

# Christian Women's Job Corps® Ministry of WMU® January 2021

## A God Opportunity ...

About a month ago I was studying Godly service and the following summary from that study impressed me to ask myself, "Is what I am doing serving God or me?"

"Do we recognize a God opportunity when it is set before us? What does it mean to serve God? Is it a position, a role, or a mindset? We all want to make a difference ... we want our lives to matter. It's why we do the things we do. Why we build a career, buy a home, or buy a new car. We want our kids to have a good job, go to school, make a good living, in hopes they too will make a difference. There's nothing wrong with worldly goals and achievements, but those things alone aren't what we were made for. God made each one of us with unique talents, personalities and skill sets. And when we ask Jesus into our lives, we are given at least one spiritual gift. We get the most joy and make the biggest difference when we use those God-given gifts and abilities serving Him."

As you walk through this newsletter, you will meet our Leadership Team of Christian Women's Job Corps. Each one will tell you their story and where they found a place to serve at CWJC. If I may, I will speak for each one of them—"we each have found the blessings that come from serving, discovering and continuing to develop our own spiritual gifts ... recognizing our Service to God brings us and HIM joy."

We seek the Lord in prayer to maintain CWJC's purpose to assist women in gaining skills for life and employment through job training and education and to provide mission opportunities for women to help women. We are about change and empowering participants to make the changes necessary to reach their goals. We believe each person has the capacity for change and growth by way of the Holy Spirit which requires us to focus on their talents, their goals and their experiences.

There are many aspects of our ministry and whatever your gifts are, CWJC can use them. So, if you are looking for a way to serve God, perhaps, CWJC is calling your name.

Linda Todd, Acting Site Coordinator / Assistant Site Coordinator

## Happy New Year CWJC Friends.

I earnestly pray that 2021 will be a blessing. As I try to pen these words, I am trying my best daily to get over, get through, and get past COVID-19 on this side of Heaven. Although I must say there have been moments when I felt that Heaven was looking mighty good!! However, this article is not about me; it's about the Prayer Ministry of CWJC.

Where would each one of us be without the constant companion of the Holy Spirit as our guide! Our participants at Christian Women's Job Corps want that as well. We stress in our classes and our relationships with these ladies the importance of prayer!

We also would like to remind each of you who receive this message the importance of cooperative prayer among our supporters.

We are now in the process of reorganizing the Prayer Ministry for CWJC- Golden Triangle! Will you pray and ask God if you are called to be a vital part of this ministry by committing to pray on a regular basis for this work? His Work ~ not ours. If we can count on you and add you to our list of prayer warriors, call me, Robbie Richardson, at 662-312-7598, and let me know.

Robbie Richardson



## Farewell with Great Appreciation

CWJC volunteers are a treasure, and we would like to express sincere appreciation to two of our ladies in leadership who are moving on to new chapters in their lives. Helen Ward and Allegra Brigham have contributed so much! These ladies brought unique perspectives and styles of sharing professionally and compassionately.

Helen served as Assistant Site Coordinator and Site Coordinator. Her accounting background helped us realize the value of labor and in-kind donations in addition to monetary donations. When COVID hit and we closed the Spring 2020 session, Helen did a terrific job keeping us involved, moving forward and staying in touch with our participants. She loved this ministry and became a true friend to each of the volunteers, especially those in leadership. Bill, Helen's husband, volunteered computer support and worked alongside of Helen in repainting the building interior.

Allegra, who is a natural leader, served CWJC wherever she was needed. She carried a wealth of information and stepped into many roles with ease and grace; as a volunteer Christian Friend, leading the Prayer Warriors, establishing publicity guidelines, recruiting county WMU groups to fill graduate gift bags, and most of all ... always a friend in Christ to us all.

Each of you will be greatly missed! We thank you and wish you joy. We know for sure Helen and Allegra will share God's love wherever they are.

**Blessings from the CWJC Leadership Team**

## "Be the Light" Neighborhood ...

On December 17, CWJC was one of several ministries that were invited to participate at Fire Station Park for a "Be the Light" community event of praise and worship.

Sponsors of this event were a group of neighborhood women wanting to serve God, celebrate the season, and provide an opportunity to allow the community to make donations supporting the ministries attending.

CWJC is grateful to Anna Chaney and the other ladies for this awesome night and the donations received.

