



## Where Needs Meet AGAPE Love

July-August 2020

### AGAPE MEMBER CHURCHES

Bedrock Church  
Franklin County

Bedrock Community Church,  
Bedford

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

The Covid-19 virus pandemic has turned our world upside down. As businesses close down and employees are laid off, donations to Agape are down significantly.

With the cancellation of the Charity Home Tour, we were looking for new revenue sources... and along came Capps.

Capps Home Building Center has offered to serve as the lead sponsor for a unique fundraising event for three collaborating local charities: The **Agape Center**, **Lake Christian Ministries** and **SML Good Neighbors**. Capps has committed matching funds toward this effort up to \$100,000. The collective \$100,000 matching funds will be used to issue a challenge to the lake community for a dollar for dollar match to benefit the three charities and our neighbors in need during this difficult time. All proceeds from this event, through supporting sponsorship or community donations, will be shared equally among the three charities.

In October, there will be a week-long matching event. We will have a website where you can link to make your donation. Each dollar you give will result in two dollars to the Agape Center.

**Please consider donating** to this event through the website during the week of October 12–17, 2020. We will publish the website in next month's newsletter or when it is operational. And if you need help in making the donation electronically, we'll be glad to assist. Just give the Agape Center office a call. Thanks for your continued support.

ONLINE GIVING WEEK  
**Capps** \$100,000  
HOME BUILDING CENTER CHARITY  
& COMMUNITY CHALLENGE  
OCTOBER 12 - 17TH 2020

### KEY DATES

#### Capps Community Charity Challenge:

**October 12-17** (website link for donations will be posted on the Agape Center website when available)

#### Lynchburg-Agape Sounds of Worship Concert:

**Friday, September 18, 7:00-10:00pm**

(Impact Church, Thomas Jefferson Rd, Forest).

Volunteers Needed – Help Spread the Word

Plain and simple, we need volunteers. The Agape Center is now in full operation and our department heads are challenged each month when it comes to scheduling workers. We understand and appreciate that there is good reason why many of our active volunteers are not able to participate right now. However, if you are willing and able — or know someone who is — please let them know we need their help.

We have precautionary measures in place to manage the risks associated with the virus. The wearing of face masks and the practice of social distancing is strongly encouraged. Face masks are mandatory in the mentoring rooms. Plexiglass shields are in place at the Reception area, Appointment desk and USDA to minimize physical contact with clients. Client folders are being handled by a minimal number of volunteers (i.e., the individuals who need to review or enter data into them). Sanitary wipes are available throughout the buildings and areas are being wiped down frequently.

Please help us to get the word out that the Agape Center is a great place to volunteer. Encourage your friends, church groups, youth groups, etc., to come for a tour and see what we're all about. Assure them we are taking the necessary precautions to minimize risk.

If you'd like to bring a friend in for a tour or if you can help in any of the areas listed, please call the Agape Center Office (540) 296-0609.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

**Mentors**

Meet with clients one-on-one to provide a listening ear, encourage them in their walk with the Lord and, most importantly, to pray with them.

**USDA Data**

Input basic client data into the USDA database.

**Store Clerks**

Bag clients "purchases" and keep store stocked & tidy.

The following areas need individuals or groups who can help 2-4 hours each month or more frequently if available. The volunteers in these areas are typically scheduled on days the Agape Center is closed.

**Clothing Intake**

Sort/hang clothing. Ideal for groups or individuals.

**Books**

Sort and shelve books and other resources.

**First Impressions**

Housekeeping duties: vacuuming, dusting, mopping, and general cleaning of all public areas.



**Palestine Baptist Church** is back.

Such a blessing. This group comes in the third Saturday of every month to help where needed. It's amazing what they can get done in an hour or two!



Welcome New Volunteers!

- Shirley Bradley – Data
- Laura Denne – Pantry
- Hunter Gilman – Clothing
- Paula Gilman – Store Clerk
- Rachel Hunter – Data Assist.
- Justice "J" Roy – Furniture
- Ryan Willis – Clothing



By the Numbers...

<u>June 2020</u>		<u>June 2019</u>	
Families	619	Families	796
Individuals	2,103	Individuals	2,754
<u>July 2020</u>		<u>July 2019</u>	
Families	544	Families	765
Individuals	1,858	Individuals	2,615

## New Arrivals: Socks Galore, Fun Kits & Jars of Peanut Butter

The Agape Center is continuously being blessed during these “unprecedented times” with unexpected opportunities and donations. A huge shipment of socks arrived several weeks ago, then a visitor came to hand out fun educational kits, and just last week a hundred or so jars of peanut butter appeared — all for our Agape clients.



