

NOVEMBER 2023, ISSUE 6



THE AGAPE MONETA NEWSLETTER

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



“GOD IS NOT UNJUST; HE WILL NOT FORGET YOUR WORK AND THE LOVE YOU HAVE SHOWN HIM AS YOU HAVE HELPED HIS PEOPLE AND CONTINUE TO HELP THEM.”

HEBREWS 6:10

Welcome to the Agape SML monthly newsletter!
We're glad you're here.

Thanks for subscribing to our newsletter, where you can stay up-to-date on everything happening at Agape Center SML!

The Agape Center at Smith Mountain Lake provides mentoring, food, clothing, household goods and more to those in our community who need help through difficult times.

Over 300 volunteers serve an average of 800 families per month from Bedford & Franklin counties.



Agape Center SML
invites you to feed a family for
THANKSGIVING

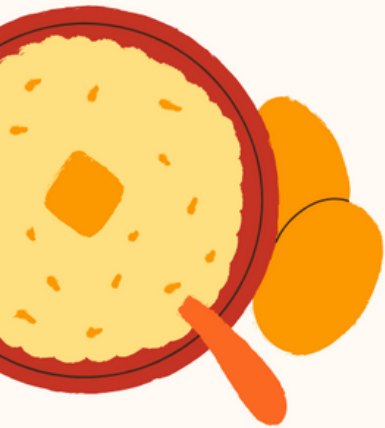
Give thanks and make a difference by helping 800 families, from Bedford to Rocky Mount, enjoy Thanksgiving dinner!

Each family will receive a Walmart gift card that is limited to the purchase of 'turkey/ham/produce'.

Thanksgiving Dinner 2023
\$25 per family

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever." Chronicles 16:34

Donate





The Agape volunteers have been busy making tags for our annual Angel Tree. We needed to prepare 1400 tags to represent the children of families we serve.

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS '23

We know teens can often be the most difficult to shop for. If you need help selecting a gift, feel free to use our [Amazon Angel Tree Teen gift registry](#) by using the QR code below. You can choose your gift, and have it mailed direct to the registry address at checkout.



Please join us in shopping for the 1400 gifts we will be delivering to children in need in Franklin and Bedford counties this year. Agape Angel Tree tags are available at most of our member churches, at Gifts Ahoy, and through the Agape Facility. Each tag represents a child from a family we currently serve, from infants through age 17, and have great gift ideas noted on the tags. Gifts should be a single item, new, unwrapped and a value of about \$30. Return gifts to the location where you selected your tag, or directly to the Agape Center. Parents will shop in our Christmas store for their children's gifts and will be able to take them home and wrap. If you prefer, you can sponsor a child with a \$30 donation per gift and someone will shop for you -- make checks payable to the Agape Center or [donate online](#). Thank you for helping us to bless these children, as we show them the love of Jesus at Christmas!





SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE CHARITY HOME TOUR A HUGE SUCCESS!

We want to thank all of the volunteers who contributed their time, and all of the donors who purchased tickets. We also want to thank all the people who opened up their homes for the Tour. If you get a chance, please visit the sponsors of the event.



JUST IN TIME FOR THANKSGIVING!

At Agape, we see time and again that the Lord provides what we need when we need it. While we are blessed with so many donations, the approaching Thanksgiving holiday found us short of an important staple: potatoes! According to Judy Harper, Agape's Pantry Leader, "while we have had produce donated recently, we've not had potatoes for some time." On November 11, things changed! We received 815 pounds of potatoes, thanks to the generosity of two area gleaning teams. The Christiansburg New River Valley Gleaners, who sponsor the "potato drop," transported the potatoes to Trinity Ecumenical's gleaning team. Trinity then bagged them and shared with other regional and local organizations, including the Agape Center. This is such a great example of God's timing! It also underscores the valuable relationship among local and regional organizations cooperating to serve those in need in our community.





When we feel the hand of God impacting our lives, we want to share the experience. That was in Robin Leftwich's heart when she met recently with Agape mentor Karen Jones.

Feeling God's Presence

ROBIN'S STORY

"I could feel God's presence at that scene and was so grateful," Robin said of the October night her grandson Jaheim survived a frightening car accident off Hwy 24.

Jaheim, who has lived with his grandmother Robin since he was small, fell asleep at the wheel when driving home on October 31. His car went down a ravine, splitting a tree in the descent.

"There was no way anyone could have seen the car from the road the way it landed," Robin said.

Miraculously surviving the crash, Jaheim was able to get out of the car and crawl to the top of the hill. His phone remained intact. He contacted 911, and his grandmother.

When Robin arrived at the scene she said it was "calm, without panic" and the emergency services teams were kind and helpful.

Meeting with Karen on November 4, Robin described the incident, and the huge difference Agape has made for her family over the years – from clothing to food, and even helpful advice on how to apply for college loans.

She exclaimed how kind and truly genuine the volunteers are, and how she values the opportunity to pray with a mentor at every appointment. She is especially proud of Jaheim, a student at CVCC in Lynchburg.

Karen was delighted to join Robin in a prayer of praise to God for protecting him that evening!