

**THE MUSTARD SEED, INC.**

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Brandon, MS 39047  
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www.mustardseedinc.org

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*"... if you have faith as small as a mustard seed you can say to this mountain, 'move from here to there,' and it will move and nothing will be impossible to you."*

*Matthew 17:20*

mustard seed  
**BRANCHES**  
WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL REPORT



## Thank You to Wells Church and WellsFest 2011!

WellsFest 2011 was a huge success that not only brought a generous gift to the Mustard Seed but also helped to raise awareness toward our ministry. The proceeds from WellsFest 2011 will give us the opportunity to expand our facilities, allowing the Mustard Seed to reach out to more adults with developmental disabilities. We are excited about our new expansion and touched by the love and support from the Wells Church family. In appreciation for your amazing generosity, one of the new classroom spaces at the Mustard Seed will be named in loving memory of Mrs. Pat Tonkel; outside of the classroom will hang a plaque reading, "The Pat Tonkel Classroom." May God continue to bless the mission of Wells Church.



### **The Mission of the Mustard Seed**

The Mustard Seeds seeks to meet the spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs of mentally challenged adults by providing a loving and protected Christian community and meaningful activities that allow the participants to fulfill the potential that God has created within them.

# note from the board president



Melanie Morgan

I was asked to write on the importance of giving for this article... the giving of time and resources to support the Mustard Seed. But as I sit here pondering the message I want to convey, I continue to think of successes the Mustard Seed has experienced throughout the year. From the opening of new and remodeled facilities, to amazing community support reflected in record volunteer and financial support - this has truly

been a year of blessings. So, trying to stay on my appointed topic, I've considered what "gifts" were given to the Mustard Seed that helped achieve these successes. Without hesitation, I say it's our friends that have made the difference: staff, family, volunteers and friends. I have always thought this to be the case, but spending the day working in the gift shop for the Christmas Open House provided more proof than anyone would ever need. Let me explain.

Hundreds of people visited the campus for the Open House, and my volunteer job for the day was helping to "wrap up" treasured purchases at the check-out for our visitors. It was here I had the opportunity to hear story after story explaining why the customers had decided to take time on such a beautiful Saturday in December to stop in. There were the family members of our gift shop manager that were visiting from Texas that "had heard so much, they just wanted to see it for themselves". There were former neighbors of Seedster families that "have come to Open House for as long as they could remember," just to show their continued support. Of course, there were numerous visitors that did not have a personal connection to the Mustard Seed but were aware of the beautiful artwork created by the Seedsters and knew it would make perfect gifts for the season, "I come every year to buy ornaments for my co-workers!" Still more

stories reflected love and admiration for staff members as the reason the visitors were there: "I've gone to church with her for years and know this is a big day!" Volunteers from all walks of life also graced us with their presence because of their prior volunteer experience at the Mustard Seed: "My company sent a group of employees here to do a landscaping project earlier this year, and we had such a great experience, I wanted to come back today to see how things have progressed."

The most touching story for me was when a gentleman walked up to pay for his purchase, took his wallet out of his pocket and waved it at us behind the counter, and then proudly smiled when his companion introduced him as "a friend." You see, the man with the wallet had traveled from Meridian to the Open House because "a friend" had chosen to take time from his own busy, normal life to bring his friend (who happened to have Down Syndrome) out to experience the Mustard Seed. No family or staff connection, just a friend being a true friend. Isn't that what we all need?

I believe friendship is one of the truest measures of success, and using this theory, I happily report that the Mustard Seed continues to be blessed with success. The staff, the families, the volunteers, the community - they are all an integral part of the Mustard Seed, and it is because of their giving and friendship that we are able to continue to provide a loving, nurturing and caring place for our Seedster friends. So you see, giving IS important. And remember, if you give the gift of friendship, success is certain to follow. If you need proof, just visit us at the Mustard Seed, where friendship abounds!

## Thanks to the Auxiliary Board for another fabulous Annual Raffle!

\$5 tickets were sold to raise much appreciated funds for campus expansion. Winners are now enjoying unique Mustard Seed blankets and fabulous wreaths bedecked with Mustard Seed ornaments which will sparkle in their homes for years to come.



### 2011-2012 Mustard Seed Auxiliary

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# Our Ceramics Process by Sam Clark

The process of creating the Mustard Seed's beautiful ceramics doesn't just happen over night, it takes about a week. Producing hundreds of pieces each week, the Mustard Seed brings color and smiles to homes throughout America.



