



## Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

May 2017

### BY THE NUMBERS SERVED

**April 2017**  
**803 Families**  
**2639 Individuals**

**April 2016**  
**810 Families**  
**2595 Individuals**

### WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

**Laura Bagby**—Pantry  
**Roxie Crawford**—Clerk, Pantry  
**John Dunn**—Furniture  
**Susan Epling**—Clerk, Runner, USDA  
**Sandra Foley**—Baskets  
**Ann Habeeb**—Runner  
**Lisa Nester**—Baskets  
**Karen Skillman**—Receptionist  
**Sam Skillman**—Pantry  
**Margaret Whited**—Clothing  
**Chris Wood**—Furniture Pick-up

### PRAYER FOR AGAPE

Please join as you are able in prayer for Agape ministry, clients, volunteers! Come to the Conference Room at **8:45 to 9:45 am on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday** of each month.

**Thursday — May 25**

**Tuesday — June 13**

**Thursday — June 22**

## Join Ginny at the Agape Open

Join mentor Ginny Harris (right) at the 13th Annual Agape Open on Saturday, May 20th. We still have a few slots open for golfers or teams. Registration starts at 8 am, with tee off at 9 am at Mariner's Landing Golf and Country Club at Smith Mountain Lake. Prizes will be awarded for the three lowest team scores, longest drive (men and women) and closest to the pin.

Additional details and registration forms are available online at [www.agapecentersml.org](http://www.agapecentersml.org) or contact Bob Winters at 484/888-1856 or [bob.lynn.winters@gmail.com](mailto:bob.lynn.winters@gmail.com). Lunch included catered by Sue Frase!

If you don't golf, you can be a part of the support team by donating money for the Agape Volunteer sponsorship; simply make a check to Agape, or click 'donate' on the [www.agapecentersml.org](http://www.agapecentersml.org).



**Ginny Harris, Agape Mentor and golfer!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**May-June Prayer for Agape—Join the Prayer Team** in the Conference Room to pray for the day at Agape.

**May 20—Agape Annual Golf Tournament** at Mariners Landing.

**June 2 and 3—Mentor Training**—See page 6.

**September 16 — “Running for the Children”** Agape's second annual run/walk for Children's Christmas gifts.

**October 7-9—Charity Home Tour**

## Meet Another Getting Ahead Grad!

Helen Witherspoon was so excited to be accepted into the Getting Ahead Program (GAP). She thought she had nailed it with her interview, but when she was told that she would be called back *if* accepted, she had a hint of concern. She said, “I wanted to take the class so badly. I enjoyed every single class, and I didn’t miss a single one!”

She continued, “Starting and ending each session with prayer and scripture reading really enhanced the class for me. I feel whenever you invite God to be in your plans, He makes everything go well, even better than we might expect. I wish I could attend the follow-up classes but I don’t have transportation. I did learn that many of the things I was doing were good. I loved being around others in the class and hearing their stories. I never take life for granted, and I have had my problems. But I have learned if you lean on God and pray, it will work out; maybe not your way, but it will work out for the best.”

Helen has been coming to Agape since 2015. She concluded, “If it weren’t for Agape, I would not be able to provide clothes for my grandchildren; I would not have enough food for them by the end of the month.” Helen has been the guardian for her two granddaughters since birth, and they are now 8 and 11 years old. “I appreciate the help so much; I don’t know what I would do without Agape.”



Helen Witherspoon graduated with the March, 2017 Getting Ahead Program.

## Responding to God’s Voice

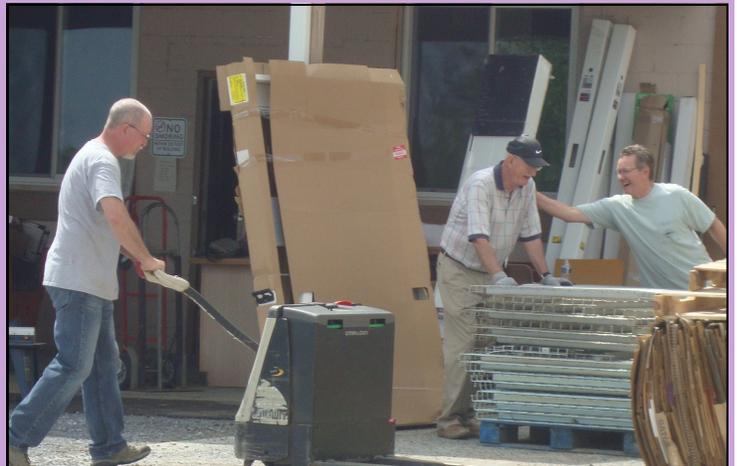


Agape recently received pallets of new ladies and children’s winter boots! Stephanie Childress, Clothing Manager expressed her excitement over this donation (through our partnership with partner program of Feeding America Southwest Virginia) that will provide a delightful and necessary surprise for clients next winter!

