

Sister Mary Christine Amory, MS

AMORY --- CHANGE Amory, a partner of the Gilmore Early Learning Initiative, is a nonprofit, Christian-based organization founded by a few of Amory's Christian churches. According to Sister Mary Christine Fellerhoff, coordinator of CHANGE Amory, the organization wants to educate and assist families and individuals instead of offering just a hand out.

"We hope to do more than put a Band-Aid on a problem. There are many going to churches needing help with rent, utilities and other things, and there is no one place that checks out these requests. One church often doesn't know what the other is doing," Fellerhoff said.

CHANGE Amory will offer not only limited financial assistance, but will develop individualized programs based on individual or family specific needs. Help with budgeting, education, and possible assistance with finding employment will be some of the services offered.

CHANGE Amory requires clients to reside the service areas of the Amory, Hatley and Smithville school districts and have an income at 133 percent of poverty, according to federal poverty guidelines. Clients must also be willing to commit to a customized program which spells out requirements they must meet.

Funding for CHANGE Amory comes from Founding Churches who contribute \$50 each month to cover expenses. The organization also depends on different foundations and funding agencies, fundraisers, donations from businesses and individuals, and the Change for CHANGE program.

Change for CHANGE consists of piggy banks provided to local businesses, churches and organizations to collect loose change and help raise awareness.

CHANGE Amory's office is located at 4018th Avenue South on the side entrance of St Helen's Parish Center and, according to Fellerhoff, the doors opened for business in March 2014.

The staff is made up of volunteers and the organization is currently looking for intake and bookkeeping volunteers. It is open to any churches who are interested in joining as a founding church.

For more information, on becoming a founding church, participating in Change for CHANGE, making donations or for assistance, contact Sister Mary Christine Fellerhoff at (662) 491-1022. Sister Mary Christine Fellerhoff is a Sister of St. Agnes based in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

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