

Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

APRIL 2022



Easter is on Sunday, April 17th! Do you have any special Easter traditions like chocolate Easter bunnies, jelly beans, Easter lilies, egg hunts, etc.?

Don't forget to take time out to think about what Christ has done in your life and what the Resurrection means to you!

"He has Risen! He has Risen Indeed!"



18th Annual Agape Open Saturday May 21st - Copper Cove Golf Club

It's that time of year to start thinking golf! This event is always a lot of fun and it's our biggest fundraiser of the year. Spots are going fast!

- Registration is \$75 per person / \$300 per foursome.
- Lunch and prizes are included!
- Tournament sponsorships welcomed!

Additional details are available online @ <https://www.agapecentersml.org> or call Teresa McCain at 703-915-2976 for more information or if you have questions about volunteering that day.



"SML GIVES" IS A BIG SUCCESS



S M L G I V E S
03.16.22

"SML Gives," in its first year of operation, was a roaring success! Donations exceeded \$21,000! We are so appreciative of everyone that made donations and prayed for this wonderful cause!

We raised more than enough money to cover the cost of the trailer for the firewood we provide to families for heating. We will be able to purchase a snowblade, too, to remove snow from our parking lot! We are feeling so blessed; look what God can do!

“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

Look How Big Our God Is

“Hello everyone! What an incredible day it was at



Tracy Dunn

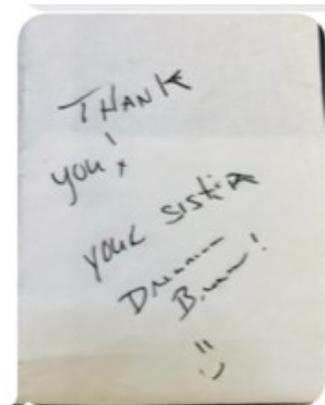
Agape. Let me start by telling you how BIG our God is. But first let's start with the back story. It all began with one of our clients having car problems. She went to O'Reilly's Auto Parts where she met a young man who helped her with the repairs and got her car up and running free of charge. Then she went on to share with me how he told her about Agape.

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charge. Then she went on to share with me how he told her about Agape. This young man planted a seed by showing her the love of Christ. And because of him she shows up at Agape and ended up accepting Jesus. Isn't it CRAZY how God orchestrates all of this and why our obedience is so important?

Then it hit me! God has really been nudging me to encourage our mentors to show up at 9:30 AM to pray prior to serving. Well, today was the first time we gathered together to do just that and look how God showed up!!! Coincidence??? I don't think so! I'm just so blown away. And you have no idea what it did to my heart to look up and see the mentor team show up early ready to pray. I am so grateful and appreciate each and every one of you so much!!!

When we finished our mentor session, she cried quite a bit, but ended up with tears of JOY!!! Oh, FYI, this is the note she left in my room written on a tissue.”



Love in Action

The ladies from Sew Sisters, headed by Lori Susan, donated 35 of these beautiful handmade lap quilts for adults and children to Agape in March. What an amazing gift of love!

Here is a little background about Sew Sisters.

They have approximately 15 members that meet once per month to sew for various organizations.



They have donated to hospitals, hospice, veterans, NICU, nursing homes, single moms, Afghanistan refugees, etc. They are always looking for organizations like Agape that give back to the community

When Lori heard about Agape at her church (Eastlake Community) and also from Karen Burroughs, an Agape volunteer and personal friend, her group chose Agape for the quilts. She said, “We are all humble servants of the Lord and blessed to be able to share our sewing talents with our community. Our mission statement is: *‘Making a difference one quilt at a time!’*”



"...Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and tomorrow." Hebrews 4:12

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT: OUR STORE



Alice S

When clients arrive for their monthly appointment, one stop that just about everyone takes advantage of is visiting the Agape store. The volunteers give the clients a wonderful shopping experience.

This month, they can choose many different Easter items. There are Easter baskets, colorful clothing and more!



Donna G

The clothing is rotated by season so there are always new things to see. There is something for all ages: 6 months to 90+, men, women, and children, petite to XXL, etc.

Here are some of the other items:

- Bras and underwear
- Shoes and socks
- Coats
- Personal care items like shampoo, and conditioner
- Adult diapers
- Costume jewelry

Donations of these types of items can be made at Agape the 1st thru 4th Tuesday and Thursday from 10 AM –2 PM and the 1st and 3rd Saturday from 9 AM— 12PM.



