

Holy Trinity Outreach Team Annual Report – Jan 2020

Holy Trinity's Outreach Team, co-chaired by Robert Lux and Karen Owen, provided support to a very diverse array of organizations and missions in 2019. Mickey Vallejo, Jean Campbell, and Ethel Zepp are also current team members, while Nancy Roth and Don Meyneke also served part-year. Outreach events that drew the most volunteers from our church were the April Meals-of-Hope food packaging event (30 volunteers!) and the AIDS Partnership Dinner. Throughout the year, nearly every member of the Holy Trinity congregation has supported outreach in some fashion, from food donations each Sunday provided to Church and Community Outreach (CCO), Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP), and the FEAST Food Pantry, to Thrift Shop support where 10% of profits fund outreach programs supporting the needy.

Traditionally, a champion within the congregation or the Outreach Team provides coordination and volunteer hours, but not always. Outreach efforts connect our congregation with the community, offer the hope of God's love, and inform us of needs while learning about the many organizations we support.

Our major month-by-month accomplishments for 2019 are listed here, though many others are not mentioned but still so worthy of our thanks:

- Reducing Poverty in FL conference – in January, support was provided at a Poverty Conference attended by state and local nonprofit leaders with a goal of reducing poverty in Florida.
- Huddle in the Harbor – in February, \$230 worth of ladies' period products were collected and delivered to Huddle in the Harbor (operating out of Oldsmar Cares) to be sorted and distributed to young women whose public assistance does not cover these needed products.
- Meals of Hope – in April, our church provided 30 Volunteers plus \$450 to this meal packaging event that helps feed very low-income residents in Pinellas County.
- KAIROS – in May (and the Fall), a devoted Vestry member participated in Kairos-inside program within the Federal Penitentiary in Florida to uplift, encourage, and show love to men serving time.
- AIDS Partnership Dinner – in June we provided food, drink and live music to 18 sufferers of HIV/AIDS and their families at Good Samaritan Presbyterian/United Church of Christ in Pinellas Park.
- Dominican Development Group (DDG) – in July a \$1,000 donation plus labor was provided for maintenance and expansion of an Episcopal school in the Dominican Republic that helps over 900 children attend school. Over 40 gallons of paint were painted and other improvements made in fellowship the multi-diocesan DDG based in Tampa.
- Ex-Offenders/PERC – in November, \$400 was provided to a re-entry training program administered by Pinellas Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition to provide supplies, food, and bus passes so ex-offenders, many who become homeless after release, can get back on their feet.
- Farmworkers – the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in Florida – in November and December we collected diapers, blankets and gift cards donated by members of the congregation in this long-standing Holy Trinity outreach for Florida farmworkers living in difficult conditions and substandard housing.
- Salvation Army Bell Ringers – in December, 14 members of Holy Trinity filled up two days' of bell-ringing for the Salvation Army, raising record donations for the red kettles. The Salvation Army preaches salvation and works locally to meet basic human needs without discrimination.
- HEP, CCO, and FEAST – every month of the year members of Outreach Team made food deliveries to the respective recipient organizations to feed the homeless and needy in our community.

We wish to thank every member of our congregation for supporting these important ministries, and we encourage you to join our efforts. The simple act of providing a prepared dish, a few dollars in the outreach jar or a financial contribution or gift cards is so helpful. Donating to, shopping at, or volunteering with the Holy Trinity Thrift Shop is another important way to help your Outreach Team *welcome, love, and serve* our wider community.