

**ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GREAT FALLS, VIRGINIA
OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
2019**



ST FRANCIS OUTREACH

*This booklet is a summary of Outreach initiatives
in 2019 and plans for 2020*

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Outreach Committee Mission Statement

To identify needs in our community, our area, and the world where our financial commitment and hands-on involvement aid in alleviating human suffering, empower those in need to become self-sufficient, and strengthen the love of Christ in both the people we touch and within ourselves.

We begin this report with heartfelt thanks to all the Franciscans and Creche families who donated so generously to Outreach drives and to the Franciscans who gave their time and talents to:

- feed the homeless and needy
- help children improve their literacy skills
- provide Sunday dinners for teens in crisis
- renovate and build homes for deserving low income families
- work on substandard housing and tutor children in Appalachia
- host a Christmas party for families in need
- raise funds for charitable causes.

Hands-On Outreach

We continued our St. Francis tradition of hands-on Outreach with the following activities during 2019:

- Serving youth in crisis: Two Sundays every month Franciscans teamed up to prepare and serve dinner at the Second Story teen shelter in Vienna, VA.
- Tutoring underserved children: Franciscans work on literary skills with children at Garfield Elementary School in Anacostia most Tuesdays during the school year (Please see separate report).
- Feeding those in need: Franciscans prepared and handed out over 700 bagged meals in 2019 for the Salvation Army Grate Patrol, which serves the homeless and needy in DC and Loudoun County. In October, we made nine gallons of soup to serve to DC's homeless.
- Providing shelter and stability: Franciscans volunteered during Habitat for Humanity Build Days and during the week-long summer service trip to Appalachia (Please see separate report).
- Sharing God's love: Franciscans hosted its Samaritan Ministry annual Christmas party for needy families in DC and provided a lunch buffet, Christmas crafts, Bingo, and a "shop" for parents to select gifts for their children.

Related events:

- Apron Fundraiser for Second Story – Franciscans crafted and sold beautiful aprons from donated fabric to benefit Second Story, the local teen shelter.
- Children's Book Fair at Garfield Elementary in Anacostia (Please see separate report).

- Mini-Walkathon for the Homeless – Held at St. Francis in September to raise money for Samaritan Ministry’s Empower the Homeless Campaign.

Outreach Drives

Outreach held eight successful drives in 2019:

- Diaper Drive for Embry Rucker Homeless Shelter
- Children’s Book Drive for the Garfield Elementary School Book Fair
- Supplies Drive for the Medical Brigade Mission Trip to Honduras
- School Supplies Drive for Second Story
- Food Drive for SHARE of McLean’s food pantry
- Toiletries Drive for the Homeless
- Thanksgiving Food Drive for Second Story
- Children’s Christmas Gift Drive

Support for Charitable Causes

The St. Francis Vestry approved funding of \$30,000 for St. Francis Outreach programs in 2019 to support local and global needs and immediate and longer-term concerns. The following causes were supported by St. Francis Outreach funds:

Immediate Local Needs

- SHARE of McLean – Provides assistance to people in need including a food and clothing pantry.
- Salvation Army Grate Patrol – Provides a mobile canteen to serve the homeless and needy. Outreach funds were used to purchase food and supplies for making bagged meals as well as socks, which we distributed on the Grate Patrol.

- Shepherd's Center of Great Falls – Organizes volunteers to provide rides for homebound senior citizens.

Care for Children

- Second Story (formerly Alternative House) – Provides a teen shelter for local youth in crisis; young mothers' program; homeless youth program; safe, supportive after school programs; and other community support for hundreds of young people and families.
- Boys Home of Virginia – Founded in 1906 by an Episcopal priest. The Home is for boys who have no suitable home or whose needs are best served away from home. Programs are designed to develop boys mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually.
- Jackson-Feild Homes – Provides innovative, intensive therapeutic services using best practice trauma models for boys and girls in residential care and community-based services.
- St. Francis Creche Preschool Scholarship – Provides need-based assistance to a Creche preschool family. The Creche promotes spiritual, creative, social, athletic, and cognitive development in students.

Long-Term Needs

- Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington – Founded in 1986 by 12 Episcopal churches, including St. Francis (Please see separate report).
- Housing Up – Provides affordable housing and comprehensive support services to homeless and low-income families.
- Habitat for Humanity NOVA (Please see separate report).

- Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Foundation – Empowers and improves the lives of people with cognitive, physical, and psychological disabilities through the benefits of equine assisted activities and therapies. This includes a program that assists recovering wounded warriors at no direct cost to the veteran or the family.