1. Each piece of ceramic begins as "slip" or liquid clay. Slip is poured into a variety of molds.



2. The "slip" hardens and takes shape in the mold. After pouring out excess slip and about four hours of dry time, the shape can be removed but is still very delicate. This is now called "greenware".



3. The areas on the "greenware" where the two halves of mold come together create a ridge that needs to be scraped and cleaned. Staff and volunteers clean/scrape to remove the ridge, leaving a smooth surface.



4. Once the "greenware" is cleaned, it is loaded into a kiln to be fired at 1800°. This firing and cooling process takes 24 hours.



5. Once the "greenware" is fired, it becomes white "bisque". A majority of the "bisque" is poured and fired at the Mustard Seed, however some is ordered ready to paint.



6. Seedsters give the white "bisque" its vibrant colors and creative designs. Once painting is complete, the staff signs the artist's name onto each piece.



7. All pieces are dipped twice into a blue "over-glaze" which provides a clear transparent finish. The over-glaze allows the Seedsters' colors to come alive and for them to become dishwasher, microwave and oven safe. The over-glazed pieces hang to dry for 12 hours.



8. With each piece completely covered in "over-glaze" they are loaded into a kiln and placed on small kiln stands. The kiln fires ceramics for the second time at 1800°.



9. After the final firing process, the ceramics are ready for the Mustard Seed Gift Shop!

# Enjoying the Women's Group Home



Ten women of the Mustard Seed have been enjoying their new Group Home. Since moving into the new space in the spring of 2011, they have taken ownership and pride in their home.

## *What are you most thankful for in your new home?*

"I am most thankful for the house parents, Janet and Randy. They cook good meals."  
-Megan

"I am thankful for my friends." -Sarah

## *What is your favorite part about the new Group Home?*

"I have good friends." -Savannah

"I like that it's my home, and I like my room." -Michelle

"I like the showers." -Logan

"My favorite thing about the group home is living with wonderful family and group parents." -Jane

"I'm trying to get used to the rules. I'm loving it!" -Emily

"I like meeting new friends and having Janet. I enjoy living there." -Marcie

"It's nice; it's the first time I've ever been in one. It's like having a bunch of sisters."  
-Lauren

"I like to hang out with my new friends."  
-Sarah

## *What are your responsibilities in taking care of the new home?*

"I am one of the leaders." - Savannah

"I help cook and wash shirts." - Logan

"I dust the living room and weekend relief room." - Lauren

"I open the blinds in the morning and close them at night." -Sarah

"I clean the waste baskets for Kristy to take outside." -Marcie

"I make lunches, and I sweep." -Savannah

"I do the coffee every night for the next morning." -Jane

"I clean the counters twice daily." -Michelle

"I clean the kitchen counters." -Sarah

"I clean the microwave, pour the drinks and help Savannah with the chairs." -Emily

"I sweep porches and empty garbage."  
-Kristy

"I do the lunches with Savannah." -Megan

# Special Moments at the Mustard Seed



Thank you, Mr. Lewis Decell, for the beautiful hand-carved wooden cross necklaces you made for the Bells of Faith bell ringers.



The tradition continues in 2011! Mustard Seed ornaments beautifully decorate the Christmas Tree in the MS State Capitol.



Proud of our Olympians, the Seedsters greeted Erin Showah and Ben Rogers as they arrived home from the Special Olympics in Athens, Greece.



Lynda and Savannah are a big help in preparing the booth at Mistletoe Marketplace.



The Mustard Seed received Rankin County's Small Industry of the Year Award for 2011.



We enjoyed meeting Governor and Mrs. Barbour at the *Let's Go Walking Mississippi* event.



Ruby Wadford, Golda Stubblefield and Hazel Thornton visited the Mustard Seed this fall. We are extremely grateful to all three ladies, as they were among the founding members of the Mustard Seed.



Congratulations, Logan and Megan, for winning third place in the McAlister's Best Friends Tea Challenge.



Thank you, Jim Agnew, for your time and service to the Mustard Seed. The Seedsters have a great time fishing and playing at the lake.

# Seedster Spotlight: Steve Bryant

Steve Bryant, Jr. joined the Mustard Seed family in January, 2011. He graduated from Madison Central High School in 2008 where he was given his nickname, Stevo. Stevo came from the MC football team in which his brother was an O-lineman and Stevo was a manager. He loved being a football manager because it allowed him to be on the sidelines where he would often be seen dancing with the Jaguar



mascot or a cheerleader. Stevo loves music and theatre. He was in three musicals during his high school years and loved entertaining his friends with many impressions. In fact, he earned the award for *Most Talented*

in Drama his senior year. He also loves country music and his favorite singer Toby Keith. This past summer, Stevo had the opportunity to attend a concert and meet Toby Keith.

