

SUMMER 2023, ISSUE 3



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

Summertime, and the livin' is easy...

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 900 families per month from Bedford & Franklin counties.

Agape Center SML would like to extend

A Big Thank You...



To Bedrock Church in Bedford!
Bedrock came with 45 people who did SO much to make the Agape Center look amazing. They painted the front door and worked on all the posts outside. They helped in the Toy Department, Clothing Department and Pantry. Outside, they trimmed hedges and took care of all the weeds. It was amazing!

SAVE THE DATE

2023 SML Charity Home Tour

The Agape Center is again participating in the SML Charity Home Tour. This is an important fundraiser for the Agape Center!



***Agape has been assigned the largest home on the Tour and we need your help!
The Derr home is located in South Harbor off of Scruggs Rd.***

SML Charity Home Tour

October 6-8, 2023

We're excited for another year of touring beautiful Smith Mountain Lake homes during the annual Smith Mountain Lake Charity Home Tour!

The Smith Mountain Lake Charity Home Tour is the community fund drive to support critical services for those in need in the Smith Mountain Lake region near Roanoke, Va. The Tour accomplishes this through partnerships with volunteers, charities, businesses and individuals. To date, the Tour has raised nearly \$5 million for local charities.

Eight beautiful lakefront homes are opened to the general public for touring on Columbus Day weekend. Uniquely, all Tour homes are accessible by road and by water, with a significant number of residents and visitors traveling from home to home by private or rented boat.

As one of the local charities supported by the SMLCMT, Agape Center SML has the opportunity to make as much as \$20,000+ from this event. Please consider donating and/or volunteering your time! Help is needed inside each home, on the dock, or directing traffic during five shifts on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

For questions on volunteering, contact Sandra Morse, CHT Agape Team Recruitment Lead at Smorse2626@yahoo.com or 804-641-9257.

[Tickets/Donate](#)



Mentor Bob Moore sat down with two clients whose lives have been transformed with the help of Agape Center SML. This is their story.

Client Focus: Alice K and Colby C

Alice, what brought the two of you to Agape?

We were homeless! For 2 years, we either couch-surfed or lived in a car in the Bedford Walmart parking lot.

Colby, how did you two become homeless?

I lost my job and Alice was on disability. We were living in a low-income apartment, but the landlord increased the rent so high that we couldn't afford it. We moved into Alice's mother's unoccupied trailer. It was a wreck when we first moved in, but we got it all fixed up. Several months after we made many improvements, Alice's mother moved back into the trailer and kicked us both out. We had no choice but to be homeless!

Alice, what was it that pulled you two out of homelessness?

I worked two jobs. Friends of ours let us stay with them. When we couldn't stay with them any longer, they found other friends that offered us accommodation. After that we met a landlord that was gracious enough to give us a chance and we've been there ever since. We now operate a daycare in our home.

I heard you both graduated from Agape's "Getting Ahead" class. How did you hear about it?

We saw a flyer posted in the Agape bathroom. The class looked cool, and we wanted to get our finances in order. We decided to apply for the class and luckily were accepted.



Client Focus, Cont.

What did you think of the class?

We enjoyed all aspects of the class. We really liked the teachers and the other participants. We both learned a lot from it. For example, we acquired easy, nutritious meal recipes.

Was there one teacher/subject that stood out?

Yes, Ron with finances! That is the one subject in which we needed the most help.

Has your situation improved since you two took the class?

Yes, we stuck together through it all and we are now thriving! I am attending college and hope to get a degree and own my own business. Colby wants to get his CNA license and maybe upgrade it to an RN license; he likes medicine and helping people. We are also expecting!

After being homeless, do you have any tips for someone who is currently homeless?

- Pray constantly! Stay hopeful! Don't ever give up!
- Be grateful for everything; it could always be worse!
- Shower at the YMCA or gyms.
- Don't buy fast food; buy non-perishables!
- Go to soup kitchens!
- Keep a daily routine.
- Keep your job if you are able.
- Save as much as you can.
- Utilize the library.
- Go walking at parks.
- Visit Agape.
- Reach out to family, life groups and churches.

"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,' DECLARES THE LORD, 'PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU A HOPE AND A FUTURE. '"

Jeremiah 29:11



MOUNT IVY CHRISTIAN CHURCH BLESSES AGAPE



"EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. AND GOD IS ABLE TO BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS AT ALL TIMES, HAVING ALL THAT YOU NEED, YOU WILL ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK."

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Thank you so much!

Agape Center SML would like to extend a HUGE thank you to Mount Ivy Christian Church for blessing us with multiple items collected during their Vacation Bible School.

In addition to other items such as shoes, life jackets and water, they brought in over 90 pounds of food for us to distribute.

This is a great example of how churches can help us minister to those in need!