

# Appalachia Reach Out

## June/July '20

July 31, 2020

Issue #13



### Prayer List For 2020

1. Fall Ministry Schedule through each local serves ARO provides.
2. ARO's Executive Director's, Speaking Schedule Fall '20
3. Peace in our homes, peace in our churches, peace in our communities, peace in our nation, peace in our world

"ARO has made a difference in my family for many years."  
- **Martin County resident**

*The picture to your right is a shot of our interns delivering meals to a family living up a "Holler" and "over a branch"*

### The Road Less Traveled

As our world continues to traverse through the unknowns of the COVID-19 Pandemic, ministries like Appalachia Reach Out must find ways to adjust and embrace mission. Many things continue to rock our understanding of what tomorrow even holds as federal, state, and local mandates continue to change. It's during these uncertain times, ministries like ARO must adjust. I've said since the beginning, "It's a moving target." Even before the pandemic, leading a Christian 501©3 has its challenges. When you throw in a global pandemic it magnifies these challenges. However, our confidence isn't in the world, our confidence and hand is in the hand of the Creator of the world. Yes, it's a ROAD LESS TRAVELED, but one in which our Savior is leading and guiding each step of the way. I'm reminded of the passage of Scripture in Matthew 9 which says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few...". Each day ARO is crossing paths with the lives Christ has called us to serve. He has been faithful! I'm grateful and thankful for those who have a call to travel this road and look for the ones Jesus talks about in Matthew 9. You know who you are. Thank you for continuing to keep us in your thoughts, prayers, and support in these challenging times. God is great and I'm thankful for His continued presence in our daily lives.

- *Dwayne P. Mills, ARO, Executive Director*

### Up A "Holler" and Over A Branch

To those who have been to Martin County or remote parts of Appalachia, you probably understand the title. In ARO's April/May Newsletter the ministry shared an update about the investment the ministry was making to partner with the Martin County School District in delivering meals this summer to some of the most remote parts of Appalachia. Over 7 weeks, ARO's Executive Director and two summer interns met three days a week at Martin County High School, helped load 7 buses plus the ARO 15 passenger van, and then went into the county to deliver meals. During these 7 weeks ARO had the opportunity to serve over 7,000 meals to children living up a "holler" and "over a branch" to make sure these girls/boys would receive nutrition during the summer. It was a huge commitment by ARO, but it was probably some of the most meaningful ministry that took place in 2020 to date. July 2 was our last day to serve these meals. It was such a joy to deliver these meals and provide a few special prizes to encourage parents and children communicating the message, ARO cars for you! Making room to impact in places most have forgotten is our heartbeat at ARO.



**“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Master” – Matthew 25:21**



**New Galilee (PA) Work & Witness team showing the love of Christ in a very tangible way in July!**

#### **Thanks!**

Thanks to all of you who support us through prayer, serving, and financial support. You can learn more about supporting us online at [www.appalachiareachout.com](http://www.appalachiareachout.com).

Our address is:  
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We need each other. ARO wouldn't be possible without ALL support. It's a great reminder of Ecclesiastes 4:12

***A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.***

You can contact Dwayne Mills, ARO Executive Director at [dwayne.p.mills@gmail.com](mailto:dwayne.p.mills@gmail.com)

### **ARO Summer Interns Make An Enormous Impact**

As mentioned in the April/May Newsletter, ARO has been living in a state of accepting the 2020 summer which has looked much different than the previous 47 summers. 15 Work & Witness teams were either cancelled or postponed and since the beginning of March it's been ARO's mission to embrace our "why" while looking at our "how" much differently. Salena and Andie, ARO's Summer Interns, have helped ARO accomplish our mission this summer as the ministry continues to live out "Christ's Love in Action". I asked both of these young ladies, "How has ARO impacted you this summer?" Their response;

Salena – "I am so thankful to once again be a part of what God is doing in Martin County, even amidst the uncertainty, change, and upheaval caused by the COVID-19. I have built relationships with so many wonderful people in this county, felt at home driving through some of the most remote areas I've ever been on the summer feeding program, and enjoyed supporting the Martin County Schools by painting classrooms and helping with summer programs. I may be returning to Ohio to live at home in Mount Vernon, but I know this place will always be home, too. I covet your prayers as I finish my last full time semester of undergrad, get married this December, and discern God's calling upon our lives in service to Him."

Andie – "This summer with ARO has been one of the most impactful seasons of my life. From blowing kisses to the kids on the summer feeding program route, to serving teachers with paint-covered hands, to meals of fellowship, and worship nights at Celebrate Recovery. The Lord has used this time in Martin County to shape my life in ways I never would have expected. He has opened my eyes, revealing more about Himself and His character through the lives I have encountered here. God has made it clear that He is at work in this place! It has been such a blessing to be able to join ARO in being Christ's love in action, as we see God's Kingdom come here in Martin County as it is in Heaven! Thank you for your continual prayers and support."

### **ARO Needs Your Financial Support!**

Please know ARO values each ministry partner. Your prayer and financial support is vital to our ongoing impact each month of the year, especially in this time of uncertainty. You can make a financial donation online through our website or mail it to the address to the left. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our Executive Director, Dwayne Mills.



***ARO partnered with Inez Elementary School & Mount Vernon Nazarene University Communication Science and Disorders Department to lead a 2 Week Virtual Literacy and Learning Camp through a 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant. Picture above are three winners of IPADs sponsored by ARO.***