International Missions

- Five Talents International – Provides micro-lending in developing countries, including South Sudan
- American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans – Seeks to focus attention on the needs and priorities of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and assist in meeting the needs of the Sudanese peoples.
- Solar Sister – Trains and supports women in rural African communities to build sustainable businesses that deliver clean energy directly to people without power.
- Ezo Diocese, South Sudan – (Please see separate report).

SUMMARIES OF KEY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

SOUTH SUDAN (Jack Mathias)

St. Francis continues to maintain relationships with two Episcopal organizations in South Sudan: the St. Francis Basic School in Juba and the Diocese of Ezo. In general, the political and security situation in South Sudan improved in 2019. There was less violence, although the situation remains fragile.

We have a Covenant relationship with the Diocese of Ezo, located in the western part of South Sudan, near the border of South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic. Ezo is extremely remote and lacks basic services such as clean water, electricity, cell phone coverage, or mail. Our primary point of contact in Ezo is Bishop John Zawo, who visited St. Francis in 2018.

During 2019, we sent Bishop John funds that he used to purchase food, medicine, and other goods for the people of Ezo. These funds also enabled Bishop John to repair an SUV that he uses to visit churches in his diocese. We maintained regular email and telephone contact with Bishop John throughout the year.

Following Bishop John's visit in 2018, a group of 8-12 parishioners (including the rector) formed the Ezo Committee. This committee meets monthly to discuss how we can live up to our Covenant promises. The committee has renewed our contacts with the Sherborne Deanery in Salisbury, England, which also supports Ezo. It has been useful to share our experiences.

The St. Francis Ezo Committee is exploring how to help Bishop John repair or replace the water well located on the diocesan compound and is hopeful for progress in 2020.

In Juba, our point of contact is Simon Bonis, a leader at the St. Francis Basic School. Simon reports that the school continues to educate hundreds of children, supported by funds from St. Francis and others.

Every week, St. Francis remembers the people of South Sudan in our Prayers of the People. Their Christian witness is an inspiration to us all. We provide financial support through designated parishioner contributions and fundraisers, such as the Gala.

TUTORING IN ANACOSTIA (Pat Ward)

Most Tuesdays during the school year, Franciscan volunteers head to Garfield Elementary School in Anacostia to support the Lexia reading program used in the DC public school system. The students who are tutored have been identified as needing additional help with the planned material.

In June 2019, our tutors organized an enormously successful Book Fair, thanks to generous donations from Franciscans, Creche families, the Fairfax County Public Library, the Nysmith School, and the Lab School in DC. Maryland and DC tutors joined Franciscan tutors in Harris Hall to sort almost 2000 children's books. The Fair resulted in 325 students returning home with at least five

books; some also chose books for their younger siblings. Teachers selected special books for their classrooms.

Franciscan tutors Ginger Roll, Pam Tuma, Lois Haywood, Rob Mercker and Pat Ward meet at St. Francis to carpool downtown together in the “Tutor Tran”. To join their fun, contact Pat Ward at patwa@cox.net.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (Phil Pifer)

2019 marked the fourth year since St. Francis reintroduced the Habitat for Humanity volunteer initiative. Franciscans work in partnership with a group of area churches called FICH (the Fairfax Interfaith Coalition for Habitat).

Franciscans have the opportunity to participate in 12 “Build Days” each year to work alongside our FICH friends to build homes for needy and deserving families. Providing these homes at a low cost creates a nurturing foundation for these families to live safely and raise their children to be healthy and productive members of society. We have over 60 people on our volunteer list who volunteer as their schedules allow.

Build Days are scheduled throughout 2020. Currently the April-June schedules are posted. For specific information or to volunteer, please go to our SignUpGenius page at: [tinyurl.com/Habitat-IC](https://www.signupgenius.com/Habitat-IC). For any questions or to get on our email distribution, contact Phil Pifer (philippifer@mac.com).

SAMARITAN MINISTRY OF GREATER WASHINGTON (Dirk Herkhof)

St Francis actively supports the Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, a faith-based partnership that serves people coping with poverty, homelessness, unemployment, addiction, or other debilitating challenges that affect their quality of life. The program helps participants develop strengths-based capacities and overcome barriers so they can lead sustainable and fulfilling lives. This may include skills-based education and help with employment and housing.

