



THE FOCUS

Roanoke Valley Baptist Association
3926 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012
Phone: 540-366-7631 Fax: 540-366-7882 ~ www.rvba.org

RVBA Newsletter
September/October 2017
Edition

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Remember to always call the RVBA Office at 366-7631 before coming to drop-off or pick-up items.

Sometimes we have to close the office for errands or meetings and we do not want to miss anyone. Thanks so much for your support of the RVBA!

Special Called Meeting of the RVBA – There will be a special called meeting of the RVBA on *Thursday, September 7, 2017 – 7 pm at Vinton Baptist Church* about the transition of the Baptist Community Center Ministry to Pat Carter. A letter and information sheet was mailed to Pastors the last of July. Messengers should be elected for this meeting and turned in to the RVBA Office by calling 540-366-7631 or emailing sanny610@aol.com.



RVBA Back to School/SYATP Youth Event on Saturday, September 9, from 2 pm - 7 pm at Limestone Park, Buchanan, VA. Cost is: \$10/person. There will be tubing, swimming, Ultimate Frisbee, 9 square and other games. Thomas Brown will be the speaker. Mill Creek Youth Praise Band will lead the worship. Churches are asked to bring water and/or 2 liter drinks with them for their teens and to register by 9/1 by calling or emailing the RVBA Office at 540-366-7631 or sanny610@aol.com.

RVBA Fall Meeting, Tuesday, October 24, 2017
Hollins Road Baptist Church
4 pm ~ Session 1 - 5:30 pm ~ Dinner – 6:45 pm ~ Session 2
Evening Message: Chip Baggett, Associate Minister of Children, Students & Families at Cave Spring Baptist Church

Reservations for dinner need to be made by Tuesday, October 17, 2017, by sending name(s), church name, and money to the RVBA Office (3926 Plantation Road, Roanoke, VA 24012). Make checks payable to the RVBA. Note on check that money is for the RVBA Fall Meeting Meal. Please pass this information on to all persons attending the fall meeting.

Dinner menu: Pork loin with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, rolls assorted desserts & drinks ~ Cost \$8 per person.

Messengers for the RVBA Fall Meeting should be elected from each church. You do not have to be an elected messenger to come to the meeting, but only elected messengers are allowed to vote. If possible, each church should send those names to the RVBA Office before the meeting so we can have registration cards and name tags already prepared

CHURCHES OF THE WEEK ~ Please pray for these churches and their pastors:
(*Interim Pastor)

Sept. 3 - Riverland Road ~ Don Summerville
Sept. 10 - Roanoke Avenue ~ James Bergquist
Sept. 17 - Rosalind Hills ~ Rick Sewell*
Sept. 24 - Salem ~ Everett Kier

Oct. 1 - 17th Street/Access ~ John Hayden
Oct. 8 - Springwood ~ Brian Clingenpeel
Oct. 15 - Troutville ~ Carol Johnston
Oct. 22 - Villa Heights ~ Jake Huffman
Oct. 29 - Vinton ~ Tony Brooks*

On Mission Together

When you drive by the associational office on Plantation Road you will notice a big difference. You can actually see the building and it has a fresh coat of paint. I want to thank Chris Sloane for cutting the bushes that were growing wildly in front of the building. Giles Gilley and Ronnie Renick painted the building and now it looks very bright and clean. Thank you, Giles and Ronnie for a job well done.

Plan now to attend the Fall Meeting of the Association. This is our time to celebrate what God is doing through our churches, to encourage each other and to be challenged in our Kingdom service. There will be special music, testimonies and Chip Baggett, minister to students, children and families at Cave Spring Baptist Church will bring the message during the evening session. We will meet at Hollins Road Baptist Church. Call Sandy and give her the name of your messengers.

World Changers was conducted the last week of June. It was a great week of ministry in some of our neighborhoods. During the week the youth and their leaders were challenged during the worship with four steps to connect with those that need to hear the gospel. Maybe you can consider them as well.

