



Where Needs Meet Love

May, 2016



OVER 30 AGAPE VOLUNTEERS HELP WITH POSTAL FOOD DRIVE

On May 14, hundreds of US Postal workers across America collected non-perishable food from individual homes, and provided this food for local food pantries. The Agape Center again participated in sorting and packing hundreds of pounds of food in order to stock the pantry shelves. Thirty-three volunteers travelled to the Cave Spring Post Office on behalf of The Agape Center, which resulted in 1250 pounds being provided to our food pantry. Thanks to all who participated in this annual effort!

Mark Your Calendar. . .

Angel Flight Walk-a-Thon – Saturday, July 2nd ~ 8:30-11 am ... Moneta Park
Sign up to walk at <http://www.agapecentersml.org> or to volunteer, contact Karen Jones at drkjones01@aol.com.

SML Charity Home Tour – October 7-9 – Call to volunteer now! (See Page 3)

Meet Agape's Latest
Church Partner,
Inner-Faith Fellowship
Ministries ~ Page 4

Register for Agape's Angel
Flight Walk-a-Thon ~ page 3
To volunteer, contact
karenjones540239@gmail.com

Welcome New Volunteers

Carrie Dinwiddie - Pantry
Brenda Finnell - Clothing
Richard Taylor – Furniture

By the Numbers Served . . .

April, 2016
813 Families
2607 Individuals

April, 2015
749 Families
2420 Individuals

GOD Stories

To God Be the Glory!

Cheryl Witcher has seen God work in miraculous ways throughout her life. Most recently, she said, “I have travelled past this particular house for some time. I had been stressing to find a larger home for my family because I had moved my sick father in to take care of him. I had never been inside, but I kept wondering, could this be the place God has for me?” She is so thrilled because it turned out the home was available! She continued, “God blessed me with a house three times the size of my old house, at three times less rental!” It was hard to get her to talk about the house, because she really wanted to talk about Jesus in her life, so we’ll just get to the heart of her story:

“To God be the Glory for just who He is. When I think of His goodness and all He has done for me, my soul cries out 'Hallelujah!' Thank you Jesus for saving me!

“I am a 44 year old single parent of three beautiful children. My daughter, 25, graduated from James Madison University in health sciences and is now working on her masters in substance abuse/family counseling at Liberty University on-line. My two sons, 16 and 8 are good students in their schools and serving God where they are!

“I don't have a college degree, a big beautiful home or a lot of money in the bank. As a matter of fact, I don't have any money in the bank, but I am so rich! God has rained His grace, His mercy and His favor over my life.

“I have been delivered from the strong-holds of depression and suicidal tendencies. No longer am I dying to live, but I am living a life of peace and love in my heart, because Jesus died for me so I could live an eternal life with Him.

“I have learned to trust in God and believe that through Him, all things are possible. God promised to never leave or forsake me. When I cried out He heard me and He saved me. The promise to the believer to bless me and my children and my

children's children, is so obvious in my life. God is so faithful to His word and His promises. My children are healthy and blessed because of my faithfulness to God and His unconditional love for me.

“I am humbled to work as a Home Healthcare Aid. My pastor's wife offered a home healthcare aide class, but I wasn't interested, so I didn't take the class. Later she contacted me because she had a specific client she wanted to pair me with. I was able to pass the PCA (Personal Care Aide) certification test without taking the class.

“My current client is 47 years old and has been in a wheelchair for 26 years. She had a serious car accident at the age of 19 and had her left leg amputated, a feeding-tube, paralysis on her left side and a significant reduction in her ability to speak. How could I not give God the praise for what He has done for me? When I look at her every day the smile on her face is so beautiful and full of joy. Like me, we could have given up a long time ago, but God never gave up on us! This is my third client in the past year, and I have found my niche--serving God as I serve others.



Cheryl Witcher gives all the glory to God!

“I am honored to utilize the services of The Agape Center. I feel God's love and compassion with every visit. I honestly come every month, not so much for the food, clothing and other items they provide; the prayers and the humility of the volunteers at Agape scream louder to my spirit than any material items could ever do. I see the face of Jesus in all who serve the community and I am ever so grateful.

“To God be the Glory!”



It was party time in the Pantry as Charlie Goodman celebrated his 80th birthday with his co-workers. From left: Jeff Francis, Ted Bernau, Judy and Gordy Harper, Eldon McKernen, Tom Galafano, Ora Hart, and Nancy Carol. Seated in front Charlie with his wife, Betty Goodman to his right.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE

Agape Volunteers Will Host Cocrane Home

The SML Charity Home Tour brings many visitors to our area and also provides needed funds for local charities like The Agape Center. This year's Home Tour will be October 7, 8 and 9. The home of Rick and Deb Cocrane, who both volunteer at The Agape Center, will be featured on the 2016 tour and they have chosen The Agape Center as the charity to staff their home.

