



70 Queendale Center
Beverly, KY 40913-9607



Work Camp Service Leads to Compassionate Giving

Work Camp volunteers coming to Red Bird Mission are inclined to serve, but remarkable stories of compassionate giving beyond the minimal project requirements for the week are witnessed regularly. Volunteers purchase flowers to plant around a new porch, buy furniture and accessories for a remodeled bathroom, and just spend quality time listening to the struggles of others.

Bob Pohli who stepped in as Volunteer Manager in early April credits the focal point shared each week for the excellent year experienced by staff and volunteers. He said, "We tell them that the project is not the reason you are here. Christ called you here for some purpose this week. Take some time during the week to discover that purpose."

One volunteer working on a home improvement project this fall noticed the children had no bed to sleep on. After talking with staff and returning home, he dedicated himself to build bunk beds and dressers that could be given to families served by Red Bird Mission. Others in his church joined the effort by donating funds to purchase the mattresses needed as well as bed linens and comforters. Ten families have already received beds.

Another story involved a middle-aged woman that was struggling to find her place with her group's project the first two days of the week. On their free day, the pastor encouraged each group member to find one of God's



angels during the day. The group schedule included three mountain hikes at three different parks, but the volunteer decided to sit out the third hike and wait for the group to return for dinner.

As she stood waiting for her group by the rail viewing beautiful Cumberland Falls, she overheard a couple sitting on a bench. They were talking about their struggles in the last two years of losing a child, followed by breast cancer six months later, and now, a diagnosis of lung cancer leaving the woman just one month left to live. As the husband left the bench, God's Spirit nudged our volunteer to go sit by the suffering woman to offer a hug and a prayer.

Later, at dinner, she told her group that she hadn't encountered an angel that day, but she shared her story. Confessing that God had moved her from her comfort zone, she told her team, "I don't hug and I don't pray out loud for people I know!" In response, her pastor instructed her to find God's angel by looking in the mirror when they returned to their cabin.

If you are interested in becoming a part of compassionate service through Red Bird Mission Work Camp, or are interested in volunteering as an individual, check out the information in the Work Camp or Volunteer sections of our website.

Ways to Support

Secure online donations - www.rbmission.org
Donations by phone - 888-726-3459 (toll free)
Donations by bank transfer - 888-726-3459 (toll free)
Copy paper & USB drives for school

Furniture & household items
Host a baby shower for the baby pantry
Campbell's & Tyson A+ labels, Boxtops for Education
Sponsor an Appalachian Craft Fair in your church

For a more complete listing of needs, click "Ways to Support" on our home page



Red Bird Notes

DECEMBER 2016

606.598.3155
WWW.RBMISSION.ORG

Righteous Justice for the Needy and the Poor

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth." -- Isaiah 11:1,2, 3b-4a

Isaiah foretold the wonderful news about the baby whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. The baby grew up to be the controversial prophet, Jesus, who did not see others as everyone else saw them. His righteousness was salvation to the needy and his justice brought life to the poor.

Jesus still inspires righteous ministry and justice to the poor and needy through Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic on a daily basis.

- The deaf hear again because audiologists give their time and others give funds to provide hearing aids.
- Healing flows from our dental clinic because we have a dentist again and limited funds to provide care for those with desperate dental needs.
- Thousands of hungry people are fed through our food pantries and meal programs because churches and individuals are donating funds and food that supplement base funding of other organizations.
- The elderly and children have safe, warm housing because volunteers give of their time and money to make essential home repairs through our Work



Camp ministry.

- Children and youth have opportunity to break the cycle of poverty because generous people support our work to form Christian leaders at Red Bird Christian School.

We praise God for all of these blessings! Even though great ministry is happening here through Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic with the help of our

partners, we have seen a decline this year in charitable giving. If you have given already this year, even recently through your online gift on Giving Tuesday, we are grateful. If you haven't yet given financially this year, or find it possible to give an additional gift before the end of the year, please pause during this busy time and support the

ministries that help to bring salvation and life in the name of the Messiah.

We are grateful for your partnership with us, and pray God's richest blessing on you and yours during this holy season.

Kari Collins, Executive Director

Give a Gift That Honors Christ This Christmas

It's a growing movement among many that is becoming more commonplace, but giving a Christmas gift in honor of a family member or colleague is not a common act. Your gift this Christmas to Red Bird Mission or Red Bird Clinic can provide needed service to an individual or family that also honors the Christ Child.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40

Red Bird Mission

Early Childhood Development Covers Preschool Service Gap at Big Creek

Financial shortfalls and low attendance led to the closing of Red Bird Mission's Early Childhood Development (ECD) at Big Creek several years ago, but the call to reopen a site in that community last year is showing great promise for children and families. Betsy Jack, ECD Director, said that the opening of a new site in Big Creek at the Joy Center, an outreach center of the Red Bird Missionary Conference, is a joint effort of the Joy Center, Red Bird Mission, and Promise Neighborhood, a presidential educational initiative for economically distraught areas.

Five children were enrolled at ECD Big Creek last year, but that number jumped to 15 for the current school year now that the Clay County public school district is referring families. Most of the children being referred are four-year olds that would go without any preschool preparation due to limited public school capacity in the Big Creek community.