Picture L-R: Linda Todd, Diane King, Marion Duncan, Trudy Penton, Jackie Pruet, and Amy Vickery



## Answering the Call...

'Twas the day after Christmas ...



Marion Duncan, Clothing Coordinator,  
"DK," and Linda Todd, Acting Site Coordinator

'Twas the day after Christmas and much to our surprise, three volunteers and two new friends made us five! One of the new friends needed help and shared her story with us.

After tears of sorrow and tears of rejoicing, we were able to meet some of her needs through our clothing ministry. We fitted her with several outfits she could mix and match to be warm and comfortable.

When she looked at herself in a new outfit, she said, "I look like a different person!"

When all of us asked her to tell us how she felt after our time together, she said,

"You were willing to help a person like me. I feel the love here . . . you showed me love."

When classes begin in February, she plans to be a volunteer so she can pass on what she received from CWJC.

We sat down together again before these new friends left and gave her encouragement and prayed for her as she adjusts to the experiences and changes in her life that brought her to Starkville.

*CWJC-GT is a ministry that offers women acceptance, hope, and restoration in a Christ-honoring environment by offering life and career skills classes and by providing fellowship with other women.*



## Encourage, Inspire, Impact, Empower ...

*by Jackie Pruett, co-Coordinator of Christian Friends*

At CWJC we refer to our mentors as Christian Friends. A Christian Friend (CF) is not a perfect person who has it all together. She is a woman who is growing in faith and is willing to walk alongside *another woman* who is growing in faith.

Romans 12:1-2 says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your minds." We want our participants to be transformed; however, as mentors, we are also being transformed. As we grow in our relationship with God, the relationship between us will grow.

As a Christian Friend you should be honest and vulnerable, sharing life's struggles and joys. Sharing how God has answered your prayers. Sharing how God walked you through and turned your difficulty into something good. Romans 11:33-35 tells us that prayer is our work. **Prayer is key.**

As mentors we must be aware of God's presence and always speak in love. We want to practice Ephesians 3:14-21. "Be grounded in the faith, strengthened, empowered by His power ... rooted, established in love."

One of the most important things a Christian Friend must do is listen. The Bible makes this clear in Proverbs 18:13. Active listening takes effort and practice. Active listening builds empathy, impacts job effectiveness, and makes for quality relationships. Listening is a growth experience.

### **Encourage, inspire, impact, empower ...**

These are the words that stand out to me as I think of mentoring a CWJC participant. As you love her and invest in her, you will be seeking God more and more for wisdom to mentor her.

**Jackie Pruett**

## Giving Back to What Has Been Given

*... words from a Christian Friend*

Being a "Christian friend" has been a great way to steward the gifts, experiences, and life skills that God has given us with women that are taking practical steps to move forward in professional opportunities.

Our time together is filled with a lot of laughter, problem solving, learning, and fellowship over food.

CWJC has done a great job at providing a relaxed atmosphere for mentoring and mutual friendship to take place!

**Katie Greenwell, a Christian Friend**

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that he cannot lose." ... Jim Elliot*



Amy Vickery, Ph.D.  
Building Coordinator &  
Co-Coordinator Christian  
Friends

## FROM THE SMALLEST TO THE LARGEST TASK

### ... SERVING WITH LOVE.

*It is fun to share what CWJC is to me. I am Amy Vickery, a volunteer since 2012 as a Christian Friend (CF) and Instructor. A former instructor, Angela Rutherford, invited me to volunteer. I expected to serve, but I believe I have received more than I can give.*

*The fellowship is very fulfilling to me. I feel loved by everyone involved, and I appreciate it so much. It has been my pleasure to serve with Jackie Pruett as Co-Christian Friend Coordinator. We help with volunteer orientation, introduce CFs to participants and help to nurture the relationships.*

*I am passionate about God's creations—animal and plant— so I help keep some flowers blooming in the planters on the site's sidewalk.*

*Serving on the leadership team is truly a blessing. Of course, it is work, yet it is such a joy and honor to be a part of such a great group of ladies. We talk often about CWJC business and share about what is going on in our lives.*

*During the pandemic I developed the COVID Safety Procedures and the Emergency Action Plan. As the Building Coordinator, I support the maintenance of our equipment. Recently we upgraded our office computers, and I applied for a grant to recover the expense. I really enjoy doing a variety of tasks at CWJC.*

*Let me encourage anyone considering volunteering or participating to do it! I have seen many ladies have a great experience at CWJC. I am happily married and live on a farm with cattle, horses, and dogs. If there is anything, I can do to make your time at CWJC better, then please let me know.*

Amy Vickery, Ph.D.

