

Appalachia Reach Out

Christ's Love inAction

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A Story of God's Hand Moving Transition of Leadership at ARO

As the calendar turned another year to 2019, so did the leadership at Appalachia Reach Out in Inez, Kentucky. The past 14 years ARO has been blessed with the leadership of Will & Jan Ruthven. They have given their life and ministry to see the name of Jesus lived out in their tenure

Dwayne comes in with many years of experience in ministry. Dwayne is a native of Martin County. He was born and raised here in his formative years and then moved back to Martin County in 2012 with his family to take a position as one of the pastors at Turkey Creek



at the helm. Many lives have been touched by their years of impact here in eastern Kentucky and they will be missed greatly as they have relocated to Arizona. Thanks, Will and Jan for your investment in the people of Martin County and more importantly your impact on the Kingdom of Jesus Christ!

Taking over as Executive Director is Dwayne Mills.

Church of the Nazarene. Through his leadership and partnership with ARO God opened the door for the transition to take place. There is so much more to the story, but know God has been at work through this transition. In speaking to Dwayne he says, "God's hand has been all over this transition. Over the past two years there have been many meetings, prayers, and

The Mills Family



This is a picture taken during Christmas 2018 of the Mills family. Pictured above is Dwayne, Executive Director ARO, his wife Bethany, Ethan (17 yrs. old and a 12th grader), Evan (12 yrs. old and a 7th grader), Eli (10 yrs. old and a 5th grader) and Emily (7 yrs. old and a 2nd grader). Dwayne moved back to Martin County with his family in June 2012 after serving as Associate Dean of Students at Olivet Nazarene University and Bethany was the Director of Counseling and Health Services. Dwayne has served in full-time ministry since 1995. He has served in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and now Kentucky. He says, "There is no better calling and place to be than in the center of God's will. I am excited to serve the people of Martin County and the surrounding areas. There is no better place than living in heart of Appalachia."

conversations with the ARO Board of Directors, Will, Jan, and my family. There is no doubt in my mind; God has opened the door for this transition to take place." ARO will continue to operate as a non-profit 501©3 organization. The current Board of Directors is made up of 9 members and represents 5 different denominations (Nazarene, Wesleyan, Free Will Baptist, Reformed, and Methodist). Mills says, "This is God's ministry and it doesn't matter what the name is over the door of your church or ministry, ARO is here to be the hands, feet, heart, and mission of Christ. We strive to be Christ's love in

Action!" ARO will continue to operate as it has been for the past 47 years. However, there will be some changes on the horizon. Mills added, "the goal is to come alongside of individuals, families, churches, civic organizations, ministries, schools, and show the love of Christ in all we do. The goal in the first year is to evaluate what is working well for our ministry and how we can serve in a more effective way to do Kingdom work here on earth as it is in heaven." Many of the changes that will take place will happen over time. The ultimate goal as stated above, is to show the love of Christ in all they do. One of the mainstays will be the

ARO Thrift Store. Martin County has been blessed by the Zuidema family who have been running the store operations for 7.5 years. Bill Zuidema, Store Manager, will be staying on in this capacity. Mills shared, "I am so grateful for their ministry and service to Martin County over the past 7.5 years. Bill, Jana, Rachel, Johnny, and Isaiah are a blessing to our community. I'm excited to minister alongside of them as we seek to serve the wonderful people of Martin County and the surrounding areas together."

Appalachia Reach Out A Place to Serve and Give

You can partner in many ways with Appalachia Reach Out. ARO will host close to 20 teams this year from all over the country. You can come and serve individually, as a family, or with your church. ARO would love to host your team. Also, you can partner with ARO by supporting them financially or through your donation of resources. As ARO serves the people of Martin County and beyond you can give financially (your gift is a tax deductible gift) and through other resources. The ARO Thrift Store generates close to 65 percent of the revenue of the ministry. You can donate clothing, household items, appliances, furniture, etc... If you have any questions, please contact us at:

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