed her the book "Geronimo Stilton." Grace had read the book and loved it so much that she wanted to share it with the staff as her favorite book. We are thrilled that this girl—who once had no interest in reading—now has a favorite book!

**Name has been changed for anonymity.*



JOIN US TO MAKE AN IMPACT

We are always seeking passionate individuals to share their time and talents with us. Right now, we are looking for community members to step up as advocates, volunteers and committee members. Dedicated committee members support our development team by helping us create impactful events, spreading the word about our mission and guiding key decisions in our development department.

If you're interested in joining us, please contact us today!



Love Your Neighbor Celebration

Our annual Love Your Neighbor Celebration at the beautiful Seabrook Island Club was an unforgettable event! Community members gathered for a joyous seated brunch, a thrilling auction, an enticing wine pull and a lively cocktail hour—all in support of a great cause. This was more than an event; it was a memory in the making. Don't miss out next year—come be a part of something truly special!

Local Gullah singers, sweetgrass sewers and a flower artist added unique touches to the event. We proudly presented the Love Your Neighbor Award to our dedicated OBGYN, Dr. Principe, for his outstanding service and compassion for our organization.

We also heard from Nicole, a neighbor who used our services to get back on her feet and secure a great-paying job that she still holds today. Her inspiring story highlighted the impact of our work.

The event attracted many new supporters, helped spread our mission and raised over \$60,000 for our programs. Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to this year's success!



Summer Camp Scholarships

Thanks to Trident United Way's ALICE Grant, we established a summer camp scholarship to provide financial support for children in our communities. This ensures that children can attend summer camp, helping avoid the summer slump and giving them equal access to learning opportunities.



Food Pantry Partnership

We partnered with Harris Teeter to provide fresh produce, meats and perishable items for our food pantries. This allows us to provide supplemental food typically not found in our food pantry.



We purchased new refrigerators provided by generous donors to make the food pantry more welcoming!



Education Classes

Our education department has been busy making a significant impact! For the first time, we piloted our Youth Financial Literacy program to fill the gap in financial education for younger students. Partnering with Angel Oak Elementary during their "March/Math Madness" month, Taylor and Lara taught four financial literacy lessons to two fifth-grade cohorts, totaling 100 students. They engaged the students in understanding the importance of wants vs. needs, setting goals, savings, and exploring careers and income.

Additionally, our Yes, I Can! afterschool program had 16 students, eight of whom graduated. We also celebrated a student passing the GED test this semester and successfully conducted ESL classes with eight students!

NEW TEAM MEMBER ALERT

Say a big warm welcome to our most recent team members to join us in making an impact!

Shantequa McGill:
Career Services
Manager

Lara Vo: Education
Coordinator

Taylor Leach:
Education Specialist

Nashonda Hunter:
Director of Outreach

Katrina Geathers:
Dental Assistant

Mitzi Herrera:
Wellness Center
Office Assistant