

# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH | CONWAY, AR

## MISSIONS OUTREACH

### REPORT TO THE PARISH



October 18, 2020

As we celebrate World Missions Sunday this weekend, it is fitting to report highlights of the St. Joseph Missions Outreach over the past 12 months. The Missions Outreach 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.

#### How the Parish Served

**Pack the Pantry:** Due to the pandemic, food donations were down this past year, but over \$16,500 in cash donations were collected - a 230% increase. These donations supported local programs addressing hunger in our community by helping the Soul Food Café Mission, Bethlehem House, Womens Shelter, The Ministry Center and Harbor Home for Women stock and maintain their food pantries. These ministries feed over 500 hungry people each week.

**Handyman Services:** More than 30 parish volunteers performed 21 projects (repairs/maintenance) through **Handymen Evangelizing Local Parishioners (HELP)** requests and referrals. Work was also done for local charitable organizations and shelters serving the poor, homeless, and others at risk. Projects, which were performed in the Conway area, included building handicap ramps for the elderly, home repairs, CoHO Home for Men repairs, as well as general repairs & maintenance work for other local shelters. Supplies for the projects cost \$7460. Volunteers also assisted the Conway Human Development Center with setting up their annual Polar Express event.

**Missions for Transitions:** Parishioners & friends served over 1000 volunteer-hours delivering and setting up furniture & furnishings for 151 individuals in 64 households in the Conway area, all referred by local shelters, charitable organizations, or the parish. Service requests increased 42% during the past 12 months.

**Community Assistance Program:** 52 local families and non-profit organizations were helped with utilities payments, rent, medical, and other needs. Families were referred by area agencies and parishioners. More than \$33,000 in assistance was given.

**Mission Trips:** The annual Family Mission Trip, as well as the annual Men of Faith Appalachia Mission trip, were cancelled this year due to the pandemic. In February, however, parish volunteers participated in the Guatemalan Mission trip with St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Conway. This mission included construction and medical teams. Over 400 people were served in the clinics, and 25 cases were handled at the hospital. Repairs were made to the hospital & orphanage.

**"One Church" Campaign:** In August, an online event was held to raise money for the One Church campaign - benefiting Holy Spirit Church in Hamburg. To date, \$8190 in donations were received.



**Delta Disciples:** Twelve parish volunteers provided maintenance, repairs and other services for needy families and non-profit organizations in the McGehee area during a long weekend in January.

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

**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 donations totaling \$4514 for monthly operating expenses, as well as for household supplies and Gala sponsorship.

**Project Encounter:** Parish families distributed 500 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.

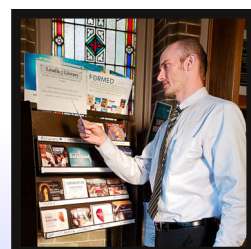
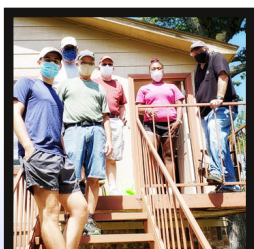
**Arkansas Dream Center:** 12 bicycles were purchased and donated for their Christmas store.

**Bethlehem House Meals:** 16 evening meals were adopted by parish families and organizations, feeding over 800 homeless and hungry combined, prepared for the Bethlehem House in Conway.

**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.

**Local Partnerships:** During the last 12 months, Missions Outreach 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**. \$856 was raised this year
- Supported **CAPCA's** Project Homeless Connect event, and Holiday Food Box & Book Drive
- Supported **CoHO's** Gala and Thanksgiving Meal events.
- 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



You can support your parish's missionary work with monthly donations in the purple collection envelopes and by donating food in the Pack the Pantry bags. There are also plenty of opportunities for you and your family to volunteer - mostly right here in the Conway area. Visit [www.stjparish.org/missions](http://www.stjparish.org/missions) to learn more about the parish's mission outreach programs and how to volunteer. To receive notifications about mission events that you may be interested in, please register at [www.stjosephmissionsoutreach.duplie.com](http://www.stjosephmissionsoutreach.duplie.com). Thank you for supporting the Lord's work through your time, talent, and treasure.