

- “I am grateful for the group "Let's Talk" which meets on Mondays @10am; it really has helped me. I am thankful for the Community Center Staff for providing a safe place me and my young son; and also making it possible for him to receive toys and clothing this Christmas.”

Yasmine Upshaw
Smithfield Resident

- “I am so grateful for the assistance I received with information and resources that helped assist me with paying my utilities. I am grateful for the extra food I received from the Food Bank and the school supplies and toys for my children that helped for school and the holiday.”

Shirley Stewart
Roosevelt/Ben Green Resident

- Hello, I am Rush and is a resident of Marks Village. I am enrolled at Lawson State Culinary Class at the Campus of Hope. I enjoy attending the culinary class, because I am making new friends, I enjoy learning the different cooking techniques and I am also learning how to use the utensils. I am learning how to save money on groceries and organize my kitchen. In addition to that, I am learning how to count and write out a menu. I have been assigned several assignments such as keeping inventory on cooking supplies, aprons, hats and other things that are needed for class. Learning how to prepare food is so much fun. Before I attended the class, I was just use to preparing things my way at home. Being in this class has taught me various ways to plate my food for a great presentation. I am being taught how to properly season my food by being exposed to many herbs and spices besides salt and pepper. Attending the culinary has been very beneficial to my everyday life. It has taught me patience and there is a process to everything in life, just like there is a process to cooking. I would definitely recommend the culinary class to other people, because it is a good class and you learn the importance of food and cooking. I really enjoy learning about food, cooking, spices, herbs, and utensils, but I would not be interested in pursuing it as a career, but it will always be with as additional life skills. The culinary class at The Campus of Hope is a great asset to Marks Village. It allows us to receive assistance with searching for a job in the culinary industry, career advancement, it teaches us another way to earn a trade if we do not want to go to college, and as I mentioned before, it is teaching life skills. Not to forget, we are being taught by world renowned Chef Clayton Sherrod.

Jackie Rush
Marks Village Resident

- “I am a 16-year-old youth resident here at Elyton Village. I come into the community center daily. I appreciate the grownups that work at the center. They push me hard and don't allow me to give up no matter how hard my day was. They keep me on my toes and always trying to get me prepared to be a leader not a follower.