- 1. Identify individuals who do not attend a church, are not believers or need a special touch of God's grace. Begin to pray for these folks and ask God to direct your relationship with them.*
- 2. Invest your time to connect with this person. Discover their interests or a need in their life. Take time to be with them and encourage them. Share your faith story.*
- 3. Invite them to special events, small groups and worship. You may even lead them to consider a relationship with Jesus.*
- 4. Increase is the next step as you help them to increase their walk with the Lord. Be an encourager and supporter as they begin their journey of faith and service.*

When we seek to connect with people, encourage them to come to Jesus and grow in their faith, then together we can make a difference right here in the Valley.

John Saunders

RVBA WMU Fall Missions Celebration will be September 25, 2017 at Melrose Baptist Church - Dinner will be \$8 and served from 5:30-6:30 PM and the program begins at 6:45 PM. Dawn Sandoval, founder of The Least of These ministry will be our guest speaker. Reservations need to be mailed to Judy Tear at 1920 Mayfield Drive, Roanoke, VA 24014. Make checks payable to RVBA WMU and mail by September 13th. Don't forget to invite your pastor as our guest.

Skate4Mission Camp - Calling all youth and children for a day of a skating! Join us on October 7th from 12 pm to 5 pm at Firehouse Skate and Play for unlimited skating at a discounted rate of only \$6 each! Tickets will be on sale by September 7 and can be purchased by calling, texting, or emailing Cadie Burks at 540-312-9002 or Cadie.Burks@gmail.com. Take advantage of this opportunity to help fund WMU Children's Missions Camp for 2018 and have a super fun time!

BOOKNET is a Roanoke Valley Baptist Associational project that collects new or gently used books and redistributes them to children in schools in Southwest Virginia. We meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday at Belmont Baptist Church, 825 Stewart Ave, from 9-11 AM to sort, label and pack books. Come and join us – the only skill needed is a heart for this mission.



Looking ahead at Children's Missions Camp 2018 –

Dates: July 23-27

Theme: The Body of Christ

**Information will be up very soon on the camp website:
www.wmuchildrencamp.wixsite.com/childrencamp**

BAPTIST COMMUNITY CENTER 101 17TH STREET SE ROANOKE VA 24013

OFFICE 342-8452 CELL 330-6263

PAT CARTER, SITE COORDINATOR – JANIE BEARD MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Fall & Winter hours: Mon-Tue & Thu-Fri 9:30 am – 5 pm

FOR DELIVERIES (CALL ONE OF THE #'S TO MAKE SURE WE ARE IN THE BUILDING)

The summer was a lot of fun and fast paced. A special thank you to all who helped with transportation, food & Bible study teaching. Even though we downsized in numbers the quality of programs was outstanding. Thank you to Troutville Baptist, Melrose Baptist, Bonsack Baptist, Mill Creek Baptist, WMU children's camp and Gayton Baptist (Richmond). As the transition away from the RVBA takes place Sept 7, we decided to go ahead and start the fall programs in Aug as we have in the past with very little changes. We will start the Little Lambs after Labor Day if we get 3 more volunteers for Tue & Thur 9 am to 12 noon. We still need volunteers for after school M-Th 3 pm to 4:30 pm. You will help with homework, serve the meal, supervise the playground or inside play. **Please mark your calendars: Aug 22 school starts, Sept 4 closed, Sept 7 @7pm@ Vinton Baptist special RVBA call meeting, Sept 7 adult Bible mystery prayer trip 9:30 am, Sept 28 Quit smoking class 10 am, Oct 6 Spaghetti dinner/silent auction fundraiser 6 pm at Lynn Haven Baptist (all proceeds go to Community Center), Oct 10 free flu shots for after school @ 4 pm, Oct 20 after school to pumpkin patch 1pm, Oct 30 harvest meal for backyard gardeners 6 pm, Nov 11 apple butter day 5 am to 6 pm, Nov 16 Thanksgiving meals & give out Thanksgiving food boxes for adult Bible study 11 am after school 5 pm, Nov 23-24 closed, Nov 24 or 25 kick off the Christmas season with "coffee house memories", Dec 14 adult Bible study Christmas meal & give out food boxes 11 am, Dec 15 after school Christmas party 6 pm, Dec 19 after school Christmas concert 6 pm, Dec 21-Jan 2 closed. Please check out the email version for more details about the above dates and pictures.** We need sponsorships for after school trips and good report card incentives. The Thanksgiving & Christmas food box list will be on email. We need silent auction items, and WMU or individuals to cook, share a craft and be an emergency fill in for our children and adult bible study. Let's keep local missions going in SE Roanoke so don't just think someone filled a need call me. I would love to talk to you in person to talk about new ways to do ministry even in your own church or how you can join other mission teams doing work this fall. This may be our last paper version for the Focus and email version at end of month but we will have our own newsletter, so call to sign up. We keep your church in our prayers and wish blessings to you all.



