

Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

JUNE 2022

Our May 2022 Graduation Class of “Getting Ahead”



Read more of the story on page 2!



18th Annual Agape Open Saturday May 21st -Copper Cover Golf Course



Read more of the story on page 3!

“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 hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-by World

We are proud to announce the graduation class of the May 2022 “Getting Ahead” program. How amazing! It’s been an incredible journey watching each of them come alive with the hope of a better tomorrow. Over the last few months, not only did we laugh together but there were quite a few conversations that brought tears to our eyes. Also, it was in their raw, realness of authenticity that helped each of them discover the truth about themselves in order to move towards some place better.

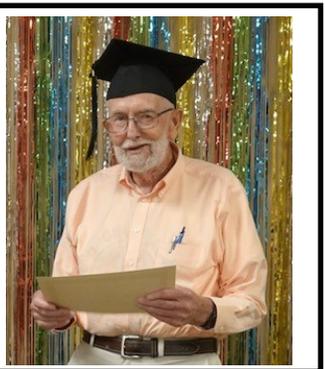
In a safe, caring, nonjudgmental environment, we watched them eagerly participate and learn new principles and skills to improve their lives. But what we didn’t expect was to also witness them forgive, let go of bitterness, reconcile relationships, face their fears, and move into a more intimate and authentic relationship with God and each other. And you know what? We may have started out as strangers but ended up becoming more like family.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who prayed, supported, encouraged, taught, and served breakfast. We are so grateful for you! Thank you for being willing to serve and be a part of changed lives.

We asked the students what were they were most proud of accomplishing in the class. Here are some of their comments:



“I was able to learn how to forgive like God has forgiven me. I now know how to set boundaries and reconcile relationships, to be real and authentic and be okay with revealing my feelings and pain. With God’s help, I’m going to become the best sister, friend, mother, and employee possible”
Syrena Bonds

“I learned how to watch my money, keep a budget, deal with credit and what to watch for. I wish I could have taken this class 50 years ago.” Ronald Durham



“Showing up to class everyday where we laughed and cried gave me hope and excitement in my life. Instead of feeling stuck, I now have the motivation and support to help me carry out my goals.” Austin Monroe




“I loved making real connections with other humans in all different walks of life. And because of taking this class, I’ll be able to handle money better and control my spending. I now have better control over my emotions and less outbursts.” Chelseah Witcher



“I not only made new friends, but learned to organize my time. I’m now able to express myself and control my emotions by giving myself space and time to respond instead of just reacting. I’ve stopped listening to the negative people in my life that don’t support me and interfere with my personal growth. Most of all I really needed to share my story and loved being able to express myself which helped me feel supported and find healing.” Elia Sanchez

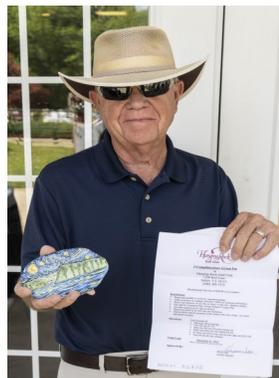


"Iron sharpens iron." Proverbs 27

18TH ANNUAL AGAPE OPEN

We want to thank all of our golfers for joining us at the 18th annual Agape Open! Tournament proceeds will be used to purchase food and toiletries, and to support emergency funding for clients in need.

We also want to thank all of our sponsors for their generosity. And, last but not least, thanks to the incredible team of volunteers who made this successful event possible! See y'all next year!



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

- 1ST—48 Phillips, Phillips, Ayers & Price
- 2ND—49 Gifford, Olsen, Tribble & Thompson
- 3RD—52 Jenkins, Walters, Keep Jr. & Lester

P.S. If you didn't use all your mulligans, red tees or "grenades," you cannot save them for next year! ☺

“God always keeps his word. He gives justice to the poor and food to the hungry.” Psalm 146:7

POSTAL FOOD DRIVE Roanoke—May 14th



We had mostly good weather for the Postal Food Drive in Roanoke (there were a few intermittent showers). Our group of volunteers included 6 energetic students from SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, a good representation from the Agape volunteers, as well as a handful of volunteers from ELCC (19 volunteers signed in.). Our shift was scheduled from 3 to 6 PM. It was slow going from 3 to 5 PM which we expected from previous drives, but that all changed after 5 PM. Most of the food came in after that time with a steady stream of canned goods and packaged food. We actually stayed

until 6:30 PM because there was so much coming in the last hour. The staff from Feeding Southwest Virginia were so helpful and friendly and with the donations from the first shift included, we had almost two, 30 foot trailers filled when we finished. Everyone agreed, it felt good to gather and help collect all this donated food for families in need. All in all, a great way to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Blessings to all!



"Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifice." Hebrews 13:16

NEW CANOPY FOR OUR FURNITURE DEPARTMENT



Volunteers in Agape's Furniture Department are most appreciative to have a new roof to cover them when they handle furniture items donated and distributed by The Agape Center! Work was completed in mid-May on the new canopy roof, a structure that measures approximately 30-ft. in length and 20-ft. in width. The new roof rises above a new concrete slab measuring roughly 50-ft. in length by 18-ft. in width.

The demolition of the original sections of concrete and asphalt pavement, overall preparation of the site, and construction of the new concrete slab was provided by F&S Building Innovations, Roanoke, VA. (F&S was the contractor that built the original Furniture building.) Others involved in the design and construction of the new canopy included Covenant Engineering, Rocky Mount, VA which provided engineering design services, and Baird Drywall & Acoustic, Inc., Vinton, VA, which provided the light-gauge steel columns, girders and trusses, and other miscellaneous framing required for the canopy structure.



A monetary contribution toward the roof project was received from The Rotary Club of SML. They also contributed workers who supplied a good number of manhours to help install the new roofing system. The Agape Center was not without its representation on the project; at least six volunteers, including three from the Furniture Department, contributed nearly 120-combined manhours in the planning, design, and construction of the new canopy. A helpful addition to our ministry!

“We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

New Volunteers

Don Dows-Pantry, Transportation
 Lynette Dows- Runner
 Ann Gonyu-Clothing Store
 Teresa Harth-Pantry
 Donna Line-Clothing, Spanish Interpreter



Our Newest Volunteer



Anita Ferguson (right) came for a tour in May and started volunteering the same day in Data.

Total Numbers Served

	<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Families</u>
April 2022:	1747	520
March 2022:	1677	495

NEW REFRIGERATOR

We were blessed to receive a commercial, double door stainless steel refrigerator. It was provided through a grant from Feeding Southwest Virginia. It arrived on Wednesday, May 11th, and we put it to good use right away. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped bring it in and set it up. It is a wonderful addition to the pantry!



Rick J. “really getting in it” when asked to “get in the photo!!”