CLARA WHITE MISSION

Clara White Mission, Inc. was established as a soup kitchen in 1904 by nationally recognized humanitarian Dr. Eartha M. M. White (1876-1974) and her mother, Clara English White (1845-1920). The Mission’s work was conducted from the White’s home for many years but by 1930 the operation had grown so large it could no longer be managed in a residential setting. Eartha White obtained the Globe Theatre on West Ashley Street, and flamed the facility in memory of her mother. For the remainder of her life, Dr. White lived in the Clara White Mission. Her quarters are maintained as a museum on the second floor of the building; tours may be scheduled by appointment Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays.

The Mission has developed a continuum of inter-related programming designed to support workforce development and assist chronically homeless members of the community in the transition to independence and permanent housing. It targets unemployed homeless, Prioritizing veterans, and provides up to twenty-four months of housing delivered in combination with on-site, specialized vocational training, building marketable job skills tailored to identified needs among community employers.

Supportive service which have been identified as key to the rehabilitative process are provided including Case management, mental health counseling, health services, substance abuse treatment options and life skills training; all are available to residential and/or vocational participants. Correlated homeless assistance programs provided by Clara White include a drop-in day center for street homeless individuals also established in 2003, and the Mission’s 100 year-old daily feeding service for the homeless and disadvantaged.

Since 2003, the program has housed 163 and trained 191 for a career in the hospitality industry. 76% of program graduates have acquired full or part-time employment within 30 days of graduation from our job training program, and 70% of those placed in jobs currently remain employed. Over the past year and a half, CWM program graduates, earning between eight and ten dollars an hour in the hospitality industry, have Contributed more than $1.5 million dollars to the local economy.

The Mission’s Greater Expectations youth program engages at-risk youth in a golf and tennis curriculum that also provides hot meals, academic assistance and family supports. The program serves approximately 100 youth annually; there are more than 700 “Greater Expectations” graduates in our community.