FREE CLASS FOR WOMEN

Fall 2017



- Develop skills you need to get and keep a job
- Put together an impressive résumé
- Learn how to have a successful interview
- Brush up on your computer skills
- Learn how to establish personal boundaries
- Make a budget to help manage your money
- Gain practical wisdom for living, from the Bible
- Get the encouragement you need to succeed!

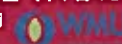


CALL DIANE FOR MORE INFO OR TO SIGN UP 540.721.6407

This free job skills workshop is held at:

BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH 825 STEWART AVE. SE ROANOKE VA 24013

Also known as the Christian Women's Job Corp; this is a ministry of the WMU





Roanoke Valley Baptist Association
3926 Plantation Road
Roanoke VA 24012

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID ROANOKE, VA PERMIT NO. 76

CHURCH, STAFF & OTHER NEWS

Tony Brooks has been called as Interim Pastor at Vinton.

Sarah Hurt has been called as Children's Director at Vinton.

Please pray for the following RVBA Churches that are currently without Senior Pastors:

Arcadia, Cedar Bluff, Garden City, Midway, Mill Creek, Mount Calvary, Riverdale, Rosalind Hills and Vinton.

North Roanoke is celebrating their 60th Anniversary on Sunday, September 17 with Sunday School at 9:45 am and Worship at 10:45 am.

Belmont is celebrating their 116th Anniversary on Sunday, October 15. Some of their pastors, both past and present, will be participating in this celebration, along with a choir made up of members of the choirs over the years.

There will be a concert by Spiritual Steel on Sunday, October 29 at 4 pm at Garden City Baptist Church.

Troutville is seeking a pianist. This position is part-time approximately 20 hours per week. Troutville is also seeking a Music Director to coordinate the music program of the church which includes, but not limited to choir/musical rehearsals, performances and leading music during worship and special services. If interested in either of these positions, contact Connie Craft at 540-915-1306 or troutvillebaptist@yahoo.com.

RVBA Calendar September 2017

4		Labor Day - RVBA Office Closed
5	2:00 pm	Church Revitalization Team, RVBA Office
7	7:00 pm	Special Called RVBA Meeting about Community Center, Vinton
9	2:00 pm	RVBA Youth Back to School/SYATP Event, Limestone Park
10-17		Week of Prayer for State Missions - Alma Hunt
11	9:00 am	BMC Committee, Melrose
11	10:00 am	BMC Advocates, Melrose
12	9:30 am	Compensation Planning Seminar, North Roanoke
14	11:00 am	RVBA Youth Events Comm., FA's (460)
14	12 Noon	RVBA Yth Min/Ldrs Lunch, FA's (460)
18	10:30 am	Nominating Committee, RVBA Office
19	10:30 am	Certificate Leadership Training, Bonsack
19	3:00 pm	Finance Committee, RVBA Office
20	2:00 pm	Brd of Director's James Jordan's Office
25		RVBA WMU Fall Missions Celebration, Melrose
28	10:00 am	Program Committee, RVBA Office

