



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Karen Baker

Communications Director

540-797-7996

karenbaker015@gmail.com

Agape Tenth Annual Angel Gifts for Children

The Tenth Annual Agape Angel Trees are popping up around the Smith Mountain Lake community, in churches and local businesses. Individuals or groups can obtain an Angel gift tag, which lists the age, sex, and suggestions for gifts for a child.

The Angel Tree Coordinator, Denise France, who is also the Office Manager for EastLake Community Church, has headed this project since its inception over ten years ago. She said, “When we started this in 2009, we provided gifts for 103 children. Now in 2019, we are anticipating 1704 children will be served by this ministry. Unwrapped gifts worth \$30, with the Angel tag securely fastened, can be returned to the same place the tree is displayed—the church, business, or Agape, throughout the holiday season.”

To accommodate those who don’t like to shop or perhaps find it difficult for various reasons, a donation for \$30/gift can be made, and skilled, enthusiastic volunteers will do the shopping for you! Just select the Angel tag with the sex/age you prefer, attach a check for \$30 payable to Agape, and leave it with the business, church or Agape (PO Box 573; 1159 Promised Land Road, Moneta, VA 24121 or online at www.agapecentersml.org).

Information is available at all nineteen church locations who are Member Churches of Agape: Bedrock Church—Franklin County; Bedrock Community Church; Covenant Fellowship; Franklin Heights Church—Rocky Mount, CrossPointe, & Union Hall; Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship; EastLake Community Church; Flint Hill Baptist Church; Goodview Baptist Church; Halesford Baptist Church; Inner-Faith Fellowship Ministries; Morgans Baptist Church; Palestine Baptist Church; Radford Baptist Church; Rocky Mount Baptist Church; Staunton Baptist Church; Vitalize Church; and Westlake Baptist Church. Business locations include: Smith Mountain Building Supply, Gift’s Ahoy and Re/Max-Phyllis Johnson.

The Agape Center at Smith Mountain Lake provides mentoring, food, clothing, household goods, and more to those in our community who need help through difficult times. Over 300 volunteers serve an average of 2500 individuals per month from Bedford and Franklin counties. The Agape Center is a partner program of Feeding America Southwest Virginia.



PHOTO CAPTION

Part of the Agape Angel Tree Team recently prepared over 1700 Angel tags to be hung on over 25 trees displayed throughout the community. From left, Deb Cochrane, Ginger Delong, Linda Matthew, Denise France; seated, Bonnie Wilson.

**1159 Promised Land Road, Moneta, VA 24121
P.O. Box 573—Moneta, VA 24121**

540-296-0609

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