

# AGAPE CENTER NRV

JULY 2021



## SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Matthew 11:28 reads: Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

## DIRECTOR'S MINUTE - VULNERABILITY

I don't know about you, but I was taught to be strong. Never show your weakness. Hide your faults. Weakness makes us vulnerable to being hurt or taken advantage of. Being vulnerable can open the door to hurt. It is risky. We don't want to be taken advantage of, so we wear our masks, keeping our "strong face" on.

After all, being strong is the American way, isn't it? Christ told us that it is in our weakness that we are made strong. When we become vulnerable, the power of the Holy Spirit begins to work in and through our lives. When we take off our "game face" and let our guard down, we lower the wall we have built to protect us. The very wall that shuts Jesus out, finally comes down. Christ's love shines in, and new life begins, letting the true you that God created shine through.

Many of our clients have a lot of experience with feeling hate. Agape Center may be one of their first experiences with love. How should the Christian Community respond to a person who is vulnerable? We embrace them. How we respond is critical. Our actions speak louder than words. As Christians, we know that we are to love one another. To truly love we must become vulnerable to one another. How can we really love someone if we are not willing to let them know who we really are? It's up to us to show others that real love springs forth from our vulnerability. Dare to be vulnerable!

Kim Bowman, Executive Director

## PRAYER MINISTRY

Please join us in prayer.

- Pray that the Lord would provide a building to be a permanent home for the Agape Center NRV, a building which can house all our various ministries in one location.
- Pray for God's favor and spiritual blessings on our member churches and all the churches in the NRV.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would draw our clients' hearts to Jesus and grow them into close relationships with him.

## MEMBER CHURCHES

Blacksburg First Church of God

Cambria Baptist Church

Christian Growth Center, Inc.

Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship

Hope Valley Church

New Life Christian Fellowship

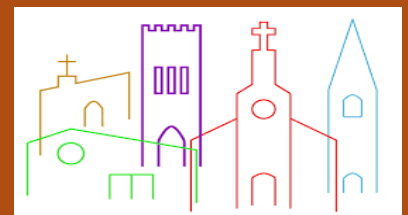
New River Fellowship

The Bridge

The River Anglican Church

Tried Stone Christian Center

Victory Restoration Center



## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



### APRIL ALLEY - FLOOR SUPERVISOR

When April Alley started volunteering in March, it was not her intention to stay on long term. In fact, April was only volunteering to fulfill community service hours.

In October 2019, April was involved in a head-on collision. She suffered four broken limbs, a broken sternum, and a traumatic brain injury that left her with crippling social anxiety. The fear and anxiety were so bad that April rarely left home.

April said, "I was so terrified when I first started volunteering. But everyone was so nice, I quickly got over it. Now it feels like home." Volunteering at Agape Center has helped April return to a normal life. She has even seen improvements with her eye-hand coordination and multi-tasking skills.

April always brings a smile to share and is a joy to be around. We are thankful to God for April. We are glad she is part of the Agape family.

*Thank you!*

## AGAPE CLOTHING MINISTRY

Our Clothing Day on Saturday morning, June 5th was a wonderful time of meeting community needs with clothing for their household. We were blessed with many volunteers that came and gave their time in helping the clothing closet part of the Agape Ministry be a success once again. We served 13 families, which included 32 adults and 21 children. For this opening, the Lord provided brand new clothes and shoes from Kroger that donated them through Feeding America SWVA as well as the very nice donations from the community. Thank you to each one who cleaned out closets and donated.

Not only do we get to supply material needs -- but we also get to share time with them, show them God's love as well as minister and pray for them. We are believing they go away wanting to know more about God and His love for them. We hope they will want to come and fellowship on Sunday mornings and become a wonderful part of a church family. This is just one step at a time, one ministry at a time, and we can change lives forever.

I so want to thank each of you for your part in getting the word out and for praying for a successful open day. Thank you also to the volunteers that came and helped hang and sort clothes on the workdays – what a gift this was!

Linda Bland, Agape Clothing Ministry

## GEARHEADS FOR A CAUSE - MAY 16TH

These pictures are from our Saturday, May 16 fundraiser sponsored by Gearheads for a Cause. Laken Smith and her husband, Tim started this awesome nonprofit to support local nonprofits like us a year ago. They are amazing people! We received \$466 and another \$280 in canned food donations.



## COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS

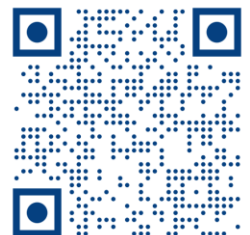
THANKS TO DR. NICOLE BISSELL,  
FERDINAND, AND TEAM FOR HOSTING  
VACCINATION CLINICS IN MAY AND JUNE.