More than 60 area churches are Samaritan Ministry partners. Participating churches provide groceries, clothing, toiletries, funds, and volunteers. St Francis is one of many churches that has a partner representative serving as a liaison to the organization. Currently, Dirk Herkhof serves in that role.

St. Francis and its parishioners supported Samaritan Ministry in 2019 in many ways, including:

- Volunteering at the Northern Virginia office
- Staging the Empower the Homeless Walkathon
- Contributing to the annual Samaritan Ministry Gala and Auction
- Sponsoring a toiletry drive
- Hosting an annual Christmas party

Samaritan Ministry will hold its Next Step Breakfast on March 12 at the National Press Club in Washington DC. The hallmark of the breakfast meeting is an inspirational address from an individual whose life has been turned around by Samaritan Ministry. This year's celebrity master of ceremony will be PBS NewsHour correspondent Yamiche Alcindor. The event is open to anyone

interested in learning more about Samaritan Ministry. St. Francis traditionally hosts a table reserved for parishioners and all are invited to attend.

For more information, contact St. Francis liaison Dirk Herkhof at dcherkhof@gmail.com.

DIOCESAN SERVICE TRIP TO APPALACHIAN VIRGINIA (Jane Rachal)

St. Francis participated in an annual summer mission trip to Appalachian Virginia in July 2019. Parishioner and high school student Taylor Ray served during the week-long trip that was organized for adult and youth parishioners from the North Fairfax Region of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia (formerly referred to as Region V). The mission team was led by Clifton Poole of St. Anne's Episcopal.

The mission team spent a week in St. Paul, VA, a small town that overlaps Russell and Wise counties in the southwestern corner of the state. The week's work included roofing projects and housing upgrades for residents in need; wetlands research; and tutoring of local elementary school children. The mission team worshipped with local Episcopal churches during the week in Appalachia.

The summer mission trip is open to youth (13+) and adults at St. Francis, and at area Episcopal churches. This year's trip is planned for July 11-18. Please see the website (<http://www.m3trips.com/>) for more information or contact Jane Rachal (jane.m.rachal@gmail.com)

St. Francis - 2019 Outreach Committee Donations

<u>Organizations by Mission Area</u>	Donation
<u>Immediate Local Needs</u>	
SHARE of McLean	\$ 2,500
Salvation Army Grate Patrol (March, May, June, Oct)	\$ 1,522
Cornerstones (\$3K given from 2019 Gala)	
Shepherd's Center	\$ 2,000
<u>Care for Children</u>	
Housing Up/Samaritan Ministry Xmas Party	\$ 500
Boys Home	\$ 2,000
Second Story (formerly Alternative House)	\$ 2,000
Jackson-Feild Homes	\$ 2,000
Samaritan Ministry Xmas Party Southeast DC	\$ 400
Creche Scholarship	\$ 873
<u>Long-Term Needs</u>	
Housing Up	\$ 3,000
Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington	\$ 3,500
Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Foundation	\$ 2,000
Habitat for Humanity NOVA (plus ~\$3K from 2019 Gala)	\$ 2,500
<u>International Missions</u>	
Five Talents (micro-lending)	\$ 2,000
American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans	\$ 500
South Sudan (Main recipient of 2019 Gala Proceeds)	\$ 1,705
Solar Sister	\$ 1,000
TOTAL	\$ 30,000

ARE YOU A PERSON WHO...

- FEELS GOOD HELPING OTHERS?
- WANTS TO FIND WAYS TO DO MORE?
- BELIEVES THE SECOND GREAT COMMANDMENT?
- DOES NOT HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO SPARE?
- IS A STUDENT LOOKING FOR SERVICE HOURS?
- WANTS TO MEET PEOPLE AND HAVE FUN?

PLEASE JOIN
US!!!

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO
GET INVOLVED AND
VOLUNTEER YOUR TALENTS:

- PICK A SINGLE EVENT TO HELP WITH
- JOIN IN AN OUTREACH CAUSE YOU HAVE PASSION FOR
- CONTRIBUTE TO OUR DRIVES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
- SUPPORT US FINANCIALLY THROUGH SPECIAL GIVING
- JOIN THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

CONTACT ANY EVENT ORGANIZER,
MISSION LEADER, MEMBER OF THE
OUTREACH COMMITTEE, OR OUR HARD-
WORKING COMMITTEE CHAIR
GINGER ROLL

