

AGAPE CENTER NRV

OCTOBER 2021



SCRIPTURE FOCUS

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13

DIRECTOR'S MINUTE – JOY

joy

/joi/

noun

a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.

Joy is mentioned in the Old Testament 88 times and in the New Testament 57 times. That's 145 times in total. [John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be with you, and that your joy may be full.] It's pretty apparent that God wants His people to live with joy. Happiness is fleeting and is based on happy circumstances. Unlike happiness, joy brings true satisfaction and it sticks around. Joy doesn't get chased off by troubles or change with life's circumstances. God's Word often describes joy as "full" or "complete". [Psalm 5:11 But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.] [Psalm 144:15 Happy are the people whose God is the LORD".] God is the true source of joy, only by turning to God, can you find joy that endures.

Kim Bowman, Executive Director

PRAYER MINISTRY

- Pray for the Lord to establish the Agape Center NRV in our own building, providing the way and the means in his perfect timing!
- Pray for unity in Christ for our advisory team, ministry leaders, and volunteers.
- Pray for our upcoming ministries for the holiday season, especially our angel tree gift program.

MEMBER CHURCHES

Cambria Baptist Church

Christian Growth Center, Inc.

Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship

Hope Valley Church

New Life Christian Fellowship

New River Fellowship

The Bridge

The River Anglican Church

Tried Stone Christian Center

Victory Restoration Center





VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Mary Quinlan

Mary Quinlan became acquainted with the Agape Center when the Spiritual Roots Food Bank at their church had the opportunity to merge with Agape Center. “Joe Davidson had asked us to prayerfully consider joining with Agape Center. We prayed about it and felt like God really did want us to proceed. We felt we could reach more families by pooling our resources. It was really a no brainer for us, we didn’t want not to be involved with the food pantry. It was very much on our hearts.

It was August 2020 when we merged. At first, I was helping to run the food pantry service on Wednesdays and doing some reporting. I feel like things have shifted a bit in the last six months. I completed my Master’s in Christian Ministry from Grand Canyon University. I really felt like it would give me a better base to be a resource person for a ministry of any type. I felt like I could lend something to the Agape Center, as well. Then, I began to have a desire to be a mentor, so I completed that training. I’ve really enjoyed having that kind of contact with our clients. I feel like you get to know them on a more personal level. That’s the kind of person I am, I like to know people. Feel comfortable with that. It’s hard when you just see faces, but you only have a few minutes, because you’re loading food in their car. So, I like this aspect of being able to meet one to one with them.

Recently, Lucy Copeland who does our scheduling and oversees the diaper pantry, has been cross training me to do those jobs. It’s been really fun. I just love learning and I think it’s so important to have people cross trained so when a volunteer goes on vacation or something comes up, you don’t miss a beat. I think the most exciting thing about being connected with Agape is seeing the various churches in our community come together. I have never been a part of a ministry that is so multi-dimensional as far as the different types of churches that have come together to support a ministry. Everybody brings something so unique to the table and there’s a place at the table for everyone. We’ve even had Sisters come to volunteer. This is common ground and it’s a safe place to share God’s love. That’s what has ministered to me the most, I really see the love of Jesus in action. I’ve been a part of a lot of ministries over the years and I believe God was working through those ministries too, but I’m seeing results every week! People’s lives are being changed and transformed by the love of God. It’s such a testimony to what God’s going in the New River Valley and it grows your faith. During a time in our country when there is so much division and animosity, this is a place that welcomes anyone with open arms, no judgement and the love of God.

FOOD DRIVES AND DONATIONS

Belmont Church 54.5 lbs non perishable items

Tried Stone Christian Center- 103 lbs. non perishable items

Glean Team - 1346.5 lbs. fresh produce

Our friend Joe Frazier - 350 lbs. green beans

VT - 38.5 lbs. eggs



FOOD PANTRY REPORT

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021

| | Pounds of food |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Agency Partner Pickups | 3,357 |
| Food Drives | <u>2,642</u> |
| Total | 5,999 |
| Families Served | 88 |
| Clients Served | 242 |

Year to Date 2021 Jan 1 – Sept 26

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Agency Partner Pickups | 38,149 |
| Food Drives | <u>18,881</u> |
| Total | 57,030 |
| Families Served | 968 |
| Clients Served | 2,691 |

MEMBER CHURCH HIGHLIGHT –

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (NLCF).

NLCF is a church devoted to engaging our faith in Christ, engaging community together, and blessing those around us at Virginia Tech and the New River Valley. Made up of two separate but united communities, a ministry to college students (the Collegiate Community) and a ministry to post-undergraduate individuals and families (the Generations Community), NLCF has a dynamic congregation that stretches across generations, impacting both Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, and the neighboring towns in the NRV. Our vision is to invest in spiritual growth, invite others to follow Jesus, and inspire each other to change the world. If you visit one of our worship gatherings, you'll find a very warm and welcoming community, made up of people who are committed to loving God, loving people, and blessing their community. It is our joy to focus both on our own calling to minister to Virginia Tech students and the immediate area of So. Main Street in Blacksburg where we're located as well as to partner with other churches in the NRV to serve our wider community. We desire to see and be a part of God's kingdom coming to the NRV in unity with the whole body of Christ!