RVBA Calendar October 2017

3	2:00 pm	Church Revitalization Team, RVBA Office
5	9:30 am	Missions Dev Team, RVBA Office
12	11:00 am	RVBA Yth Events Comm, FA's-Oak Grove
12	12 Noon	RVBA Yth Min/Ldrs Lunch, FA's-Oak Grove
18	2:00 pm	Brd of Director's James Jordan's Office
19	10:00 am	Properties Committee, Ward Haven
21	10:00 am	RVBA WMU Ldrshp Team, RVBA Office
24	4:00 pm	RVBA Fall Meeting, Hollins Road
26	10:00 am	Program Committee, RVBA Office

Recap from Children's Missions Camp 2017 - We had 20 campers, 10 teen counselors and counselors-in-training and over 13 adult volunteers. They learned about the miracles of Jesus in Bible Study, the miracles of creation with a wildlife encounter, and the miracle of the rapture during an interactive time travel play experience. They also met missionaries, did mission projects, acted out Bible stories, created Christian lyrics to popular songs, created crafts based on miracles found in nature and learned to work as a team in recreation. A huge thank you to everyone who helped at camp, the parents who sent campers and to all who sponsored camp and campers on scholarship.

Looking ahead at **Children's Missions Camp 2018** - Dates July 23-27 Theme: The Body of Christ
Information up very soon on the camp website: www.wmuchildrencamp.wixsite.com/childrencamp

REPORT ON 2017 WITNESSING BOOTH

"You are making a difference in people's lives...REALLY," was a parting comment from a man who visited our Booth! According to what our servers recorded, we gave away: 299 Doz. baggies of cookies, 121 Doz. baggies of Pretzels, 76 Jesus Film DVD's (40 to Roa. Valley, 23 outside valley, in VA, 2 to NC, 3 to WVA, 1 each to OH, MASS, & NY, Mexico and Kenya! Three others were given to unrecorded locations. Plus uncounted amounts of candy on cards and hundreds of children's prizes! THANKS TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU WHO HELPED MAKE THIS POSSIBLE!!! I felt this was one of the best Witnessing Booths we've had. Pray for all who received God's word on each item, that they will be drawn to HIM who is the WORD. Jeanne, The "Fair Lady"

Women's Get-Away will be November 3-4 or 4-5, 2017 at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg, VA. Make plans to attend now. Reservations can be made online at <http://wmuv.org/getaway> or for more information, you may contact WMUV office at 800.255.2428, ext. 8267. WMUV Annual Meeting will be held between sessions on Saturday, 2:00-3:30 p.m. with speaker Sandy Wisdom-Martin, World Day Executive Director, National WMU.

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer will be November 6, 2017 at Lynn Haven Baptist Church from 10 AM – Noon. Special guest speakers will be Lisa Wolfe, Sara Hubble and Kathleen Chester. Meal will be \$8. Checks payable to RVBA WMU and mail to Judy Tear (1920 Mayfield Dr, Roanoke, VA 24014) by October 23rd.

BAPTIST COMMUNITY CENTER 101 17TH STREET SE ROANOKE VA 24013 OFFICE 342-8452 CELL 330-6263 PAT CARTER, SITE COORDINATOR –JANIE BEARD MINISTRY ASSISTANT - Fall & Winter hours: Mon-Tue & Thu-Fri 9:30-5, FOR DELIVERIES (CALL ONE OF THE #'S TO MAKE SURE WE ARE IN THE BUILDING

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! For a great year so far. We could not reach out to so many people with so many activities and showing what it means to be the hands and feet of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, without you. Our prayer will be for the trend to continue for the rest of the year and especially for the next few years as we move into the transitional phase from the RVBA. So many people in the SE area we serve have been impacted in some way by our volunteers, mission teams, food bank, clothes give a ways, after school programs, quilting, pre k, community events, guest speakers, adult bible studies, backyard gardening, food preservation classes and even the activities started in 1939 to present day. I have included in this issue a page for people who have attended an activity or program at some point in their life and how the center has impacted them. God knew what he was doing when he called the first WMU director of the mission center and all directors there after to show God's love in action which in many cases you can't place a dollar value on winning souls to Christ. This version will have flyers and info needed for the rest of the year and in January 2018 so you can plan ahead and share to all. We hope to have our own newsletter by Jan 2018 so please call with your email to get the info you need to continue to be on mission in your own back yard. Many fun, fundraisers will also be in play starting in Oct, Nov, and in 2018. We are asking for your help in spreading the news to Sunday school, WMU's, mission groups, friends, jobs, and businesses. Please don't hesitate to call us with questions, ideas, and to sign up to volunteer.

