

February Newsletter

Appalachia Reach Out

2/2/2019

Christ's Love in Action

Being the Hands, Feet, Heart and Mission of Jesus

January 2019 was a busy month for the ministry of Appalachia Reach Out. God continues to open doors for us to lean into many situations as we show the love of Christ in tangible ways. As ARO continues to step into a new chapter of ministry, Christ's



love is being displayed in many ways through the ongoing ministries of ARO. In January the ARO Food Pantry fed 108 families which accounted for 295 people, with 9 new families

added. Counting ARO's Food Pantry distribution and Benevolence Ministry (hygiene items, adult diapers, layettes, formula, clothing and other items for those in need), ARO was able to share close to \$4,000 in total with our distribution. This is made possible by the financial support of those who have partnered with our ministry by providing monetary gifts to purchase these items or donations. Thanks for your faithfulness to support the ongoing ministry of ARO in the heart of Appalachia. Our impact and influence is made possible by your sacrificial giving! You are a blessing!

Unexpected Open Doors

The recent government shutdown had a direct impact on the residents of Martin County, Kentucky. One of the largest employers is Martin County United States Penitentiary Big Sandy located off of Rt. 3 on the Martin County/Johnson County line. 35 days of uncertainty for a number of families not only in Martin County but those who live in surrounding counties and communities caused worries on many levels. For some families this was their only source of income and a number of families

had both husband and wife working at USP Big Sandy. ARO was able to step in and help in a few ways during these uncertain times for a number of families. On Tuesday, January 22, ARO Executive Director, Dwayne Mills, and ARO Thrift Store Manager, Bill Zuidema, were able to deliver 20 boxes of food which each box was able to feed a family of four for a few days.



Thursday, January 17 and Friday, January 18, the new Appalachia Reach Out Board of Directors met onsite for the first time in Martin County, Kentucky. The new Board of Directors is made up of 9 individuals who represent 5 different denominations. These members live in 5 states and represent a number of different opportunities for the ministry. Those serving are:

Garrett Mills – Chairman
(Kentucky)
Kevin Davis – Vice Chairman
(Kentucky)
Lisa Kirk – Secretary
(Kentucky)
Karen Harvey
(Kentucky)
Carl Kirk
(Tennessee)
Dale McWhorter
(Alabama)
Terry Munday
(Indiana)
Greg Vannoord
(Michigan)
Dustin Vander Wilp
(Michigan)

On Friday, January 25 ARO was able to partner with the Martin County Ministerial Association collecting food and toiletry items. Residents, businesses, schools, churches and other organizations were part of this neighbor helping neighbor drive. In total 4 pallets full of things needed for employees and their families were collected. ARO was onsite to help collect items, pack items, and deliver these items to the USP Big Sandy.

Mills said, "It's amazing to watch as the impact of ARO continues to be lived out in tangible ways each day in Martin County. It's because of the faithfulness of God's people all over the country who have partnered and continue to partner with the ministry of ARO, Christ's love is realized through our ministry. I am overwhelmed by the selfless giving of those who believe in our mission at ARO. This is what the love of Christ looks like in action. Thank you to all our ministry partners."



(The two pictures above is just a small snapshot of Christ's love in action. The first picture is the partnership with the Martin County Ministerial Association and ARO. The next picture is the 20 boxes being delivered to USP Big Sandy.)

Please continue to pray for our ministry at ARO. Each day is a new day of open door opportunities. ARO needs to always have the mind and heart of Christ in all we do. Your prayers and financial support help us to be in tune with Christ and have the means to love on our neighbors each day. Thanks for partnering with us!

Upcoming Partnerships

ARO is getting geared up to welcome in the arrival of our first few teams of the year. We are excited to partner with Mount Vernon Nazarene University's Nursing Department from Mount Vernon, Ohio. They will arrive with 17 nursing majors and 3 professors Saturday, February 23 through Friday, March 1. We will be partnering with Addiction Recovery Care and the Martin County School District during their time with us. The month of March we will welcome in Dordt College from Sioux Center, Iowa. They have been a ministry partner with ARO for a number of years. Also, at the end of March the Alabama North District Church of the Nazarene will continue their partnership with ARO. As of today ARO will be partnering with 15 different work teams and this list continues to grow. God is faithful in providing incredible ministry partners with ARO.

Opportunities to Serve and Partner with ARO

You can serve and partner in many ways with Appalachia Reach Out. As of today ARO has 15 teams this year from all over the country that will come and serve alongside us in ministry. You can come and serve individually, as a family, or with your church. ARO would love to partner with your team. Another way to partner is through prayer, financial support (we now have a portal where you can give online) or through your donation of resources. The foundation of ARO is built on the prayer of God's people all over the world. As ARO serves the people of Martin County and beyond you can give financially (your gift is a tax deductible gift) to insure the ongoing ministry of ARO. Finally, you can donate clothing, household items, appliances, furniture, etc... If you have any questions, please contact us at:

APPALACHIA REACH OUT
PO Box 2147
Inez, Kentucky 41224
(606) 298-7470
arokentucky@gmail.com