

St. George's-by-the-River, Rumson
Non-Profit Agencies Supported Through Outreach Grants
And Other Outreach Programs

Outreach Mission Statement: Following Christ's teachings, St. George's overall mission is to SEEK, SHARE (our faith, knowledge, and gifts) and SERVE. Our Outreach Committee's mission is to help carry out the sharing of our parish's gifts through outreach grants to non-profit agencies which serve the neediest in Monmouth County.

One of the great blessings of the work of this Committee is that it restores one's faith in the innate goodness of people, their desire to care for one another and to recognize our shared humanity. If Covid 19 has taught us anything it is that our lives are so connected, our fates so tied to one another and that the least among us is to be valued and cared for if we are all to prosper.

Our grants in 2021 focused on two primary – and elemental – needs: HOUSING AND FOOD and how we could assist those agencies on the front line during this crisis in tangible and practical ways.

We funded a great many worthy projects that impacted real people trying to go about their lives while under stress few of us can even imagine.

Many of the agencies we work with were responding to their clients' needs by establishing their own EMERGENCY FUNDS. These dollars would be allocated to help their clients with RENTAL, UTILITY AND MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE designed to keep people in their homes during periods of unemployment or other hardship.

We awarded grants this year for FOOD to pantries and soup kitchens, for MEDICAL EQUIPMENT to better diagnose high risk patients thus keeping them out of the hospital. The rising cost of FUEL was a problem for agencies who must transport their clients to school or work. We awarded a grant to help YOUTH transitioning out of foster care into their own homes. We helped with the purchase of BEDS, to ensure affordable daycare is available as parents go back to work and we helped to make an outdoor space usable and pleasant for AIDS patients in Asbury Park.

FOOD

Food Justice at Trinity, Asbury Park – Saturday Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry operate out of Trinity Church in Asbury Park. They serve over 35,000 meals a year. During the pandemic about 150 people are coming to the pantry on Tuesdays and they serve roughly 200 take-out meals on Saturdays.



Jersey Shore Rescue Mission, Asbury Park – Cares for Asbury Park’s homeless through food, shelter, clothing and other critical necessities. During the pandemic daily chapel, the Release program, Sober houses, personal and group counseling, maintenance and facilities, legal and medical assistance, work therapy and the food service programs were only minimally disrupted.

Keyport Ministerium Food Pantry, Keyport – Provides food assistance and additional services for low-income families and senior citizens in the Northern Bayshore area of Monmouth County. The pantry never shut down during the pandemic. They had to change the way they operated, having clients submit a list in advance of which items they needed and then pick them up on the two days the pantry was open. They operate with 28 volunteers and no paid employees.

Lunch Break, Red Bank – Lunch Break freely provides food, clothing, life skills and fellowship to those in need in Monmouth County and beyond. During the pandemic demand for grab and go meals has increased by thousands more over 2019 - up 21%; grocery distribution has increased by 144% vs 2019 - over 14,000 people are picking up groceries; 2,000 holiday meals were distributed; 850 clients were given holiday gift cards.



Project Paul, Keansburg - Operates one of the largest food pantries in Monmouth County with distribution to approx.1,600 individuals weekly. They also assist hundreds of qualified families by aiding with rent and utilities and operate a furniture and thrift shop.

St. Mark’s Center for Community Renewal, Keansburg – Providing breakfast and lunch 7 days a week, serving 4,000 – 5,000 meals monthly. They serve 325 families (575 adults and 225 kids). A nurse and a social worker are there weekly for the clients. During the pandemic St. Mark’s has been providing grab and go meals and distributions of food from the pantry.

HEALTHCARE/MENTAL HEALTH

Parker Family Health Center, Red Bank – They provide free medical services including wellness visits and primary care, chronic disease management and access to numerous medical specialists. They treat 3,800 patients per year and have over 1,000 volunteers. During the pandemic they have continued to operate with a large portion of their activities being telemedicine.

Shore House, Long Branch – Shore House is a nonprofit organization that empowers and restores hope, independence and self-worth for people living with a mental illness by providing access to social, education and employment opportunities.

“At Shore House I feel a sense of purpose and dignity....”