Dates to Remember: Aug 22—school starts (pray for our schools)

Sept 4 - Closed / Labor Day

Sept 7- Special RVBA call meeting 7pm at Vinton Baptist

Sept 7—adult bible study mystery prayer trip 9:30am

Sept 28—10am Carilion sponsors a stop smoking class

Oct 6—Spaghetti dinner/silent auction fundraiser 5pm at Lynn Haven Baptist(all proceeds go to Community Center (spaghetti sauce is home canned by our backyard gardeners) waiters & waitresses will be our own after school children and some of our adult bible study participants

Oct 10—10 free flu shots for after school @ 4-5 pm

Oct 20— 1pm leave to layman farm pumpkin patch

Oct 30—harvest meal for backyard gardeners 6pm

Nov 11– Apple Butter day 8am to 6pm this year various foods for sale to raise funds

Nov 16—Thanksgiving meals & give out Thanksgiving boxes for adult bible study 11am & after school 5pm

Nov 23-24 closed

Nov 24 or 25 kick off Christmas season with “coffee house memories”

Dec 14—adult bible study Christmas meal & give out food boxes 11am

Dec 15 after school Christmas party 6pm

**Dec 19—after school children and 17th St. Bap church children Christmas concert 6pm
Dec 21—Jan 2 closed Christmas break**

Call to verify activity is still happening as sometimes we have to cancel to circumstances beyond our control

Thanksgiving boxes: donations need to be turned in by Nov 13

This year for our holiday food boxes we would like to pack a box that an entire meal for 4 can be made. Please call before you bring your donations for morning deliveries but we are here M-Th, 2pm-5pm with the after school children. We hope to get enough food to help 45-50 families.

**100 cans of evaporated milk
small bottle cooking oil
large box instant potatoes
green beans/corn
sugar free and reg jello
cereal and instant oatmeal
pumpkin pie filling
Mac n cheese
tea bags**

**brownies(especially just add water)
small box foil
box dressing
package gravy(no jars)
small bottle of dish detergent
sweet potatoes
soups
peanut butter & jams
2lb bag sugar**

For us to get the perishable items for Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes, eggs milk, butter, turkey the cost runs around \$850 you can donate money and we will get the day of giving the boxes.

This year please make monetary donations made payable to Baptist Community Center and mail to 101 17th Street SE. Roanoke VA 24013

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Christmas time is very busy so buy early. As soon as we pack up the turkeys we pull out the nativity and only get to enjoy for 2 ½ weeks. The children go on break December 21-Jan 2. Food box items will be needed by December 11.

**100 cans of evaporated milk
small bottle cooking oil
large box instant potatoes
green beans & dried brown beans
sugar free and reg jello
cereal and instant oatmeal
hot chocolate
Mac n cheese
tea bags**

**brownies(especially just add water)
small box foil
small box or bottle laundry detergent
package gravy(no jars)
small bottle of dish detergent
sweet potatoes
soups/crackers
peanut butter & jams
2 lb bag sugar**

PARTICIPANT/VOLUNTEER PAGE

Melissa G.—“The programs at the Baptist Community Center have helped my children and I a lot; not only have my children learned about Christ but I have learned how to garden, sew, can and many other things. Without Ms Pat and the BCC we would all be missing out of learning a lot!