CWJC-GT provides a beacon of hope for blessing the women in Clay, Lowndes, and Oktibbeha counties.

## New and Gently Worn Treasures

CWJC WINTER CLOTHING SALE			
Saturday, January 16, 9:00 – 1:00			
SALE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ... CASH ONLY			
... New and Gently Used ...			
Christian Women's Job Corps			
207 South Lafayette St., Starkville, MS			
Funds support CWJC'S hope for blessing women in Clay, Lowndes & Oktibbeha counties.			
Save CWJC's 2021 Sale Dates:			
3rd Saturday, 9:00 - 1:00 in January, April, July and October			
\$5.00 per piece		\$4.00 each	\$3.00 each
2-Pc OUTFITS	JACKETS	BLOUSES / TOPS	SLEEVELESS TOPS
PANTS	COATS	HANDBAGS	SHOES / GLOVES
DRESSES	SWEATERS	BELTS	JEWELRY / SCARVES

Joy and excitement come from meeting participants as they come into a new CWJC class and then in observing them as they begin to envision the woman God designed them to be—a woman having a greater awareness of God and His plan, developing new job and family skills, demonstrating more self-confidence and experiencing the fellowship of the other participants as well as with their CWJC Christian Friend. Gaining these attributes also shapes a new self-image.

One of the opportunities Christian Women's Job Corp Golden Triangle offers is the clothing ministry available because of the generous contributions of new and gently worn clothes donated by persons who desire to help the women in these classes. Many of the clothes on the racks have never been worn and have the original tags still in place, but all of them are stylish and gently worn or like new.

Marion Duncan  
Clothing Coordinator



When a participant completes the requirements for graduating from the program, she is given four or five outfits she can use for her work or other activities and opportunities. At the end of the semester, her new image is apparent in clothes she selects from the "new and gently worn treasures" on the clothes racks.

CWJC has a clothing sale open to the public every quarter of the year at which time shoppers have access to the racks of clothing, jewelry, shoes, purses, scarves, and Mississippi State items. Nothing is priced at more than \$5. A worker at the 2020 Fall Sale, Mindy Bowman, shared this from her experience:

"The CWJC clothing sales have been not only a blessing to work and watch others benefit from the great deals and clothing, but I have purchased many great items like jewelry, pants suits, blouses and even top name coats. I would recommend and encourage anyone looking for top quality items at very inexpensive prices to visit the CWJC clothing sales. You won't leave empty handed! You will be truly blessed!!"

The next opportunity to shop the CWJC Clothing sale will be on Saturday, 1/16/21, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Appointments for private or small group shopping can be made for Friday, 1/15, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

If you have donated to the Clothing Ministry of CWJC, you have helped the graduates build self-confidence and express their new self-image. If you have not had this opportunity and have clothing you would like to donate, the CWJC is located at 207 South Lafayette Street, Starkville, and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 3 pm.

Please call us at 662-722-3016 to let us know when you would like to come, and we will be there ready to welcome you.

Marion Duncan, CWJC Clothing Coordinator

**Whenever you are able,  
do good to people  
who need help.  
Proverbs 3:27**

## A Witness to God in Action ...

My path to CWJC was definitely a God thing. I just moved to Starkville in June 2020 and Marion Duncan, the Clothing Coordinator at CWJC is a neighbor. She and her husband, Bill, have been very welcoming and kind. Marion had given me a tour of the CWJC site location and asked if I would like to become a volunteer. I told her to let me know if an opening came up. Around the same time, Robbie Richardson, the current Meal Coordinator, announced she was resigning the position. Then a God-wink happened when a week later; Marion and Robbie Richardson were praying about a replacement for Meal Coordinator, and I called in the midst of that prayer. And, here I am. Don't we serve an awesome God!

As the new Meal Coordinator, my duties are to make sure a meal is provided for each class session on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. We have developed COVID guidelines to protect all who participate in serving and eating a meal, typically a total of 15-20 participants, Christian Friends, teachers, and leadership.