SHELTER

180 Turning Lives Around, Hazlet – This organization is dedicated to ending domestic and sexual violence in our community. They offer many different services addressing this purpose such as an emergency shelter, transitional housing, an emergency hotline and referral center, individual and group counseling, family and municipal court liaisons and much more. They usually house 225-250 people a year, during 2020 they housed 400 people.

Covenant House, Asbury Park – Provides food, shelter, immediate crisis care, and an array of other important services to homeless, runaway and trafficked youth between the ages of 18-21. There are currently two Rights of Passage homes in Asbury Park, one for girls and one for boys, they each house 5 people.

Family Promise, Oceanport - Each year Family Promise provides roughly 12,597 meals and 5,110 bed-nights for families in need. Families are currently housed in hotels versus being housed at local churches on a rotational basis.

HABcore, Red Bank – Provides permanent housing and supportive housing for homeless veterans, families, and individuals with special needs via two boarding homes, other houses they own and rental apartments. Nearly 300 people are housed including families with 100 children.

Interfaith Neighbors, Asbury Park - Includes eight distinct programs that serve thousands of families throughout Monmouth County. Programs including affordable housing, a business development center, Kula Urban Farm, neighborhood revitalization, Meals on Wheels, and rental and mortgage assistance. During the pandemic they have focused their efforts on two of their core program areas, rental and mortgage assistance and the Senior Nutrition/Meals on Wheels Program. They have seen the need for rental assistance triple this past year. Additionally, the request for meals has increased. They are preparing approximately 1,100 meals a day. More meals needed to be delivered to hotels and people's homes, as many gathering centers closed temporarily due to COVID.

CHILDREN

Mercy Center, Asbury Park - Founded in 1986, Mercy Center is a non-profit organization that operates the Sister's Academy of New Jersey, a middle school for girls (grades 5 to 8) and the Family Resource Center - a social service agency and a food pantry. The focus of the Family Resource Center is strengthening families through Hope, Help and Healing.

Monmouth Day Care Center, Red Bank - They are a private non-profit childcare center that provides a safe, stimulating environment in which children are nurtured and challenged intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically. Their mission is to provide quality affordable early childhood education to children 2 months to 5 years old. They provide a food pantry and professional support to children who are struggling developmentally.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Love Thy Neighbor, Long Branch - Supports the needy with various programs including providing home furnishings, rental assistance, computer skills training and other services.



The Center in Asbury Park – The Center in Asbury Park provides support services for people living with HIV/AIDS. This includes a safe place for clients to be during the day with a hot lunch Monday through Friday; assistance with rent and security payments and emergency food bags and hygiene items. The Center also supports Center House: 25 studio apartments providing permanent housing for single adults living with HIV/AIDS and formerly homeless persons. A grant of \$2,500 was made for the building of a new

gazebo.

Hands-on-Ministries:

At George's-by-the-River in person community ministry work paused in 2021 due to ongoing health and safety issues. Instead, the congregation stayed connected to those in need through several food and holiday collections.

Our members were generous and enthusiastic when asked for donations, Knowing that food security continues to be an issue for the neediest among us, we chose to make significant contributions to Lunch Break's holiday food campaigns. Our Saturday Stuff the Truck activities allowed our members to easily and safely drive up to drop donations at church. A dedicated group of 14 volunteers who sorted and packed donations each weekend helped to make our events successful.

In lieu of our annual family Christmas basket project, church members generously donated Target gift cards which were distributed by two community agencies to their families most in need. New sweat shirts and sweat pants were also collected as Christmas gifts for the residents living in HABcore homes in Red Bank and Asbury Park.

Although the number of activities was limited, they kept us mindful of the needs of others and the joy of connecting with our church family during an unusual year.

March - Lent Stuff the Truck, Easter dinner bags for 120 Red Bank area families

October – Thanksgiving Stuff the Truck, Thanksgiving dinner bags for 108 Red Bank families

December – Christmas for HABcore, New sweatsuits for each of the 50 Asbury Park and Red Bank formerly homeless HABcore residents

December – Christmas Gift Card for Monmouth Daycare families and CPC Behavioral Healthcare special education high school families