Dianne W (volunteer)—“I opened my eyes this morning for one reason—God has something for me to do today to spread the good news that Jesus paid the ransom and we don’t have to fight the battles anymore. Never in my life have I been more sure that God sent me to the community center to share his light in an area of darkness in our community. Every time I leave the community center I feel humbled that God has allowed me to serve Him. I know that His word will not return void and that the seeds we plant in the lives of those He sends to us will grow unto harvest. Through the impact of this community center lives are being changed.



Dianne & Katie

Tiffany & Makenzie – I want to say a Big thank you to Mrs. Pat for all the help she has given us, from food to school supplies to whatever else she can do. But most of all she gave the kids somewhere to go after school. I have been blessed to have her here. BCC is a blessing.



Melissa E.----canned tomatoes and

peppers from her garden.

Our Community Center, and more specifically Ms. Pat Carter and her helpers, are a vital part of the community. It benefits every person from the very young to the elderly. The children learn about our faith through the after school program. They learn gardening, canning and hard work through the Backyard Garden Program, as do the adults as most of it is new to us as well. They are also learning at a vital age how to be productive and helpful to their community. The food bank provides meals that many would not have otherwise. The bible studies and quilting groups bring many more together. I really can't begin to touch on all they do above and beyond these things. I can honestly say that the Center has touched all members of our community and it can be seen daily in my interactions with my neighbors and the children. I don't know how some of us would get by without our Community Center as it REALLY is the center of our community. Melissa Evans

I am including a lengthy list of things we use throughout the year and some things I have not been able to purchase that we could use to replace either worn out or barely working items. If you want to help with any of these items it would help tremendously with our budget. Please call if you have a question 330-6263.

-get well cards/ any really

-800 to 1000 forever postage stamps(would like the religious Christmas but any will do)

—6 gallons vinegar —non stick large stock pot

—blank envelopes legal and regular

—volunteers to help type letters, newsletter, work in garden, do fundraisers, party planners, cooks, art lessons, music lessons, work with children and preschool, tutors all subjects, bulletin boards and seasonal floral decorators, summer camp and field trip drivers, garden tillers

---roll of red, tan, white, blue plastic table cloth

---garden dirt, compost and brown mulch

----2 x 4 in mailing labels (lots) ----Laminating machine w sheets

---time clock with cards ---duck tape all colors and designs ---heavy duty stapler & refills ---3 crank pencil sharpeners ----lots of dime holders

----canning jars all sizes/canners/supplies ---photo paper mostly 4x6 size ---copy paper ---gallons of bleach ----ink cartridges LC61 for brother (color & Black, cannon L50 \$200 each (black only) , brother LC203 or LC205/209 color & black

---scotch tape refills --- children's Tylenol & Motrin ---band aids

---head lice treatment kits ---paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, Styrofoam plates, 6-8 oz cups(cold & hot) desert plates, bowls, forks, knives, spoons, bathroom size cups ----dishwasher pods ---toilet bowl cleanser

----decaf coffee ----tub butter -----children's sweat pants (used or new) size 4-14

----new commercial fridge(to replace 2 leaking ones) \$3000 unless someone can find a better price --- \$127 rental fee for bounce house 2 times a year

We will always take tax deductible donations to pay utility bills and about \$400 for garden plants in March.

This may look like a lot but we are a very active center with people in our building every day and sometimes Sat and Sun especially when we host mission teams.

Many of the items are consumable and need to be replaced often but a few of the bigger items only need to be purchased one time. Please call with any questions.



Barb Jirka, First Baptist, stopped by to ask a question and I put her to work canning peaches which she admits she has never done, she did a great job. We canned 24 quarts

The bees really know how to work our flowers



6 pounds of carrots and 8 pounds of beans picked Aug 28



Please come by our garden to see the new herb/educational hut built by Gayton Baptist from Richmond

