

September 2022 Newsletter



The Summer in Retrospect

The leaves are just beginning to turn here in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, and the cool fall air reminds me to take a breath and be thankful for God's provision at Appalachia Reach Out this summer. The busy season is winding down in our Martin County location as we hosted our last week-long Work and Witness trips this month, and while hard work still lies ahead with continued flood relief efforts, it is incredible to pause and look back to see how God's hand has guided, protected, and provided for the ministry of ARO! He has opened doors to share the gospel of Jesus, and we have seen the Holy Spirit at work, not only in the hearts and lives of our community, but also in the spiritual growth evident in those who come to serve for a week at ARO.

In the calendar year of 2022 to date, our Kentucky site has hosted 26 teams representing 361 participants. These volunteers have put 9,600 hours into at least 98 different projects. When multiplied by the national average of the value of volunteer time, this represents a \$315,313 investment into our community. When added to the \$140,790 that has been invested into local restaurants, stores, and trips to the hardware store, this summer has seen over \$456,103 invested into Martin County by those who have come to serve. In West Virginia, these numbers are 101 participants at 17 projects contributing 2,952 hours. These hours were worth \$88,412, and when combined with the \$39,390 of spending directly in the community, the investment amounts to \$127,802. These teams are a huge blessing to our local economy at the broader scale, not to mention the impact they have on our mom-and-pop restaurants they patronize.

Praise God!

While incredible, these numbers do not even begin to reflect the eternal investment, which is priceless. Families have been reconnected to churches, children have been given a safer place to sleep at night, and altar calls have been filled by people returning to God or coming to know Jesus as their savior for the first time. It is humbling, and our prayer as that we continue to step through the doors God opens for us, day by day, as we seek to be His hands, His feet, His heart,

and His mission.

In His Care,

Dwayne P. Mills,

Executive Director, ARO

Donate to the Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

**DIAPERS - NEWBORN,
PULL-UPS, LARGE SIZE
6-8**

**MICROWAVABLE
FOODS - POP-TOP CANS
GIFT CARDS**

Deadly and catastrophic floods have ravaged Eastern Kentucky. EVERY PENNY donated will go directly to help with the Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief. You can donate through the following ways listed below!



Dwayne Mills-815-278-0179 ☎

appalachiareachout.com 📩

Appalachia Reach Out 🌐
PO BOX 2147 Inez, KY 41224 📩
dwayne.p.mills@gmail.com 📩

Please keep those affected by the devastating flooding in Eastern Kentucky in your prayers; many emergency resources are now being relocated to Florida due to the need that Hurricane Ian has caused there. We thank you for your continued faithfulness and will continue to steward your giving to provide aid for this region. We guarantee that every dollar sent will be used for those affected by the floods in Eastern Kentucky.

Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief Update

Since the catastrophic flooding in Eastern Kentucky, ARO along with Love Your Neighbor (Somerset, KY), Executive Director, Greg Wells have collected over \$200,000 in financial donations. Since Wednesday, August 3rd-Friday, September 9th we have hosted 26 teams with 260 individuals. Additionally, 6,560 volunteer hours have been given, which is a total of \$196,472 in charitable work. We have been able to donate many resources to the Perry County Distribution Center. Those who want to come and serve with ARO/Love Your Neighbor currently have 2 weeks as opportunities in the fall to serve. We are asking teams to arrive on Sunday evening and depart on Friday morning. ARO will be in Perry County, (Hazard, KY) during the weeks of:

October 9th-14th

October 30th-November 4th

Below are a few photos of our time working in Eastern Kentucky.