ST. FRANCIS OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES 2020

- January** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
Tutoring in Anacostia
Diaper Drive for Embry Rucker Shelter
Habitat for Humanity (1/15)
Survival Supplies Drive for Puerto Rico
- February** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
Tutoring in Anacostia
Diaper Drive for Embry Rucker Shelter (ends 2/16)
Habitat for Humanity (2/8)
- March** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
Tutoring in Anacostia
Habitat for Humanity (3/4)
Children's Book Drive
- April** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
Tutoring in Anacostia
Habitat for Humanity (4/15)
Grate Patrol DC (4/18)
Children's Book Drive
- May** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
Tutoring in Anacostia
Grate Patrol Loudoun (5/30)
Habitat for Humanity (5/16)
Children's Book Drive (ends 5/17)
- June** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
Habitat for Humanity (6/13)
Drive for Medical Brigade Mission Trip
Garfield Book Fair (date TBD)

- July** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
 Habitat for Humanity
 School Supplies Drive for Second Story
 Appalachia Virginia Service Trip (7/11–7/18)
- August** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
 Habitat for Humanity
 Grate Patrol Loudoun (8/29)
 Food Drive for SHARE of McLean
- September** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
 Habitat for Humanity
 Toiletries Drive for Samaritan Ministry
 Empower the Homeless Fundraiser TBD
- October** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
 Tutoring in Anacostia
 Grate Patrol DC (+ soup) (10/17)
 Habitat for Humanity
 Thanksgiving Food Drive (beg. 10/11)
- November** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
 Tutoring in Anacostia
 Habitat for Humanity
 Thanksgiving Food Drive (ends 11/8)
 Children's Christmas Gift Drive
- December** Second Story Dinners (2 Sundays)
 Tutoring in Anacostia
 Habitat for Humanity
 Children's Christmas Gift Drive (ends 12/6)
 Samaritan Ministry Christmas Party (TBD)

Outreach Committee meetings are generally held on the 2nd Sunday each month following the 10 a.m. service.

St. Francis Outreach - Key Organization Contacts (Feb 2020)

Get answers about each organization and connect with volunteer opportunities

Organizations We Support	Parish Contact
American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans afrecs.org	Jack Mathias jackmathi@aol.com
Boys Home of Virginia boyshomeofva.org	Ginger Roll rollginger@icloud.com
Cornerstones / Embry-Rucker Shelter cornerstonesva.org	Ginger Roll rollginger@icloud.com
Five Talents fivetalents.org	Ginger Roll rollginger@icloud.com
Habitat for Humanity tinyurl.com/Habitat-IC habitatnova.org	Phil Pifer philipjpifer@mac.com
Housing Up housingup.org	Ginger Roll rollginger@icloud.com
Jackson-Feild Behavioral Health Services jacksonfeild.org	Ginger Roll rollginger@icloud.com
Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Foundation ltrf.org	Barbara Hattwick bhattwick@aol.com
Virginia Hospital Center Medical Brigade vhcmedicalbrigade.org	Ginger Roll rollginger@icloud.com
Appalachia Service Trip m3trips.com	Jane Rachal jane.m.rachal@gmail.com
St. Francis Christmas Party for DC Families stfrancisgreatfalls.org/outreach	Ginger Roll rollginger@icloud.com
Salvation Army Grate Patrol salvationarmynca.org/gratepatrol	Ginger Roll rollginger@icloud.com
Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington samaritanministry.org	Dirk Herkhof dcherkhof@gmail.com
Second Story (formerly Alternative House) second-story.org	Jennifer Murphy jenniferomurphy@gmail.com
SHARE of McLean shareofmclean.org	Ginger Roll rollginger@icloud.com
Shepherd's Center of Great Falls thescgf.org	Phil Pifer philipjpifer@mac.com
Solar Sister solarsister.org	Katherine Lucey lucey.katherine@gmail.com
South Sudan – Ezo Diocese stfrancisgreatfalls.org/outreach	Jack Mathias jackmathi@aol.com
South Sudan – Juba School stfrancisgreatfalls.org/outreach	Sue Kawmy suekaw6@gmail.com
St. Francis Creche Scholarship stfrancisgreatfalls.org	Jane Keihn creche@stfrancisgreatfalls.org
Supplies Drives stfrancisgreatfalls.org/outreach	Ginger Roll rollginger@icloud.com
Tutoring Anacostia stfrancisgreatfalls.org/outreach	Pat Ward patwa@cox.net
Outreach Committee Chair stfrancisgreatfalls.org/outreach	Ginger Roll rollginger@icloud.com