Spaghetti Dinner

**LYNN HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH
1501 E WASHINGTON AVE.
VINTON, VA 24179**

**Friday October 6, 2017
5 pm – 7 pm**

**TAKE OUT AVAILABLE!
\$5.00 Donation**

SILENT AUCTION

ALL

PROCEEDS SUPPORT

BAPTIST COMMUNITY CENTER

**BAPTIST COMMUNITY CENTER
101 17TH STREET, SE
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA 24013**

PHONE: 540.342.8452

**CONTACT PERSON: PAT CARTER
SITE COORDINATOR**





APPLE BUTTER DAY

SAT NOVEMBER 11, 2017

BAPTIST COMMUNITY CENTER

101 17TH STREET SE

ROANOKE VA 24013

9AM-6PM

FUN FOR ALL

HOMEMADE APPLEBUTTER PIES & PEACH PIES for sale

APPLE BUTTER BISCUTES

COFFEE AND HOT CHOCOLATE

HOMEMADE QUILTS ON SALE

CHECKER GAMES

THANKFUL ART WALL AND MORE

Friendship House

540-343-5437

635 Elm Ave. SW Roanoke, VA 24016
Update and Needs Fall 2017

fdowdy@gmail.com

"Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell." C.T. Studd wrote this of his missionary work in 1885. It has shaped my view and life as a Christian when confronted with the temptation of the "American dream." Oh! that we have the freedom to serve our Lord by loving our neighbor in hard places right here in Roanoke! Now, I do see the good and beauty in a peaceful home as respite from the world. But I also need a place to meet the world head on, fight back the darkness and sing out the hope of Jesus to the lost and suffering. The Friendship House is this rescue shop for me and I would joyfully share this blessed challenge with you!



This summer went by in a flash! This is a brief update on what we accomplished. We were able to do several weeks of children's camps, swimming and other fun activities (although not as many as usual), ran the food pantry with plentiful supplies of canned goods through your generosity and faithful volunteers, deep cleaned the building fixing many minor repairs, and prepared a portion of the upstairs to be an apartment for a family in need! We also grew a lovely garden and made some improvements to our playground

with the help of mission teams. Our long time Bible study ladies have found new meeting places and are continuing to study the Bible and fellowship together regularly. And we were able to supply over 100 children with back packs and school supplies again this year because of your generous efforts in collecting and donating.

Our After-School Program (ASP), simple as it is (homework, play, Bible study, meal) has started back up with the start of city schools and is the most important help we currently are giving to our neighborhood. It is an amazing ministry to love on these kids and provide a safe nurturing environment 4 afternoons a week from 2:30-4:30. It is very important to them and I want to continue to provide it for them to the point that several families have sacrificed greatly to try to keep it open. I only say this to try to get across the significance of this ministry. We are in great need of more volunteers, staff and monthly donors to sustain us. For a child to have a safe, enriching haven to go to for a few hours every day is no small thing. We do not carry the excitement or get the attention of foreign missions because we are local but I can tell you with all honesty that the need in the families we serve is just as intense as that of any foreign mission field. The depravity surrounding is great, the sin that entangles seems unrelenting, and therefore suffering thrives. But their spiritual hunger is strong, there is a sweet spot in elementary school age children where they long for and are drawn to loving and positive environments.

Friendship House

540-343-5437

635 Elm Ave. SW Roanoke, VA 24016

fdowdy@gmail.com

Planting seeds in their hearts of the Word of God and praying for fertile ground to grow is our goal at this point. But they also see a different normal than what might be experienced in the rest of their lives. Lovingkindness, problem solving, conflict resolution, forgiveness, healthy friendships, creative play and helpful responsible actions are modeled, taught and developed. The kids see hope for a different type of living than the world offers. The kids that have aged out into middle school don't want to leave! That says something wonderful is happening now! They come and hang out with us for as long as they can every day. That is why we plan to stay late Wednesdays and eat dinner with them each week, to give them more time to stay and a chance for parents to join us. The parents of these precious children are just as precious to God. Our long-term vision is to reach the families more intentionally, not just provide for the needs of children without regard for the parents. We dream of healthy Christian families being nurtured and disciplined in local churches. But to get there will take time, steadfast prayer, a lot of diligence and a team of people believing in and actively supporting the ministry here. Therefore, I am seeking interested supporters for a new approach: **for people to sponsor a child's attendance at the After-School Program.** We calculate that the staff and supply cost for our program to run well is about \$300 per child per semester. **If we ask the parents to contribute \$25 and if we receive \$275 sponsorships for 25 children we will be well on our way to establishing a sustainable program that can flourish!**



See below for list of needs and ways to be involved.