Stevo is the Congregational Assistant at Grace Chapel Presbyterian where his dad is the minister. With brother, Harrison, who is a sophomore at Ole Miss, and little sister,



Emily, who will graduate from Madison Central this spring and then on to Ole Miss, Stevo is a very dedicated Ole Miss Rebel and can be found in the Grove at most home games. At home, Stevo cares for his two dogs, Dub and Sugar,

and two cats, General and Gracie.

The Mustard Seed has become an important part of Stevo's week; his monthly calendar stays posted on the refrigerator so that he can check it often to see what he will be doing the days that he attends. If you see Stevo around at the Mustard Seed, be sure to ask him to do an impression - he does a great Popeye and Lion from the Wizard of Oz!



## Volunteer Spotlight

The Mustard Seed is blessed to have the love and support from thousands of great volunteers. Volunteers are the heartbeat of the Mustard Seed and provide lots of fun and creative activities for our Seedsters. Many volunteers, both individuals and groups, frequent our campus, but two come to mind when we think of longtime friends of the Mustard Seed: Peg Plucker and Christ United Methodist Church.



Peg Plucker has been volunteering at the Mustard Seed for over three and a half years. She began her service in February 2008 and has been a special part of our community ever since. Every Wednesday afternoon, Peg shows up

on our campus, arms loaded with amazing selections of books from the local libraries and a smile on her face. As soon as they see Peg coming up the sidewalk, the Seedsters hurry to the nearest couches or, on nice days, to the awning outside. Her cheerful personality and heart for sharing new

worlds with the Seedsters through books is a true blessing to the Mustard Seed.



The ladies of Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson have also been longtime supporters of the Mustard Seed community. For approximately ten years, they have been coming out

at the beginning of every month and hosting a Birthday Bash, honoring all Seedsters whose birthdays fall during that particular month. It is a wonderful time of celebration for every Seedster, as they all look forward to their birthday month. As of now, there are 28 ladies that volunteer to help out with Birthday Bash each year, with Jana Smith, relative of Seedster Jeff Brock, coordinating their generosity. The Seedsters always look forward to this special time each month and especially the opportunity to spend an afternoon with such longtime friends.

Volunteer applications are available online at [www.mustardseedinc.org](http://www.mustardseedinc.org).

# What's Happening Around Campus...

For over 30 years, the Mustard Seed has been blessed to have involvement from many, including you, who have believed in our mission and have had faith that God would and will continue to bless our ministry. We value your past support and pray that you will continue your involvement as we look toward the next 30 years.

As you may know, we are beginning several changes to our campus which will lead to a better future for years to come as we seek to serve those who want to be a part of our program.

**GIFT SHOP CHANGES:** Upon completion of our nice, new women's group home, the former women's group home was remodeled, making room for a beautiful, new Gift Shop and spacious offices. The ribbons were cut and the doors were officially opened at the end of July 2011. The expanded Gift Shop space has been a wonderful change, allowing more room for our colorful ceramics.



**ENTRANCE AND DRIVEWAY:** We are presently in the drafting process as we plan a new permanent entrance into our campus, which will provide a more direct approach to the Gift Shop and offices. The new driveway will be an easier and safer access to the remainder of our campus as well as provide better parking surfaces.

## Giving to the Mustard Seed is a True Gift

Giving to the Mustard Seed is a true gift that ensures future growth and continuation of our ministry. Gifts and contributions are used to run the Mustard Seed and are felt by each Seedster as they paint ceramics, walk through the beautiful campus, live in one of the two Group Homes, visit the Gift Shop and ride in the vans to enjoy activities throughout the community. No gift to the Mustard Seed is too small; every penny is very much appreciated and truly allows Seedsters to overcome obstacles and to focus on their abilities vs. their disabilities.

**WORKSHOP:** Another exciting change taking place at the Mustard Seed involves plans for a new Workshop and activities space. The new Workshop will include larger pouring and glazing spaces, additional kilns located on a spacious kiln porch, much needed mold storage and inventory rooms as well as an exciting new Clay Classroom for the Seedsters. The Clay Classroom will allow for guest craftsmen and artists to work with small groups of Seedsters to create exciting new pieces; working with clay will provide the Seedsters another form of art therapy.