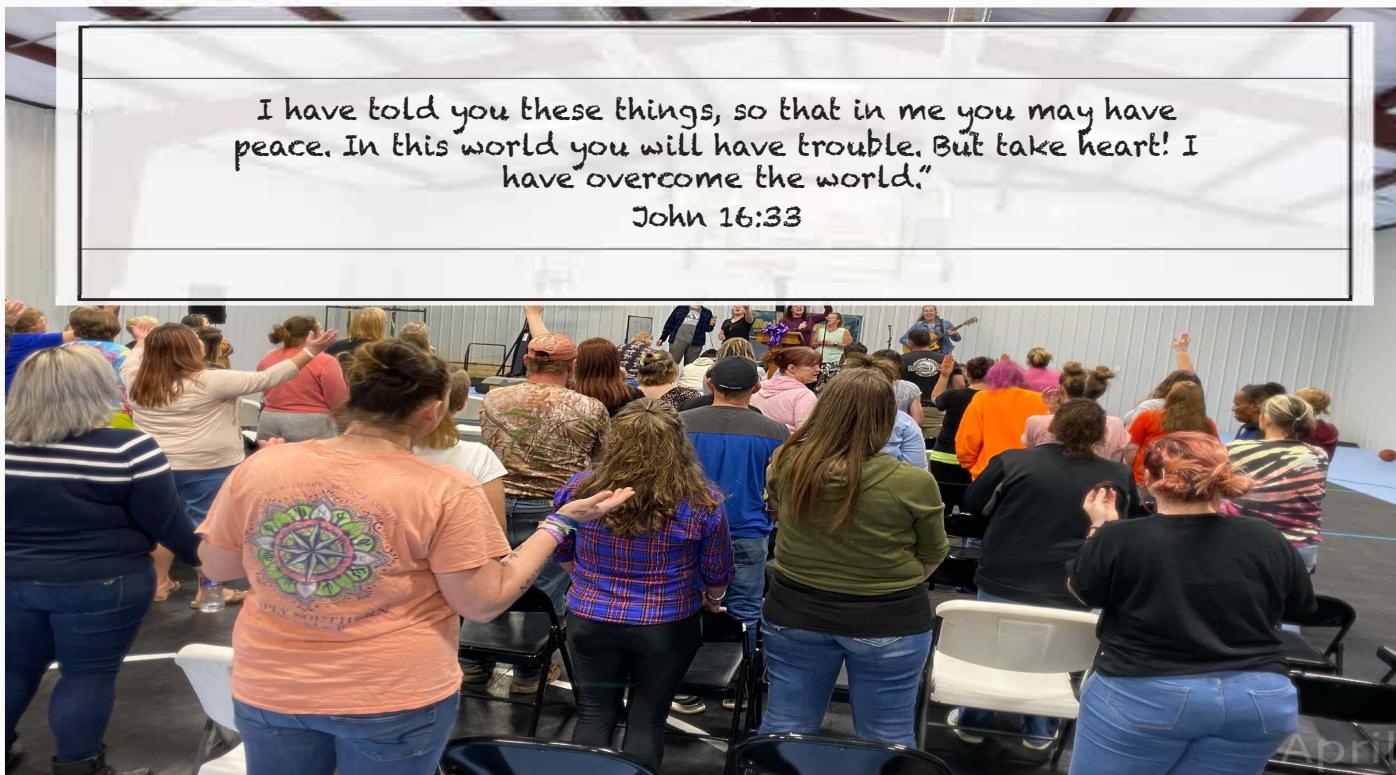
Our Work & Witness teams this month were from Moscow Church of the Nazarene in Idaho, Darby Creek Church of the Nazarene in Ohio, and Crossroads Church in Kentucky and Ohio. They were incredible workers this month and were the tangible hands and feet of Jesus! During their time in Martin County they finished up 3 major home repairs, tutored in Martin County elementary schools, helped in the ARO thrift store, partnered with Warfield Park and the Roy Collier Community Center, sealed the floors in the Martin County historic courthouse, and landscaped at several homes and ARO to prepare for fall. These groups finished the season strong and served as a great capstone to put the finishing touches on projects that have been ongoing this summer. They also partnered with Martin County Celebrate Recovery with a meal and worship service, hosted a baby shower at Karen's Place Maternity Center, and worked at the White Oak Hill ARC Facility. What a blessing they were to the people of Martin County! Thank you!

