

Shane Claiborne Comes to Fort Worth in Benefit for WestAid

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 27, 2009, 7:00 p.m., now as Shane Claiborne comes to Fort Worth in a benefit for **WestAid** and **Torch of Faith**.



The event will be held at Ridglea Presbyterian Church, and will feature music by Two Feet Forward from Austin.

Claiborne is a well known advocate for social justice, the author of two books—*Irresistible Revolution*, and *Jesus for President*. He once served with Mother Teresa, and is the co-founder of the Simple Way, a New Monastic community in Philadelphia. Shane is a strong proponent of living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a tangible way in our communities. He says, "Most good things have been said far too many times and just need to be lived."

Tickets for this event are \$15, and will be available online the first week of January. Watch for further announcements.

Enclosed is \$ _____ []Contribution []Memorial []Honoring

Name of person _____

Please notify : _____

Address _____

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Thank You For Your Support !

Thanks to Our Wonderful Supporters!

WestAid is blessed by a growing list of supporters. Our diversity of support has benefited our program during this changing economic environment. Our policy is to not publicly list those who request anonymity. So far this year individual families have given over \$30,000 in support to WestAid. We appreciate all amounts and sources!

Supporting Churches

- Agape Baptist
- All Saints Episcopal
- Arborlawn United Methodist
- Arlington Heights Christian
- Arlington Heights United Methodist
- Benbrook United Methodist
- Bethel United Methodist
- Central Christian
- Church of the Holy Apostles
- Connell Baptist
- Faith Community
- Faith Lutheran
- Grace United Methodist
- High Ridge Church
- Holy Family Catholic
- Horizons of Hope
- Redeemer Lutheran
- Restoration Family
- Ridglea Baptist
- Ridglea Christian
- Ridglea Presbyterian
- Ridglea United Methodist
- South Hills Christian
- Trinity Lutheran
- West Mt. Moriah Baptist
- Western Hills Baptist
- Western Hills United Methodist
- Westridge Nazarene
- Wheatland Baptist Church
- Zion Missionary Baptist

Other Organizations

- Advantage Steel
- All Saints School
- Bank of America Trusts
- The Amon G. Carter Foundation
- Celebration Community Church
- Computer Services Corporation
- Dyncorp International
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- Fort Worth Country Day School
- Fort Worth ISD, various campuses
- Fort Worth Pharmacy
- Fort Worth Transportation Authority
- Holy Family School
- JPS Partners Together for Health
- Lockheed Martin AERO Club
- Lucien Wright Insurance
- Matthew's Office City
- Metropolitan Board of Missions
- The Morris Foundation
- Roy Pope Grocery
- Shipp, Needham and Durham, LLC
- Tarrant Area Food Bank
- Tarrant Baptist Association
- Thrivent
- Torch of Faith
- Trinity Flooring
- WellPoint
- Woodmen of the World
- Xpressdocs
- XTO Energy

Volunteers in Action



Employees of DYNCORP International conducted a food and money drive then delivered the donations to WestAid

Youth leaders from Arborlawn United Methodist Church. Their youth broke into teams, purchased items we needed, then delivered.



A group of youth from Connell Baptist sorting and stacking



Exciting Times continued...

- We need a vehicle for food transport, preferably a truck or delivery van. Our current truck will not be available in 2010, and a typical food bank order is between 2,000 and 3,000 pounds.

God continues to bless your ministry through WestAid. Early next year we celebrate our 25th anniversary. More will be said later about this milestone. This is a challenging, exciting time, and we are confident we can all grow together as we serve God's children on the west side of Fort Worth.

William Pherigo, Executive Director



Message from the Board President

Our volunteers hit the ground running in November and have not let up yet! Holiday food registration, organizing the food from drives, boxing it up for 170 families, and then giving it out in two days along with serving a record number of families has made for a hectic time.

Many of our churches, area businesses and neighborhood schools have collected a substantial amount of food. This along with food and additional financial gifts from many individuals provided enough for the holidays and kept the pantry well stocked. Thanks to all who have helped in so many ways. We anticipate that more will continue to come in during December.

Never enough can ever be said about the long list of supporters of WestAid this year. Churches, individuals, businesses, schools, the TAFB, corporate donors, foundations and financial intuitions make it possible for the doors to open everyday with resources to help persons in need of food. Our faithful volunteers are the best around! Everyone together helps make our mission possible. We are grateful for your continuing commitment to WestAid.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, if you have the ability to make an extra year-end gift, it will help us greatly in meeting our increased demand. We have provided an envelope and a cut-out form on the next page for your convenience. May you have a blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year.
- Diana Getchell

WestAid will be closed December 21 thru January 1. We will reopen on January 4th.

WestAid.org

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WestAid

*Serving God's people
for over 20 years*



Challenging, Exciting Times!

This past summer we determined that WestAid's capacity is about 30 families per day. Our space is comfortable, but has its limits. Since we determined that "benchmark" number, WestAid has exceeded it many times. Bottom line: for several months our ministry has been stretched to capacity.

Let me put this into perspective:

- We are providing for about 20% more family units than a year ago.
- During November, including Thanksgiving meals, we helped 579 different families, vs. 498 last year.
- Many pantry stocked items we purchase have increased in price about 10%.
- The increased demand for basic food has forced our office to curtail assistance with utilities.

To meet this demand, we are experiencing many positives:

- Our volunteers remain strong and committed.
- Despite shortages, we haven't turned away anyone.
- Funding and food drives along with product from the Tarrant Area Food Bank are steady.

Challenges for the near future:

- If our numbers stay high, we must change to meet the demands.
- Funding must increase just to break even.
- We must add more volunteers, especially for weekly food bank pick ups and grocery store orders.