
December 2022 Newsletter



Newness

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV

I try not to fool myself: I know that my new year's resolutions probably won't last past January! That's not to say that I don't still make them sometimes... because I do. But being a perfectionist, the first time I falter on one of my goals, it feels like the new year's clean slate is ruined. *"Well, I can't really say I've drunk at least 2 liters of water daily this year, because that one day on January 27th, I didn't."* Besides, I have my own fickleness to contend with, as well as a reliance on motivation rather than discipline. And yet, despite these feelings, whose clean slate is never ruined? My own, in Christ. Not newness from man-made calendar changes, fresh goals, or even a changed mindset, but newness from being a new creation in Christ.

I am thankful to serve a God who is not fickle, who is not driven by shifting motivations, and who is the most wonderful author of newness imaginable. It is my prayer that in 2023 God will continue to conform me to His likeness, and if you can call this a resolution, then I know it's one that will be completed. Why? Because it's not by my strength, but by His.

Dear friends, will you join me in praying for God's direction at Appalachia Reach

Out in the new year?

In Christ,
Salena Lehman,
Academic Director & Campus Assistant, ARO



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THANK YOU.

We are deeply grateful for the families, churches, and other organizations who entrust ARO to steward their contributions toward the upbuilding of God's kingdom in Appalachia and the alleviation of rural poverty as we seek to be His hands, His feet, His heart, and His mission. Our fundraising goals for the end of the year have been met!

Here are a few words from those whose paths we have crossed in 2022. It is with great excitement that we look forward towards what God has in store for us in 2023!



"My boys are one of the best things in my life. God really blessed me with my boys. I couldn't have kids of my own; God had different plans for us. God has really blessed me this year - not just our boys, but God has sent wonderful people in our life working on our home. God is so good to us all with groups that have been amazing, so easy to be around and to talk to. We laugh and cut up and just have fun. We love all of you with all of our hope, I hope we stay in touch. God, thank you for everything you do for me and my family."

- Phyllis and family



"Our local Celebrate Recovery Leadership Team has been thankful and truly blessed for ARO's work alongside with CR. ARO has blessed our team with assisting with worship time, providing and serving food during our fellowship time and showing love to others as Jesus has shown the world. It has been a blessing to watch ARO work with many other teams as they help others in our small community with needs that otherwise could not be met. Thank you ARO for your service to Martin County!"

- John and Jennifer



Compassion is the heart of the ministry our church found as we partnered with Appalachia Reach Out. My personal experience with ARO has been one of tremendous joy and forever blessings as I trust our Savior completely with where he leads me, how he wants to use me, and who He wants me to share Jesus with. For me it was a man who wanted to come along side and share his past professional painting expertise and feel that his life still had purpose and meaning, even though he knew his time was short due to cancer and alcohol.

-Ken and Vicki



With Dwayne on his sabbath rest, ARO's work and funding continues through Love Your Neighbor and our Church of the Nazarene partners.

ATTENTION! Naturally, it has been difficult to find teams willing to work around the busy holiday season, but the need continues even - and especially - in the cold. If you are interested in scheduling a team for 2023, email:
salena.lehman@gmail.com



While we won't host any official Work and Witness teams until January, we want to thank the families and friends who have served alongside us this month.

Thank you to Emily Eismann, Tesa Clark, and Erin Stockert from Crossroads Church for delivering food for our pantry! What a blessing to have an abundance of food to serve our families around the holidays. Also from Crossroads, thank you to Steve and Vicki, Chalmer, and Chris who visited, brought a load for the thrift store, and continue to invest in relationships with the families their church served while they were here on a short-term trip. You all are such an encouragement.

Thank you to Bob DeJong and his friend for loading the items from Fairhaven Ministries (Hudsonville, MI) and Nice Twice (Grandville, MI) for our thrift store.

Thank you to our local People's Bank in Inez for your contribution towards our food pantry as an investment in your community.

The Holidays at ARO

Martin County has surely been blessed by ARO's partners this holiday season!

For Thanksgiving, the **Loving Like Jesus Team** invested an estimated \$10,000 and countless hugs and smiles into the lives of local students, the elderly, and flood victims under the loving, ambitious planning of **Wendy Skates** and friends. God opened so many doors for them to pour out blessing upon blessing. This included a fair-style event with gifts and Thanksgiving blessing boxes that was partnered with our Resource Directors, and with the rest of their abundance, they were able to bless those in senior living communities in Inez as well as flood victims living in Floyd County. Their crew of 38 volunteers directly reached 189 **families** with everything from food to fun, from Bibles to brand new beds. THANK YOU!

For Christmas, we had several families and friends contribute towards our schools' yearly Angel Tree for students in need of some extra Christmas cheer. Thanks to **Jackie Jordan** and friends in Fostoria for the donation of air mattresses, sheets, and more given earlier this school year! Thanks to **Judy Donley** and family for driving down handmade blankets, hoodies, hats, and more! Thanks to **Audra Scott and Second CRC** in Michigan for the Christmas gift shoeboxes! Thanks to **Amber** for bringing personalized Christmas gifts through **Summit Nazarene Church**'s missions outreach! Thank you to **Gardendale Church of the Nazarene** for funding Christmas gifts for mothers in addiction recovery at Karen's Place Maternity Center! We're so thankful for all of these partnerships.



Loving Like Jesus Team





A brand new dress brought by Judy Donley and family for the Angel Tree.



Stephanie and Jessica at Karen's Place Maternity Center send a misty-eyed "thank you" to Gardendale Church of the Nazarene for sponsoring a Christmas gift shopping trip for the women in addiction recovery there.



SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHAD'S ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





PLEASE CONTACT TO SCHEDULE A TIME FOR DROP OFF:
 In Lawrence Co-Marlena Lafferty
marlena.lafferty@arccenters.com
 606-626-5887
 In Martin Co-Salena Lehman
salena.lehman@gmail.com
 614-284-4630

Please bring donated items in boxes and/or bags

All coats collected will benefit the clients of ARC facilities. Thank you for your donation!!

Please Donate

ACCEPTING NEW OR GENTLY USED COATS, SWEAT SHIRTS, OR HOODIES.



Thanks to all who have donated so far! Through special donations and our thrift store's extra stock we have been able to donate 400+ coats to Addiction Recovery Care's clients. The need still remains high as there is still not yet enough coats to send every client home with one as they leave the centers. If you would like to coordinate a coat drive with your church or family and drop them off to ARO, please contact Salena (contact info above). Thank you!



Our ARO Food Pantry has been busy continuing to help families in our community. 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
- Family sized orange/apple juice
- Cartons of shelf stable milk
 - Cans of soup
- Chef Boyardee in cans
- Pinto beans in bags
 - Peanut butter
 - Jelly
- Spaghetti noodles

All items need to be within their expiration date

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:

Dwayne is on his sabbath rest from November 20-January 8



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! 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



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Contact Us

Email:

arokentucky@gmail.com

Phone Number:

606-298-7470

Our mailing address is:

PO BOX 2147 Inez, KY 41224