Dollie K and Cindy K



Linda K

"Then he said to them all: Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

AGAPE NRV NOW HAS A PERMANENT HOME

Joe Davidson has been waiting for over two years to make this announcement! The Agape Center NRV officially closed on their permanent home in the New River Valley. In 2019, Joe made a trip up to the Agape Center in Moneta and met Sue Lipscomb for the first time. After touring the 27,000 SF facility and hearing the impact the Agape Center was making on thousands of lives in Bedford and Franklin Counties, Joe became overwhelmed with the desire to see the same type of ministry started right in his home, the New River Valley.



He began to share the dream and vision with others... a collaborative, multi-church supported, outreach center not only focused on satisfying physical needs of people, but its primary focus being to address people's spiritual needs through prayer and genuine, loving relationships which lead to transformation. Other friends, ministry leaders, pastors and business leaders began to visit the Agape Center and catch the vision with Joe.

In March of 2020, they held an interest meeting. It was intended to be small. Joe only invited 12 people from 4 different churches. He ended up having 24 people from 14 different churches show up, all with the same heart, vision and urgency to see this ministry birthed in the NRV.

Now, two years later, after growing to 11 member churches and combining 4 different ministries (two food banks, a clothing bank, and a diaper pantry) in our temporary location, the Agape Center NRV has its own 27,000 SF multi-building 5+ acre campus to call home. Even though he could see it as clear as day in 2019, it's hard for him to believe. In closing, Joe said, "I'm so beyond blown away by all the Lord has done, and I'm bursting with anticipation with all He will do to love and serve the people here in the NRV."



“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all.” Acts 4:33



WE WANT YOU!

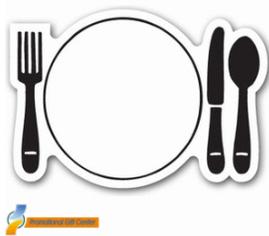
We need volunteers, especially on Saturdays from 9 AM—12:30 PM in every department, including, data collection, runners, clothing store, small household items, large furniture and being mentors. We need muscle, too!

And the Woodchuckers need help chopping wood for those in need that use wood for their primary heat source.

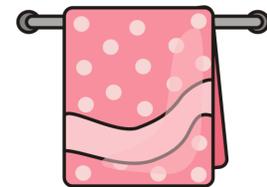
Join our team, have fun and be the hands and feet of Christ on earth!

Linen Shower Results

When Sharen Cordell was asked what it was like being a runner at Agape, she said that our goal is to always have what the client needs. While it’s not always possible, it’s so much fun to be able to fill those requests. Since starting as a runner a couple years ago, she has noticed that household linens are the number one requested item. Sheets, blankets, bedspreads/quilts, towels, washcloths and kitchen towels are without a doubt highly needed items. Having a linen shower early in the year gives a big boost to stocking our shelves for the coming months and this year’s shower has been blessing in doing that again.



Several of our member churches have really pitched in to gather items as a group with many buying new items to bless the clients with. We are still in need of more in queen and king sizes as those seem to be the most popular sizes. Other requested items that are



also in need all year are pots/pans, silverware and everyday dishes. China is often donated and is beautiful but families with small children usually prefer something more durable. Sharon closed with, “*We would like to thank everyone who has so generously donated to our linen shower this year!*”

"He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:6-7

Client Confirmation

We recently asked some of our clients how their visit went with their mentor. Here is what they had to say:

- “Laura was great! Her prayer made me cry!” - Susan M.
- “Pam has a nice touch.” - Syrena B
- “I love Grace! We have a lot in common!” - Linda A.
- “Marcia is a beautiful person!” - Thelma P.
- “Laura understands me better than most people in my life.” - Marie E.

New Volunteers

Sarah Chartier—Pantry & Clothing
 Vernon Gregory—Pantry



Total Numbers Served

	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Families</u>
February 2022:	1665	494
February 2021	1928	565

of individuals that received Christ: **Infinite**

KEY DATES

Agape Open Golf Tournament: May 21st

AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

- Bedrock Church – Franklin County
- Bedrock Community Church
- Covenant Fellowship
- Franklin Heights Church – Rocky Mount, CrossPointe and Union Hall
- Dwelling Place Christian Fellowship
- EastLake Community Church
- Flint Hill Baptist Church
- Goodview Baptist Church
- Halesford Baptist Church
- Inner-Faith Fellowship Ministries
- Morgans Baptist Church
- Palestine Baptist Church
- Radford Baptist Church
- Rocky Mount Baptist Church
- Staunton Baptist Church
- Vitalize Church
- Westlake Baptist Church