**ACTIVITY CENTER:** Once the Workshop is up and running in its new building, the existing Workshop will be remodeled and enlarged into fabulous new Activity Center space. The additional Activity Center will have a library and computer room which will double as "safe-rooms" during inclement weather, a porch which spills onto an outdoor green-space, much needed storage and a small kitchenette.

The new spaces on the Mustard Seed campus will allow growth for years to come, creating the ability for our ministry to reach more individuals wishing to be a part of our program. God continues to bless the Mustard Seed in every way; we are grateful to all that believe in our ministry and look forward to your continued support.

## Our New Gift Shop

The expanded Mustard Seed Gift Shop is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 until 4:00. Visit our website for Saturday shopping days. Stop by to visit and shop for exciting new pieces!







## THE MUSTARD SEED, INC.

Functional Expenses as of April 30, 2011

Description	Program Services	General & Administrative	Development	Total Support Services	12-Month Total
Salaries	375505	17332	15241	32573	408078
Payroll Tax	28730	1316	1172	2488	31218
Benefits	23014	993	980	1973	24987
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>427249</b>	<b>19641</b>	<b>17393</b>	<b>37034</b>	<b>464283</b>
Food & Household	24898			0	24989
Postage			4018	4018	4018
Staff Develop		137	0	137	137
Dues & Subscript		1625		1625	1625
Supplies	26946	926	0	926	27872
Vehicle	6284	540	296	836	7120
Maintenance	20310	1321	3403	4724	25034
Utilities	29762	1085		1085	30847
Events			94	94	94
Printing			7963	7963	7963
Donor Develop			0	0	0
Telephone	5541	713		713	6254
Pest Control	1296	257		257	1553
Cleaning	4593	1487		1487	6080
Taxes	9778	60		60	9838
Interest	2579	198		198	2777
Contract Serv	23677	5919		5919	29596
Insurance	11257	2350		2350	13607
Contract Labor	20480	0	0	0	20480
Meals	0	178	0	178	178
Travel	0	0		0	0
Activity Expense	15028			0	15028
Depreciation	40388	2822		2822	43210
Other	11412	2424	0	2424	13836
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>681596</b>	<b>41683</b>	<b>33167</b>	<b>74850</b>	<b>75419</b>
<b>FUNCTIONAL %</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<b>Total Expenses:</b>					
Budget 04-30-11	727959	48455	43259	91714	819673
Actual 04-30-10	667343	43942	41343	85285	752628
Actual 04-30-09	650163	40491	34537	75028	725191
Actual 04-30-08	660461	49727	46742	96469	756930
Actual 04-30-07	632731	42186	39019	81205	713936
Actual 04-30-06	589266	47514	43468	90982	680248
<b>Functional %</b>					
Budget 04-30-11	88.8	5.9	5.3	11.2	100.00
Actual 04-30-10	88.7	5.8	5.5	11.3	100.00
Actual 04-30-09	89.7	5.6	4.8	10.3	100.00
Actual 04-30-08	87.3	6.6	6.2	12.7	100.00
Actual 04-30-07	88.6	5.9	5.5	11.4	100.00
Actual 04-30-06	86.6	7.0	6.4	13.4	100.00

In thanksgiving and gratitude, we recognize those who have contributed to the Mustard Seed. The following are our friends and partners who have joined the Mustard Seed in fulfilling and expanding our mission. On behalf of the Seedsters and their families, we humbly recognize those individuals, churches, organizations, corporations and foundations who are truly our partners in ministry.

## DONORS \$10,000 & ABOVE

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## Bells of Faith

Since 1981, the *Bells of Faith* hand bell choir has been busy making a joyful noise in many churches and organizations. The *Bells of Faith* entertain groups with beautiful patriotic, secular, Christmas and spiritual music. The *Bells of Faith* can be scheduled by e-mailing [bellsofffaith@mustardseedinc.org](mailto:bellsofffaith@mustardseedinc.org).

Visit [www.mustardseedinc.org/bellsofffaith.html](http://www.mustardseedinc.org/bellsofffaith.html)  
for future Bells of Faith performances.



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## Mustard Seed Wish List

**Wheel Barrow - two-wheel**

**Rolls of colored butcher  
paper**

**“Bag Chairs” for sitting  
around the lawn**

**Vacuum Cleaner**

**Plastic cutting boards**

**Overhead projector**

**Black table cloths - 4', 6'  
or 8'**

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