Carol Moyer and Patti Galofaro are the volunteer coordinators to recruit and schedule workers at the Cocrane home for those days. If you can volunteer as a hostess in the home, as a dock worker, or parking attendant, during any of the morning or afternoon shifts during the Home Tour, please don't wait for a call! This is your invitation! Each shift is four hours; the only requirement is that you are able to stand for that period of time, excluding any break times. The information needed from you is: name, email address, phone number, street address, and day/shift(s) you are available to work (ie morning or afternoon). Carol and Patti are also able to answer questions and provide additional information about the Charity Home Tour. Signup sheets will also be posted at the Agape Center for your convenience.

Carol Moyer:
carolmoyer1960@gmail.com
540-538-6230 (phone or text)

Patti Galofaro:
galo_lis@yahoo.com
201-572-3723



Rick and Deb Cocrane offered their home for the Charity Home Tour after their good experience with Agape Volunteer Hosts in 2015.



Agape
Angel Flight

Walk-A-Thon

Saturday, July 2nd, 2016

Moneta Park Rucker Road Moneta VA

8:30 AM-11:00 AM

All Ages Welcome

Registration fee: **BRING A TOY** valued at \$30
or make a donation/pledges of \$30.00 or more.

Register today at www.agapecentersml.org

Please print address completely for tax credit purposes.

Make checks payable to The Agape Center.

The Agape Center P.O. Box 573 Moneta, VA 24121

Full Name

Phone

Address

City

State

Zip Code

\$ _____

\$ _____

Amount

Cash

Check Number (s)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE

Inner-Faith Fellowship Ministries Partners with The Agape Center

Inner-Faith Fellowship Ministries is the latest church partner to join with The Agape Center in meeting the needs of the community. Located on Highway 220 in Franklin County, near the intersection of Wirtz Road, Inner-Faith Ministries has been under the leadership of Pastor Frank and Co-Pastor Angela Toney since it began in their home in 2003. In 2004, they were able to move into the building next to their new sanctuary, which was completed in 2013 and enjoys about 100 congregants.

The Toney's originally heard about The Agape Center from their 13 year old son, Christian. He attends Smith Mountain Lake Christian Academy and his class toured The Agape Center, learning about the outreach and ministry offered to the community. He was inspired to start a 'sock drive' because at that time, Agape was in need of socks for the over 800 clients seen each month. He got the church involved in the sock drive, and plans to do another 'sock drive' this summer.

After learning more about The Agape Center, the Toney's "decided to become a partner member, because it fits with our mission of serving the community on behalf of Christ. We offer blood drives twice a year with the Virginia Blood Service, in addition to being a partner with the Blue Ridge Association for Sickle-Cell Anemia. Partnering with Agape will allow us to refer to a larger organization that is equipped to handle not just the physical needs,

but the spiritual needs." Pastor Frank Toney continued, "The main attraction of The Agape Center was the fact that mentoring is provided to each client, thus ministering to the whole person. We are more than a church, because if a person is hungry, if their electricity has been turned off, if the children are hungry in school, we must approach these needs before they will hear our message to their soul."

Co-Pastor Angela agreed, adding, "We were very impressed with the excellence and the thought that goes into every aspect of Agape's ministry – the presentation of goods as well as the prayer and training that goes into the volunteers who are mentoring. We believe in the mission of Agape. We want to partner with Agape to create the best experience possible for each client. We want this to be an extension of our church in meeting the needs of our community."

The Toney's were grade school sweethearts; their fathers worked together in the furniture business in Bassett, Virginia. They married young, and he joined the Army, deploying to Korea and Desert Storm. After ten years in the military, Pastor Toney said, "The call of God was greater than the call to continue until retirement in the military." So they left the military, moved to Vinton, Virginia, and after a year of a 'house church', moved to their current location in Franklin County.



Co-Pastors Frank and Angela Toney
at Inner-Faith Fellowship Ministries.

May 2016

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The Agape Newsletter is a monthly publication produced by The Agape Center for volunteers, sponsoring churches, and other interested individuals and organizations.

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Goodview Baptist Church

Covenant Fellowship

Inner-Faith Fellowship Ministries

Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship

Morgans Baptist Church

EastLake Community Church

Palestine Baptist Church

Flint Hill Baptist Church

Radford Baptist Church

Franklin Heights Baptist/CrossPointe

Rocky Mount Baptist Church

Staunton Baptist Church