

OUTREACH MINISTRY

About the Outreach Ministry

In 2001, Ted and Kathy Clark were recruited to handle occasional benevolence requests from the general public. Since then, we have expanded to a team of 12 which focuses on assisting individuals and families in the community with financial needs. Many of the people we assist are referred to us by members of the Harpeth Hills Church family. We have become especially involved with three families whom we have assisted with school clothing, home renovations, car repairs, and health needs.

What is the mission of the Outreach Ministry?

Creating positive change in others and ourselves as we work in our community to alleviate material and spiritual poverty, so that we all might glorify God.

Our various projects throughout each year include:

- **Mending Hearts:** We sponsor Mending Hearts, a half-way house for women, by aiding their residents with rent and utilities, building handicap ramps, providing toiletries, air conditioners, household items, and furniture. Recently, we teamed up with the Cross Point Church to remodel an old apartment complex purchased by Mending Hearts. We also host an annual Christmas/Graduation party for the residents, staff, and their families.
- **Joelton Elementary School:** We serve Joelton Elementary School by assisting some of its student's families with rent, utilities, and school uniforms. We provide books for the school library and help with the school's accelerated reading program. We partner with Joelton Church of Christ in supplying food for their FUEL program which provides weekend meals for many of the children.
- **Ramp Building and Home Repair:** We build outdoor ramps for the homes of handicapped individuals. We also make other home repairs to roofs, kitchens, porches, plumbing, electrical, and bathrooms for families in need.
- **Christmas Project:** Since 2002, our annual Christmas project has provided gifts to children and elderly shut-ins throughout our community.
- **Food Drive:** We coordinate multiple food drives every year; collecting food and supplies for local area food banks.
- **Donation Days:** This year we sponsored an event we call Donation Days, which provided five U-Haul truckloads of furniture, books, food, clothing, and appliances for the Inner City Thrift Store, Joelton Elementary School and Joelton Church of Christ's furniture room. This will be an annual event for our team going forward.

What are your goals for the future?

- To provide education and life skills training as well as Bible classes for the ladies at Mending Hearts and for other residents in our community
- To expand our partnership with Joelton Elementary School
- To grow our ramp building and home repair ministry
- To work with other churches and agencies to provide programs that help individuals and families change their circumstances (via education, literacy training, job training, money management etc.) so that they can get out of the desperate situations they find themselves in now
- We would like to have a card-writing ministry that follows up with the families we assist.

How can Harpeth Hills members get involved?

The Outreach Team meets every month. Contact Jessica Steen jessicas@harpethhills.org for meeting times and service opportunities. We need people with imagination, vision, and a willingness to work.