

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH | CONWAY, AR

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE PARISH



October 20, 2019

As we celebrate World Missions Sunday this weekend, it is fitting to report highlights of the St. Joseph Missions Committee over the past 12 months. The Missions Committee remains focused on involving parishioners in evangelization and corporal works of mercy to those primarily outside the parish walls. Most of these works are performed right here in the Conway area.

Did you know...?

Missions for Transitions: More than 50 parish volunteers collected, delivered, and setup households (furniture/furnishings) for 44 individuals and families in the Conway area, all referred by local shelters, charitable organizations, or the parish.

Pack the Pantry: More than 4 tons of food was collected and distributed to Conway area food pantries such as the Soul Food Café Mission, Bethlehem House, and Last Chance Ministries. These ministries fed over 500 hungry people each week combined. Over \$5,000 in cash donations were also collected to support local programs addressing hunger.

Handyman Services: More than 40 parish volunteers performed 18 projects (repairs/maintenance) on Saturdays and some weekdays through **Handymen Evangelizing Local Parishioners (HELP)** requests and referrals, and for local charitable organizations and shelters serving the poor, homeless, and others at risk. The projects were performed in Conway and in other Faulkner County communities, including a refurbishing project of a "recycled" Habitat for Humanity house.

Community Assistance Program: 61 local families were helped with utilities, rent, medical, and other needs. Most were referred by area agencies, and some were parishioners. More than \$25,000 in assistance was given.

Bethlehem House Meals: 18 evening meals were adopted by parish families and organizations, feeding over 800 homeless and hungry combined, prepared and served by over 80 volunteers at the Bethlehem House in Conway.

City of Hope Outreach (CoHO) Hope Home for Men: This transition house for men in Conway received monthly donations totaling \$5,004 this past year to support their operations.

Harbor Home for Women: This Conway residential community for women in crisis received monthly donations totaling \$3,100 this past year, as well as donations of household supplies.

Family Mission Trip: During Spring break, parish families with kids worked on projects at the St. Joseph's Home in North Little Rock.



Conway Ministry Center: Monthly financial donations for Rapid Rehousing program and meat for their food pantry totaled \$12,600 this past year.

Project Encounter: Parish families distributed 400 Blessing Bags to the needy on Conway area streets. These bags were organized and assembled by our parish's youth with contents donated by parishioners.

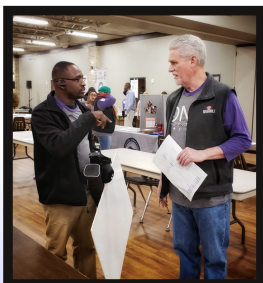
Lending Library: Books & CDs were updated regularly during liturgical seasons. These were provided to parishioners (free of charge) from the kiosk located in the chapel vestibule.

Depressed Parish Support: This past year, 10 parish volunteers traveled to St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pine Bluff, AR, and later to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Brinkley, AR, to assist with repairs and maintenance of their parish buildings and grounds.

Men of Faith Appalachia Mission Trip: 19 men traveled to Kentucky in June to help 5 families over 3 workdays in some of the poorest counties in the country by performing house repairs, installing handicap ramps, and improving dilapidated living conditions.

Local Partnerships: During the last 12 months, your Missions Committee has partnered with local organizations and businesses for supporting non-profit events, and for obtaining donations for our parish's missions. These include:

- Hosted the Empty Bowls Dinner at St. Joseph Church benefiting the **Bethlehem House**
- Supported **CAPCA's** Project Homeless Connect event, and Holiday Food Box & Book Drive
- Supported **CoHO's** Gala and Thanksgiving Meal events.
- Provided financial and volunteer support to **CoHO** for relocating displaced residents of the Brookside Village Mobile Home Park
- Provided volunteers for refurbishing a "recycled" **Habitat for Humanity** house
- **Habitat for Humanity Restore** donated used furniture for Missions for Transitions clients
- Purchased furniture from the **St. Joseph's Flea Market** for Missions for Transitions
- Partner **Catholic Financial Life** matched cash donations for Pack the Pantry & obtained furniture for Missions for Transitions



Did you know that there are plenty of opportunities for you and your family to get involved in the missionary work of the parish? Most of these opportunities are right here in the Conway area. You can also support your parish's missionary work monthly with donations in the purple collection envelopes and by donating food in the Pack the Pantry bags. Visit www.stjparish.org/Missions or contact Don Greenland, don.greenland@nabholz.com, for more information. Thank you for supporting the Lord's work through your time, talent, and treasure.