Meal donations come from the kindness of churches, women's ministry groups, Sunday school classes and individuals. Coordinating the donation can be initiated by going to the website:

- TakeThemAMeal.com
- Signing in as "**CWJC**" and
- Using the password "**Spring 2021**"

We also reach out to our participants during times of illnesses or grief by putting together food baskets that can be delivered to the home. If you aren't a cook, yet want to help with food supplies, you may purchase items to go into a basket. If you have new ideas to help spread God's love and care through this ministry, please let us know.

The team at CWJC believes God put me in my neighborhood at this time for this job. Have you had the feeling that God led you to be exactly where you were, at that time, with those people? Just fall into it and let God lead you.

**Diane King, 662-268-8599**

**Would you help serve? ... prepare a meal? ... help provide a meal? ... or help provide meal and class break time supplies?**

You or your group can partner with CWJC-GT by volunteering to assist in providing a meal. Preparing, providing, and/or serving meals are great ways to meet the participants "up close and personal."

### **How to provide for a meal for the Spring 2021 semester:**

- Average number of people per meal: About 20-25

Food items generally needed include:

- Main dish, vegetable or salad, dessert, tea
- Deliver the meal by 4:30 p.m. We serve at 5:30.

**To provide your assistance in providing a meal, contact Diane King at 662-268-8599.**

## What is the Kroger Community Rewards program?

- This **program** allows donating to local organizations based on the Kroger shopping you do every day.
- Once you link your Card to our organization, all you have to do is shop at **Kroger** and swipe your Shopper's Card. The time you are using is for your family ... getting groceries ... but the blessing is to God's kingdom.
- Go to @KrogerCommunityRewards.com and add your Kroger Rewards card to Christian Women's Job Corps
- Our Kroger number is RN019

This fundraising program has returned \$240.11 to CWJC. We want to thank our supporters who have joined this program on behalf of our Ministry. As a reminder, Kroger guidelines require those who are already supporters to re-sign-up annually.

Everyone wanting to give to CWJC, please take a moment and support us by signing up.





**Anna Newman**  
Finance and Media Coordinator

*There is something  
for everyone ...*

When I moved to the Golden Triangle area about a year ago, I was in the middle of a career transition and unsure of how I would be using my time. During this transition, the Lord graciously provided an opportunity for me to volunteer at the CWJC site.

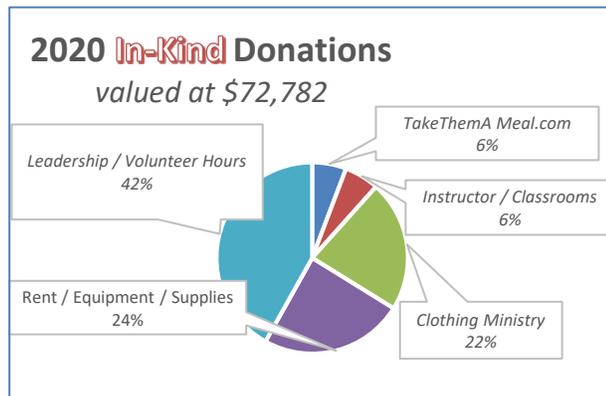
The first time I met with the Site Coordinator, I did not know all the areas of service that were available at the ministry. Throughout this conversation, I learned about the variety of volunteers needed for CWJC to successfully serve its participants. From Bible study to computer and job skill classes to clothing and meals, the CWJC offers many services to its participants that cannot be provided without many helping hands. I was given the opportunity to serve the ministry by maintaining financial records and assisting with computer classes.

I also partner with Olivia Whittenton to manage social media. The Lord has allowed me to use skills I had learned in my previous job to provide support in the office as well as interact with the participants. I have enjoyed being able to see all aspects needed to run a ministry, from behind-the-scenes bookkeeping to direct involvement with the participants.

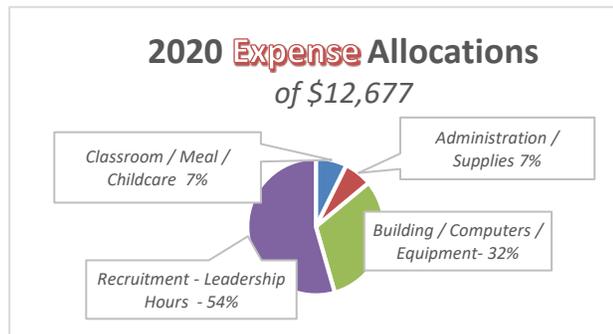
Being a part of this ministry has clearly shown me the Lord's ability and desire to use people with a variety of backgrounds and skill sets to further his kingdom. It is to joy to see each of the ladies serving at CWJC use her unique talents to support the ministry, and I am excited to see how the Lord continues to grow and shape CWJC to be used for his glory and the good of our community.