Friendship House

540-343-5437

635 Elm Ave. SW Roanoke, VA 24016

fdowdy@gmail.com

Volunteers:

After-School Program: Tuesday-Friday 2:30-4:30 help with homework, play, help cook and clean up. Wednesday and Thursday are currently our biggest needed days for volunteers

Food Pantry: Wednesdays 10-12:30 help set up food, talk with people as they come through and make sure they get what they need, input guest information into computer

Open Table Family Meal: Wednesday 4:30-6:30 help cook, bring food, hang out with kids, take kids to play soccer at Highland Park, clean up

House cleaning: breaking down boxes, taking out trash, washing dishes/dishwasher loading, sweeping and mopping the floor, cleaning bathrooms

Yard Work: Mowing the yard and weed-eating as needed

Cardboard recycling: Taking broken down card board boxes to the recycling center monthly

Donation Needs:

Monetary donations to pay the operational expenses of building, program supplies and staff expenses. Our budget is currently at a bare bone \$45,000 per year (including the hopeful addition of 1 support staff position). Monthly committed partners would give us the much-needed stability to continue developing towards our vision of a collaboration of churches working together to minister at the Friendship House. A prayerfully considered 2-year commitment of any amount help us tremendously to establish a workable budget.

New washing machine as ours has broken down. We would love to find a plumber who could move our washer and dryer to the first floor from the basement.

Snack foods for After School Program such as chips, crackers, goldfish, chicken nuggets, taquitos, corn dogs, fish sticks, apple sauce, fruit cups or any other snack foods

Meal foods for Wednesday Open Table Family Meal- churches could sign up to bring a meal one night or donate the supplies to cook: spaghetti, lasagna, veggie soup and bread, desserts, drinks etc.!

Plastic or paper products plates, cups, napkins, paper towels and toilet paper for house use

Canned and dried goods of any variety for our food pantry are a continuous great. (During our food pantry each family may choose 7 items a month to help feed their family along with receiving one bag baked goods and produce donated by the Fresh Market)

Prayer that God would lead us and provide for our needs. That he would lead us in effect ways to minister that many lives will be powerfully transformed by God's saving grace through the gospel

Sponsor a child for ASP- \$275 per semester per child to help cover the expenses of running our after-school program. We are looking to sponsor 25 children to participate in our program each semester.

Partner Church- If you think your church would like to be one of our partnering churches please confirm this with your church leadership and put me in contact with whom I should talk in your church about this further.

Friendship House

540-343-5437

635 Elm Ave. SW Roanoke, VA 24016

fdowdy@gmail.com

Please prayerfully consider partnering with us in these ways for the 2017-18 school year and beyond!

Return/mail to: Friendship House 635 Elm Ave. SW Roanoke, VA 24016

Please make checks payable to: Friendship House

Please check and fill in what is applicable and fill out bottom section:

Yes, I'm interested in volunteering to help with ASP!

(name,number) _____ day available _____

Yes! My church would be interested in hearing how we can be a close partner in the Friendship House Ministry! Please call and talk to:

(name,number) _____

Yes! I would love to commit to donating monthly \$ _____ amount to support the ministry of the Friendship House. I agree to give this promised amount for (circle one) 1yr. 2yrs. ongoing.

Yes! I would love to sponsor a child to attend the ASP! I commit to sponsor

(how many) _____ child/children for (circle one) 1 2 semesters for the 2017-18 school year.

Name/contact person _____ (please indicate if this is personal commitment, group, or church commitment)

Phone # _____ Date _____

Email _____

Address _____

Church home _____

Any other information or questions _____

Thank you for your interest, care, generosity and involvement with the Friendship House!