Agape Annex Comes to Life



This gray building was completed in April, and soon, the volunteers from Agape began filling the new space with shelving for furniture for our clients. Twenty people, including two women, spent a Friday and Saturday prepping the new space and moving furniture into it. It looked like a lot of space—until the furniture began filling it up.



The next phase involves preparing the old furniture space for house wares, linens, and other items for clients.

Top photo from left: Bob Johnston with Clyde Moore and Jeff Mangold.

Bottom photo from left: Bob Lohmeyer, Bob Johnston, Rick Johnston, Dick At lee, and Tom Galafano.

Two women, Carol Moyer and Sheila Saunders, worked both days, helping wherever needed. This team effort allowed Agape to open the next business day without any interruption in services!

## Getting Ready for Phase Two!



Now that Furniture Department has fully relocated, the old space will be thoroughly washed, painted, outfitted with lighting and electricity, and a new ceiling will be installed. Then, the next departments will begin relocating into the old furniture space, including House wares, Linens, Books. Once this phase is completed, the Clothing, and Intake Departments will expand, and front office enhancements will begin.

Photo above: A place for everything, and everything in its place in the new Furniture Department.

Right: Bob Lohmeyer and Rick Johnston do the hard work tearing down shelving while being spotted by Sheila Saunders, Clyde Moore and Jack Lipscomb.



## Linda Leedy Named Manager of USDA; takes on additional projects as well!



Linda Leedy is Manager of the USDA Department.

Linda Leedy recently retired from Carilion Clinic, and has jumped into the Agape organization with both feet! She came to Agape last October, after being encouraged by her Pastor (Justin Likens at Westlake Baptist Church) to become involved. She has served on several mission trips to Brazil and Paraguay, and now serves as mission chair for her church. Thus, serving her own community was one of her retirement goals. She has worked in the USDA, Reception, and Data Departments, and enjoys interaction with clients. So in January, when she was asked to lead the USDA team, she was very excited to say 'yes'.

Linda's background in administration has given her abilities and interests beyond the USDA. She has recently agreed to become the administrator for the Getting Ahead Program, thus relieving the leaders of the GAP to focus more on the classes and less on the paperwork. She has also taken on responsibility as the volunteer recruiter for the Charity Home Tour for the home Agape will be hosting.

In her spare time, Linda has taken up quilting, enjoys crocheting, and backyard bird-watching. She and her husband, Mason, have three children and six grandchildren.

Of Agape, Linda says, "It is a fantastic place; it is a great organization, that shows a lot of love to the clients and other volunteers. I am inspired each day I work with the volunteers and the clients at Agape."



### From The Agape Book Shelf

*Memoir of a Misfit*  
 Marci Ford



Diane Davis  
 Agape Book Reviewer

Follow Marcia down a path which leads her into deep depression drugs and alcohol. As a child, she was an introvert, never fitting in anywhere. As introverts tend to turn into themselves and shut themselves off from the world, Marci looked for help in a church. There, where she should have been accepted and drawn into the family of God, she was ignored and cast aside.

As she continued her path of destruction, she finally walked to the arms of the Savior. In Him, and Him only, she found the love, acceptance and joy she had looked for her entire life.

She knew He was the answer. Only Jesus could give her

His abundant grace, redemption and self-acceptance. "I am the light of the world. He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." Jesus, Only Jesus. John 8:12

*This story is kind of mine (except for the drugs and alcohol) as without my Lord, where would I be? Who knows? As Marcia said, "After all, Jesus was something of a misfit in His day too."*

*Also, it shows us all how we should share love and compassion to EVERYONE in church and out of church, no matter what! DD*



**THANK YOU AGAPE VOLUNTEERS!**

Thirty-six Agape volunteers helped with the annual Post Office Food Drive at the Cave Spring Post Office. Mail Carriers picked up the donated canned goods from mailboxes and Agape volunteers sorted and boxed the items for delivery to Feeding America Southwest Virginia, qualifying Agape for 50 pounds of free food for our clients! Thanks to Gary Ellis for his excellent work in coordinating this important event!

**Mentor Training Scheduled for June**

All Mentors are invited to a special training to update on various opportunities, happenings, and processes that Mentors will be handling. There are two identical sessions to pick from: Friday, June 2nd from 9:30 to 11:30 am or Saturday, June 3rd from 1-3 pm. Please contact Jan Hogle to indicate which session you can attend at [tofinishstrong@gmail.com](mailto:tofinishstrong@gmail.com) or 540-814-0643.

*Agenda*

- A Time of Praise & Thanksgiving
- A Taste of Our New Training Room
- A Taste of GA – *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World*
- A Demonstration of Our New Community Resources Data Base
- An Update on our Member Church Referral Process
- An Opportunity to Share Mentoring Challenges & Best Practices

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*The Agape Newsletter* is a monthly publication produced by The Agape Center for volunteers, member churches, and other interested individuals and organizations. Comments may be sent to:

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EastLake Community Church	Radford Baptist Church
Flint Hills Baptist Church	Rocky Mount Baptist Church
Goodview Baptist Church	Staunton Baptist Church
Westlake Baptist Church	

**Member Churches**

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