



Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

March 2022

SAVE THE DATE! WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH

Over the last four years, the Agape Center has participated in “Roanoke Valley Gives,” a 24-hour online fundraiser run by the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia. The proceeds have resulted in a new refrigerator/freezer, a forklift, our intercom system, and improvements to our heating and air conditioning. The Community Foundation will no longer host this event, but 12 SML charities have decided to conduct their own on-line fundraiser called “SML Gives.” For the Agape Center, this will be our annual event for individual donations.



Here’s how it will work! “SML Gives” is an online giving event that provides the Agape Center with an opportunity to fundraise, gain exposure and build relationships. It is also an opportunity for our supporters to come together to raise money for our mission. SML Gives 2022 will be on **Wednesday, March 16, 2022** from 12:00 am to 11:59 pm. To donate on-line, click on this link: <https://www.smlgives.org>. Early giving is great too; just send your check to the Agape Center (P.O. Box 573, Moneta, VA 24121) with “SML Gives” on the check.

Our goal this year is to purchase a trailer to support the firewood ministry. Over the last ten years, a team of Agape volunteers has been cutting and delivering firewood to a central location for those who need it to keep warm during the winter. The “Woodchuckers” (who are mostly retired) provide 20 loads of wood per month to 40 Agape clients and their families. Lifting this firewood is physically demanding. Having a trailer would enable them to dump the wood at the central location, eliminating the need to lift each log.



The cost of the trailer is about \$10,000. If we raise enough money, we will purchase it from Moneta Tractor, which annually supports our golf tournament fundraiser. The trailer would be stored and maintained at the Agape Center. If we exceed our goal, we will purchase a snow removing blade that will enable us to plow our parking lot after snow.

We appreciate your consideration and contribution toward the purchase of the trailer. Your generosity will enable us to safely continue the firewood ministry. If you have any questions, please contact event coordinators Rick Cocrane (rcocrane@gmail.com) or Damian McKenzie (703-505-8628).



"Blessed are you the poor, for yours is the kingdom of God!" Matthew 5:3

The JOY of Mentoring

"Each week I head to Agape with a desire in my heart to help and bring hope to hurting, struggling women within our community. And I know you mentors do too! And it's no surprise that God shows up every time in those mentor rooms. But what I didn't expect and what I've learned over the years is that God continues to use those same women to teach me a lesson or two.



Tracy Dunn

As a matter of fact, it happened just yesterday. While mentoring a young woman in need, I noticed how her face just radiated "PURE JOY" and so I asked her the "WHY" behind it. She replied, **"I don't have a lot, but I have everything I need."**

And there it was, this "JOY" on her face was a mental state that flowed from a deep satisfaction within her soul. And without even realizing it, she shared with me how the true meaning of contentment is finding joy in what we already have. It's all about GRATEFULNESS! Things I already know but this beautiful woman demonstrated to me what it truly looked like. I know I left that day not only inspired but encouraged by her and I hope me sharing this has encouraged you too! #Joy #hope # contentment."

"Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little." Philippians 4:11-12

A Mentor's Testimony

"It's a cold morning in February...

I have had my mentor training and shadowed a current mentor. I'm going to have my first solo flight today. Please pray for me today. Today is the day I fly solo!



Jackie Reiley

That afternoon ... I had the most awesome day!!!! I had a couple come in and we talked and prayed and they told me I gave them the confirmation they were looking for etc. They came in serious and left happy praising the Lord and they asked for me next time if possible. I really think that the meeting was divine intervention. Oh, it was a great day!

I can't wait to come back! All the volunteers were so nice to me. Thank you all for your prayers. I felt your prayers!"



New Mentor Training

The latest class of new mentors are David Koger, Bob Moore, Kirk Ferrell and Phil Pelphey. It's the first time the class has consisted of all men! If you are interested in being a mentor, please contact Agape @ 540-296-0609!