Mrs. Jack said, "The families at the Joy Center are really glad to have another preschool option in



Vision for Elementary Language Arts

Elementary teachers at Red Bird Christian School have identified a K-6 language arts curriculum as their continuing effort to be the best school in Kentucky. The new curriculum will utilize digital and print resources to integrate language arts, spelling, writing, and grammar while providing intervention techniques to ensure success for all students.

Alumni kicked off the fundraiser for the \$15,000 project at Homecoming. *If you are interested in making a difference by providing a strong, foundational, language arts curriculum for RBCS elementary students, simply mark your donation "Journeys".*

their community. A lot of those kids would have to go over to Manchester. Parents are really supportive including bringing healthy snacks to help out with the program."

Language for Learning, a new curriculum provided by a private, charitable foundation is producing amazing results for students at both Big Creek and Queendale ECD centers. The curriculum helps preschoolers acquire the words, concepts, and statements important for oral instruction and written language. Mrs. Kristy Roark, Kindergarten teacher at Red Bird Christian School, continues the concepts for her new students and is able to quickly move them to reading readiness and early reading skills that are the foundation for educational success.

One of the unique traits of Red Bird's ECD since its inception involved a weekly or bi-weekly in-home lesson by a staff person that involved the child's caregiver. The increased number of students, the new curriculum approach, and changes in the local community environment are creating some change in the home visit aspect of ECD. Staff visits are now made twice a year, and the in-center time has been extended an hour a day. This extra time is spent in small group activities which target needed areas of development. Parents and caregivers are still encouraged to read regularly to their children from a book bag each week provided by a children's advocacy group.

The partnerships with ECD have strengthened the expansion to Big Creek, but your financial support is still needed to undergird this ministry that begins the spiritual and academic preparation of children to become the next generation of Christian leaders.

Fall Success for Athletics Teams

Congratulations to two fall varsity athletic teams. The Girls Volleyball team finished second in their district to qualify for the regional tournament. The Boys Cross Country team finished fourth at the regional meet, and one runner, Austin Napier, qualified as an individual to run at the state meet.

Next year may hold greater promise for both teams. The junior varsity volleyball team rarely lost a game, and the top five cross country finishers are in 7th through 9th grades.

Red Bird Mission • 70 Queendale Center • Beverly, KY 40913

(606) 598-3155 • www.rbmission.org • rbm@rbmission.org

Advance Project Numbers • Red Bird Clinic #773724 • Red Bird Mission #773726 • Red Bird Mission School #773728

Red Bird Clinic

Gift of Hearing Enhances Life

The following was submitted by Robert W. Keith, Ph.D., Professor of Audiology, University of Cincinnati.

Since its beginning several years ago, the hearing clinic has provided hearing health care to hundreds of persons suffering from hearing loss that deprives them of social interaction and employment opportunities. This silent problem that affects so many can be helped in many ways with proper diagnosis and treatment. While some of the persons who attend the clinic can be treated by medicine or surgery, most cannot. But there is hope for those people who can be helped through amplification provided by hearing aids and other devices.

A team of eight students and two supervising faculty members from the University of Cincinnati Doctor of Audiology program came to Red Bird Clinic in November and rendered services to 69 persons with hearing loss over two days. Fifteen of those were fit with new hearing aids in both ears. The remaining patients received diagnostic hearing tests, or their hearing aids were checked, cleaned and adjusted.

When students attend the hearing clinic they learn through providing service and have a true sense of fulfillment. The students are always excited to come to Red Bird and on returning home are universal in their appreciation for the experience. At the same time, those who receive the hearing aids are grateful beyond measure for the increased opportunity to communicate with their family and friends through improved hearing. The hearing aids that



they receive are a true gift enhancing life and opportunity for those who receive them.

Unfortunately, the need for hearing aids far exceeds the funding available to provide them and persons may wait up to two years or even more until they receive these devices. All of the funds used for hearing healthcare through Red Bird Clinic come through the generous gifts of donors and friends of the program who see and understand the need.

While professionals are volunteering their time to diagnose and fit those in need, gifts are needed to purchase materials and support other uncovered expenses. Every gift, no matter how large or small, is deeply appreciated. In return, those who receive the hearing aids will be forever grateful.

Alternative Gift Suggestions

A gift given in honor of someone can be for general support of Red Bird Mission Red Bird Clinic, but below are some suggestions that might bring a little more significance for you or the honoree. Include the address of the honoree, and we'll send them one of our student Christmas cards, or we'll send it to you for more a personal exchange.

Red Bird Mission

- \$30 – Cover Gap Food Pantry food costs for one family visit
- \$35 – Educate a child for one day at Red Bird Christian School
- \$70 – Provide meals for an elderly person for one month at DeWall Senior Center
- \$85 - Partners with a family to cover ECD tuition

Red Bird Clinic

- \$45 – Partner with a patient to pay uncovered costs for one visit at Red Bird Dental Clinic
- \$70 – Cover costs for five people served by Red Bird Clinic Community Health Nurse