**Anna Newman**

Often, we are asked how this ministry is financed. To date in 2020, CWJC has operated on a budget of \$87,782, comprised of in-kind donations (time and supplies) and cash donations. We gratefully are blessed to report 83% (\$72,782) comes through the generosity of donors (our churches, women ministries, companies and individuals). In-kind donations of office supplies, cleaning supplies, kitchen supplies, meals, clothing, rent and utilities make up 58% of those gifts. The ladies with their "servant's heart" (our leadership team and dedicated volunteers) make up the other 42% by giving of their time and talents.



With 83% coming from in-kind donations of materials and volunteers; the other 17% comes from monetary donations. Up through October 2020, our expenses totaled \$12,677. The allocation of those expenses covers additional recruitment and personnel costs, building, equipment, and computer maintenance, and supplies / classroom demands.



**Some examples of how monetary donations help CWJC include:**

- ❖ \$ 25 = 2 weeks gas assistance
- ❖ \$ 50 = 1 week of childcare assistance
- ❖ \$ 30 = 1 month of copier maintenance
- ❖ \$ 80 = 1 building cleaning
- ❖ \$110 = Curriculum, or 2 rolls of stamps

## Faith Cometh by Hearing, Hearing the Word of God

One of the key elements of any Christian Women's Job Corps location is the Bible study. In the Level 1 training, ladies are taken through the Stepping Stones Bible Study: "**God's Unfolding Plan of Salvation**," originally written by and for the Golden Triangle CWJC. It takes the women through highlights of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Each woman is given a Bible to use during the study and to keep when it's over.

Level 1 computer training goes through a keyboarding class that helps the women build confidence and speed as well as learn the basics of using Microsoft Word. Level 2 continues keyboarding skills, but focuses on Microsoft Excel. When asked what was most helpful in the computer class, one past participant commented, "I benefitted from everything! My skills had 'rusted' and I actually learned some new things."

The Bible is also integrated into the computer classes as students type Bible verses while practicing their keyboarding skills. During keyboarding time, women are afforded the opportunity to type their resume that they have been building during the job skills classes. Additionally, the computer lab is open during daily hours of operation on Tuesdays and Thursdays where participants, past and present, are allowed to come in to get extra practice.

Before being interrupted in 2020, Trudy Penton was teaching the Level 1 class, and Mrs. Lou Boland taught the Level 2 class. We are excited about our Spring 2021 Level 1 classes beginning Tuesday, February 2. Call us if you are interested or know someone who might benefit from joining the 10-week Spring semester.

*Trudy Penton, Ph.D.*

## Enrollment Now Open for Spring 2021 Classes

- Participant enrollment is now open during the month of January on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the CWJC site.
- If another time to enroll is needed due to a work, childcare or travel conflicts, please call the site to schedule an appointment at 662-722-3016.
- Classes begin Tuesday, February 2, 2021.

## Christian Friends Needed for Spring Classes 2021

- Build a one-on-one relationship with a lady attending the spring classes.
- Be an encourager, a listener, and a prayer partner for our participants.

*Call us at 662-722-3016 to enroll in classes or to become a Christian Friend. You'll love the experience of learning, serving and fellowshiping with others!*

## Our Curriculum

Biblical Foundations: Non-denominational Bible study, "Stepping Stones"

Computer Skills: Introductory Microsoft Word, job searching, applying for jobs online

Communication: Resume prep, cover letters, interview skills, business etiquette / dress

Money Managing: Budgeting, credit management, debt management

Relationships: Building and restoring healthy relationships

Conflict Resolution: Issues between individuals at work / home, anger management

*Trudy Penton, Ph.D.  
Instructor / Administrative Manager*



## Participant Testimonies

*"I appreciate the way the ladies treat me, one another, and act as role models who inspire me to believe the Lord has a plan, even when mine has failed."*

*"CWJC has helped me to become a better mother, co-worker, sister, manager, and person. It has helped me make better choices based on what God would want me to do."*

*"Through CWJC I have grown to be thankful for every little thing that God has placed in front of me."*