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
 Psalm 119:105

Pam's Prayer Journey



When Pam Sinex, one of our mentors, heard that there was a national call to prayer, she signed up. In July, 2021, she joined a group that started their trip in Virginia Beach. They traveled to Washington, DC, and prayed at the Supreme Court for justice, mercy, and God's wisdom to flow through each Justice and for all serving in Congress.

In St. Louis, they prayed in front of the Gateway to the West. It is the dividing line in our country so they prayed powerfully against division in our country. Then off to their final destination—Lebanon, KS, the geographical center of our country. There was a

huge tent filled with 5,000 people. It held a service of incredible worship for deep reconciliation between races and healing there.

In closing, Pam said: "It was the joy of my life! It was an experience I'll never forget! I appreciate you Agape volunteers so much for your support. And for your encouragement to do this because it was a step-out experience for me. But that is what God is calling us to!"



Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-by World

We have begun recruitment for 12 applicants for our next *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-by World*. Flyers are at the front desk and in each mentor room. The application period runs through March 1st. Classes will begin on March 14, 2022. We are looking for 12 people. Here are the criteria for selection:

- Clients who can commit to attending all of the 17, three-hour sessions, be on time, and do the homework
- Clients who are motivated to want to make life better for themselves, their families and their communities

We so appreciate your help with this and your support and prayers. If you know anyone that you would recommend, please have them fill out the application as soon as possible. Please put all completed applications in Tracy Dunn's inbox.

Should you have any question or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact Tracy Dunn @ Agape 540-296-0609.

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



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

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

- 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.



THINKING POSITIVE

You know I've been thinking and was wondering if you've ever been here? What I mean is...you're having another one-way conversation with your friend, 'Debbie Downer' or 'Negative Nelly', and after she's done with her story, all of a sudden you hear yourself saying, (don't always be so negative! Think positive!) Yep, there's a lot of negativity out there. Like the saying goes, "Misery loves company", right?

But I think the phrase "Be positive" has become as overused as answering, "I'm good!" or "Fine" to the "Hi! How are you?" question. Sometimes people need to talk for a bit...to be heard helps them figure it out. Have you ever REALLY thought about what being positive even really means? Let me tell ya, it's NOT as easy as it seems.

Being positive shouldn't be something you just say to someone to change the subject (or shut them up). No, it's a new way of thinking we ALL have to learn. It's easy when you're happy and things are going your way, right? But the real test comes on those days when it's extremely hard to smile.

Being positive to me is about learning to be grateful, seeing the good in everyone and in every situation. I think that's why God tells us to focus on the good because what we focus on grows.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8 □

Think about it this way. If we're always focused on all the negative and everything that is wrong in our lives, well we're going to feel depressed and absolutely miserable. Am I right??? But when we focus on the good, it takes us to a much better place.

So my question is: What does being positive mean to you? How do you stay positive in such a negative world and focus on the good in your life? - *Tracy Dunn*

BE
grateful

Linen Shower



The Agape Center needs your help
with linens for our clients.

Gently used or New Linens
Towels—Washcloths—Sheets



Date: Feb-Mar'22

Drop Off at Agape

Tues-Thurs 10-4
1st & 3rd Sat. 9-12
1159 Promised Land Rd
Moneta VA 24121

Alternative Drop Off:
Lulu's Closet
17980 Forest Rd, Suite B
Forest VA 24551
434-426-5175

Agape Center, Inc.
1159 Promised Land Road
Moneta VA 24121
540-296-0609

Agapecentersml.org

Cash Donations to purchase Linens
P.O. Box 573, Moneta, VA 24121



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



Great news! The Smith Mountain Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce has nominated The Agape Center as ***Non-Profit of the Year!***

New Volunteers



April Haddock—Pantry
 Dolly Kinhead—Clerk
 Jason Lewis—Pantry
 Bob Moore—Reception / Mentor / Newsletter
 Pat Morton—Pantry
 Dana Newton—Truck Driver

Total Numbers Served

	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Families</u>
January 2022	1369	408
January 2021	2263	657
December 2021	2640	727
December 2020	3104	819

KEY DATES

SML Gives: March 16th
Annual Agape Linen Shower: Ends March 31st
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