



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

May 7, 2018

Program

Lion George Krigbaum introduced our speaker, Ms. Carol Sporleder, who is a graduate of UAB, and obtained her Master's Degree in public administration. She works as the SNAP Outreach Coordinator for the Food Bank of North Alabama (FBNA). The SNAP program (formerly known as food stamps) stands for Supplemental Nutrition Application Program. Carol's position centers around working with community partners to identify families and individuals in need of food assistance who may be eligible for the SNAP program. She then helps them through the application process. Her presentation was not only about her job, but it broadly focused on her organization, the Food Bank of North Alabama (FBNA).



(L to R) Lion George Krigbaum, Ms. Carol Sporleder, and Lion President Bill Ruehl.

Ms. Sporleder explained that the FBNA operates in 11 counties, with Cullman being the most southern in this North Alabama grouping. This organization takes a two-prong approach in ending hunger. It provides over 8.5 million pounds of food a year to a network of over food

pantries, shelters and children's programs, feeding over 80,000 people at risk of hunger annually. It helps support 255 partner organizations, including Cullman Caring for Kids and local churches across Cullman in their goal to not allow child to go hungry. It also addresses hunger's root causes through broad-scale collaborations and local food initiatives that foster entrepreneurship and healthy food access. All this has been accomplished with a staff of only 21 people and 2 refrigeration trucks. The bulk of the food donations is from store donations (50%), such as Publix and Walmart, and from the USDA (36%); other sources include food manufacturers (4%), purchased food (4%), and food drives (4%). Carol said that Cullman has fantastic resources with its 23 foodbank partners. Since January 1st the FBNA has distributed 218,624 pounds of food. Records show that from August 21 to December 31, 2017, FBNA had signed up 300 families with the SNAP program. SNAP clients receive a card, similar to a debit card, which will be reloaded monthly with an allotted amount of money to be used to purchase food at grocery stores and farmers' markets. For every \$5 spend through this program, \$9 in the value of groceries goes back into the local economy.

The FBNA also operates a Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC) which helps eligible low-income seniors and people with disabilities find and enroll in benefits programs. This helps clients in attaining the following benefits: SNAP Assistance, Medicare Part D Extra Help (or Low-



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Income Subsidy, LIS), Medicare Savings Program, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Free Cell Phone, and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. If you know of someone who needs help today, please refer them to the free confidential BEC Helpline at 1-877-833-2550.

As we learned in last week's Lions Club program, school systems not only provide lunch, but breakfast and supper meals to qualifying children that might miss those meals, otherwise. These meals are made possible through FBNA. Its Summer Meal Program ensures that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals even when schools are not in session at 35 locations in North Alabama.

Many low-income families and children of North Alabama are indeed fortunate to have the support provided by the FBNA. More information can be found at its website: <https://www.foodbanknorthal.org>

Other Business

Lion Jim Walker has been released from the hospital, and has been well-enough to use his walker

Many Lions attended a fund raiser for a Deputy Sheriff with extended medical problems.

May 21st will be a family picnic at Heritage Park. Lion Dennis Berse passed around a sign-up roster for Lions and their guests to get a headcount. This event begins at 5:30, with food service starting at 6:00.

No meeting will be held May 28th, Memorial Day.

The Officer Installation will be held June 4th at Top of the Town. PID Lowell Bonds will officiate.

Lion Lummie Speakman requests that you please bring in your Lions Magazines to meeting after you read them. After removing your addresses, he re-distributes them at gathering places throughout the City, giving our Club great publicity.

Upcoming Programs and Events

May 13: Mother's Day – don't forget Mom.

May 14: Picnic at Heritage Park at the Walmart Pavilion.

May 21: Mr. John Latimer from Camp Seale Harris.

May 28: No meeting due to Memorial Day holiday.

June 4: New Officer installation at Top of the Town.

Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).