*"Since taking courses, the CWJC has impacted my life by providing the tools that I needed in order to get me out of my rut."*

All new Level 1 applicants must complete an application and short interview during the open enrollment period to be eligible to attend.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

### *Admission Criteria to the CWJC-GT program:*

- ✓ Have a desire to learn skills for life and employment;
- ✓ Be 18 years of age or older;
- ✓ Minimum education: High School diploma or GED
- ✓ Reside in the Golden Triangle area
- ✓ Have transportation to get to / from class on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
  - ✚ Depending on funding, gas assistance is available to participants driving 20 miles or more one way.
- ✓ Be drug and alcohol free for at least 6 months before being accepted into the program if recovering from chemical dependency.
- ✓ Be willing to participate in and complete class activities as assigned by the teacher

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.  
Matthew 11:28*

### SUPPLY NEEDS

#### CLASS NEEDS

- Hand Sanitizer – 70% alcohol
- Bottled water

#### OFFICE SUPPLIES

- Printer paper - White
- Printer paper – bright, neon colored pink, orange, yellow
- Printer paper—colored goldenrod (yellow-orange, yellow, blue)
- Return address labels – 2/3" x 1 3/4" 8195 Avery
- Address labels – 1" x 2-5/8" - Avery 5160 or 8160
- Avery® Garment Friendly™ Clip Style Name
- Badges, 2-1/4" x 3-1/2", White, Top-Loading (74651 or 74461)
- Avery® Name Badge Inserts 5390, 2-1/4" x 3-1/2", Box of 400
- Legal size envelopes with self-stick flap
- Postage stamps - Rolls of 100
- Toilet Paper
- Take-Out Boxes



### Current needs include...

- On-going financial donors (churches, Sunday School classes, groups, individuals);
- Christian Friends who will listen to, pray with, and encourage our participants;
- New members to join our Prayer Team meeting in the three counties served: Clay, Lowndes, Oktibbeha;
- CWJC continues to seek women who will serve on our leadership team. Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer is encouraged to contact us at 662-722-3016.
- Support this ministry by adding us to your Kroger Rewards card @KrogerCommunityRewards.com. Our Kroger number is RN019

## GENERAL AREAS TO SERVE

Do you have a few hours to give?  
Call us 662-722-3016

\* = MOST NEEDED

- \*Prayer Partners
- Cleaning of the CWJC-GT building
- \*Organizing of the clothes closet
- Restocking and organizing the food/supply closet
- Contributions by signing up @KrogerCommunityRewards.com
- Scheduling a night of fellowship and fun with the participants and their families at the local Playground, Outreach Center and/or church Fellowship Hall
- Sharing your "God testimony" with the participants during dinner
- Scheduling a Car Care Clinic for our participants (how to check your oil, change a flat tire, add water, etc.)
- Serve as a Meal Provider preparing meals for participants and volunteers (1 time per session)
- Walking alongside a participant (serve as a Christian Friend)
- Performing a variety of tasks (serve by assisting site leadership, etc.)
- Leadership Vacancies:
  - Site Coordinator
  - Assistant Site Coordinator (1 of 2)
  - Assistant Clothing Coordinator
  - Prayer Warrior Coordinator and
  - Publicity Coordinator

## PRAYER NEEDS

- God to work in the lives of the participants He sends to us
- Great volunteers who know how to do what needs to be done
- GTBA Leadership Team and CWJC Advisory Council—decisions about how to support the ministry in the future
- Implementation of Needs Assessment for the site, a key task
- Volunteers working on our web page and Facebook page
- Growth of financial support for CWJC
- Employment opportunities for graduates who are seeking employment. Lord, grant them opportunities to work, answers for difficulties, and healing in accordance with your will.
- Participants and volunteers who are struggling with health issues and decisions



207 South Lafayette  
Starkville, MS 39759

### CWJC SITE LEADERSHIP

- Linda Todd, Assistant Site Coordinator
- Anna Newman, Finance and Media Coordinator
- Marion Duncan, Clothing Coordinator
- Trudy Penton, Administrative Coordinator and Instructor
- Diane King, Meal Coordinator
- Jackie Pruett, Co-Coordinator of Christian Friends
- Amy Vickery, Co-Coordinator of Christian Friends & Building Coordinator

[Recipient Name]

[Street address]

[Address 2]

[City, ST ZIP Code]