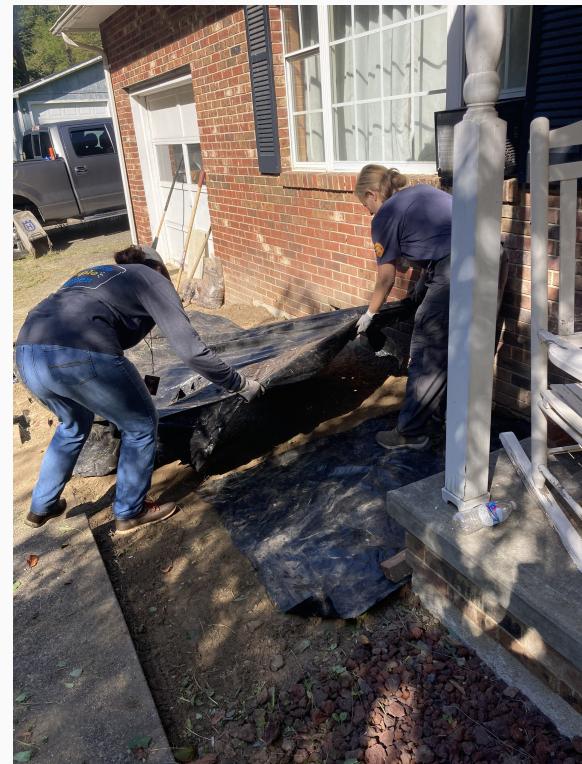
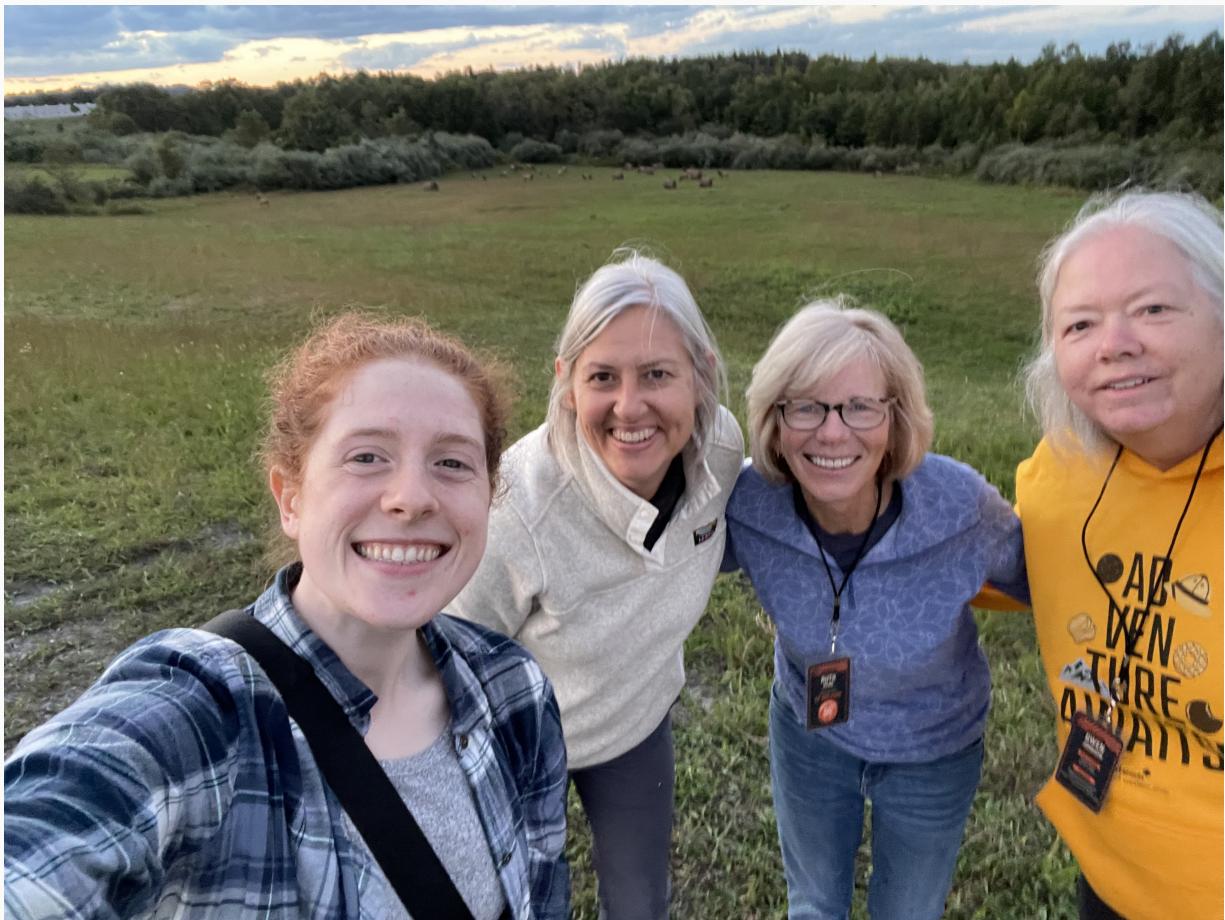
Bill and Jana would like to extend a special thank-you to Barbara, Erin, Tesa, Emily, Cindy, and Dottie from Crossroads who came down to volunteer and brought items for the thrift store and food pantry, as well as making a great connection through Kroger. They exemplify our prayer that those who spend a week here continue to visit and get connected with the ministry of ARO, because after you've been here to serve, you're family! Thank you!

We also want to thank all those that help support the ARO Thrift Store, by either loading and unloading trailers and semis full of items for the store, or those that coordinate the drop off, and to our staff and volunteers that run the everyday tasks for the thrift store. We couldn't do this without you!











Our ARO Food Pantry has been busy continuing to help families in our community. During the summer months, our numbers for families served have continually increased. We are blessed that we are able to serve the amount of families we have been able to help. We want to be able to continue to serve as many families grace our doorsteps, but because of this increase, we are asking for donations to our food pantry. If you would like to donate the following items, it would be greatly appreciated:

- Family sized cereal
- Individual/single serving cereal
- Individual mac and cheese bowls
 - Easy pop top cans of food
 - Orange/apple juice
- Cartons of shelf stable milk
 - Canned soup
 - Chef Boyardee in cans

All items need to be within their expiration date

If you would like to donate financially to ARO's food pantry, please indicate "Food Pantry" in the memo line.

If you are in the area where Dwayne will be speaking, or want to plan to hear about ARO and how God is moving in the mountains, we would love to see you on the road!

Dwayne's Upcoming Speaking Schedule:

Hilliard (OH) Church of the Nazarene - Sunday, October 9
Huntington (WV) Church of the Nazarene - Sunday, October 23
Winfield (WV) Church of the Nazarene - Sunday, October 30

“
Thank
You

Thank you for partnering with ARO to be *Christ's Love in Action*.

Thank you for your faithful prayers, service, giving, and trust in ARO! We want to thank all of our partners who have donated time and money to the Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief. All that has been accomplished would not be possible without you! Will you continue to pray that God would continue to guide us?



Feel free to contact ARO's Executive Director, Dwayne Mills, at
dwayne.p.mills@gmail.com

Copyright © 2022 Appalachia Reach Out, All rights reserved.

Contact Us

Email:

arokentucky@gmail.com

Phone Number:

606-298-7470

Our mailing address is:

PO BOX 2147 Inez, KY 41224