## GIVE LOCAL NRV SUMMER CAMPAIGN

Our first campaign with Give Local NRV on June 23rd was a success! We received \$7,624 in donations through that campaign. We were also granted \$500 from the Community Foundation for Most Peer-to-Peer Fundraising, for a total of \$8,123. Thank the Lord for the generosity of our donors and praise him for his constant provision!

The campaign has been extended through July 31, 2021. Donations may be made by visiting [agapecenternrv.org](http://agapecenternrv.org). or by using our QR code.



## FOOD DRIVES AND DONATIONS

*United Way of Christiansburg*

*Leonard's – Christiansburg*

*NRV Glean Team*

*Catholic Campus Ministries*

*Dream Corps of VT*



## FOOD PANTRY REPORT

### MONTH OF JUNE 2021

	Pounds of food
Agency Partner Pickups	4,470
Food Drives	<u>2,071</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,541</b>

<b>Families Served</b>	92
<b>Clients Served</b>	260

### Year to Date 2021 Jan 1 - June 26

Agency Partner Pickups	29,348
Food Drives	<u>9,608</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,956</b>

<b>Families Served</b>	711
<b>Clients Served</b>	1980



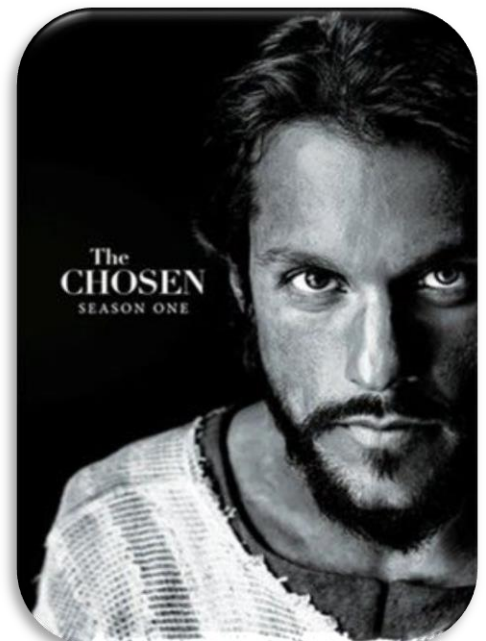
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Chosen Community Hour

New River Fellowship, Fridays, July 2-July 23, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

We are super excited to announce our first "Community Hour" at Agape Center NRV!

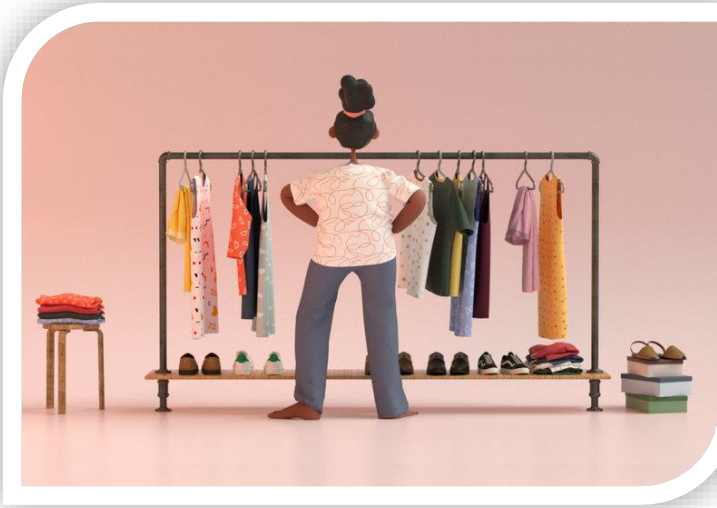
We invite you to bring a friend and come join us for some light refreshments and casual conversation while we watch Season 1, Episode 1 of the highly acclaimed series "The Chosen" that everyone is raving about. Come see what all the buzz is about. You can see episode one Fridays from 3:30-4:30PM starting July 2-July 23. Episode 2 will follow in August. We hope that you will come out and join us.



## Clothing Day

Tried Stone Christian Center, July 24, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The Agape Center NRV will have another opening on Saturday, July 24th from 9:00 to Noon at Tried Stone Christian Center in Blacksburg. Please consider helping us sort and hang clothes getting ready for the open day and/or coming on Saturday morning. You will be blessed as well as being a blessing to the community. Information will be sent to your local churches, or you can contact me if you want more information (blandls@vt.edu). God Bless You.



## Community Impact

Victory Restoration Center, Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**COMMUNITY**  
*Impact*

VICTORY RESTORATION CHURCH

ENGAGEMENT	CONNECTION
attendance	content

EPHESIANS 3:18  
WEDNESDAYS  
DROP IN ANY TIME BETWEEN 6-8 PM

190 Bishops Gate Rd. Christiansburg VA

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