**Bombas**, a company that has a heart for the needy, sent us **2,750 pairs of brand new socks!** From the beginning, Bombas’ mission has been to help the homeless. They believe that a more comfortable world is a better

world and that everyone, no matter their circumstances, deserves to put on clean clothes that make them feel good.

Bombas launched their company in 2013 after seeing a quote on Facebook that stated, “socks are the #1 most requested clothing item in homeless shelters.” For every pair of socks and every clothing item they sell, they donate an item to their Giving Partners Program. To date, they have donated more than 30 million items to more than 2,500 community organizations.

An interesting side note: in the manufacturing process the socks are given an antimicrobial treatment to ensure they don’t need to be washed as often, and reinforced seams and darker colors give them greater durability with less visible wear.

Because Bombas has welcomed us as one of their Giving Partners, we are eligible to submit an annual request for socks. This year the socks are going in the client birthday and Christmas gift baskets.



### Virginia Cooperative Extension

Susan Prillaman, an associate with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, visited the Agape Center to distribute “4-H Family Fun Kits” to our client families. Susan oversees Family and Consumer Sciences, Food, Nutrition & Health at the Bedford office. The kits included such items as “Mini Greenhouse in a Cup,” a seed starting project for kids, and recipes for fun, simple, quick and nutritious meals for

families to make together (“Bubble Pizza” and “Making Ice Cream in a Bag”), along with information on the 4-H Club and conversation starter flash cards.

The Bedford County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension is the local connection to Virginia’s land-grant universities, Virginia Tech and Virginia State University. Its goal is to provide educational programs to help improve the quality of life of Virginians. Programs are researched and developed at the university level with input from local stakeholders. Information, education, and knowledge is provided on a variety of topics from credible experts. Due to Covid, in-person extension programs are minimal but virtual programming is available. Check out both the main Virginia Cooperative Extension website and the local (Bedford) website and/or their facebook pages. To get you started, there’s a slew of videos available under the [Publications and Educational Resources](#) tab — cooking, gardening, money management, and a series on balancing life during the pandemic.



### Feeding America Southwest Virginia

Did you know that peanut butter, a high protein product, is the most-requested and least-donated item in the food bank? According to Feeding America, it is. They hold their annual peanut butter drive every August with the slogan “Spread the love.” We are happy recipients of hundreds of jars of peanut butter.



Scripture Is Alive in the Hearts of Our Volunteers

**Agape Center – Lynchburg**

Tabitha North, Exec. Director of the Agape Center in Lynchburg shared with us an acronym their people focus on when volunteering. It's one that we should all keep in mind.

*Matthew 25:40 "And the King will answer them, 'I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'" (HCS)*

**AGAPE**

- A = Active Discipleship**
- G = Glorify God**
- A = Attitude of Acceptance**
- P = Purposeful Prayer**
- E = Encourage One Another**

**WHY I SERVE ...**



**Jan Johnston**  
(with hubby Rick)  
USDA  
Moneta VA  
Volunteer since 2013

"I volunteer here because I strongly believe in home missions and reaching out to our community. I love the fact that all donations go to client needs and not organizational costs. Everything is poured back into ministry and you can see that you are helping people and spreading the Gospel."

*Romans 12:9-11 "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." (NIV)*

**LEARNING YOUNG**



Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.  
Proverbs 22:5

Reilly Hiner, Jan & Rick Johnston's granddaughter, was a huge help in the Households area during her visit to Rick and Jan's. Tarri Novelino kept Reilly busy sorting sewing notions and putting craft baskets together. And Reilly enjoyed doing it!

Bits & Pieces



Diane Davis  
Agape Book Reviewer

**From the Book Shelf**

**Light of My Heart**

by Ginny Aiken

In 1892, Dr. is hopes to be accepted as a medical professional even though she is a woman. The town's silver mines have brought many people and Hartville needs a new doctor to

treat the women and children. However, the town doesn't welcome her with open arms. The only other doctor there, Dr. Medford, is against her and most of the men don't accept her either.

As she meets the women, some of them appreciate here and the children learn to love and trust her. She becomes close to Eric Wagner, the town's newspaper publisher. Eric had lost his faith in God when he lost his wife and son during childbirth. As Letty and Eric grew closer through God's grace, Eric lets the Lord free him from the bondage of the past and regains his faith. When Eric and Letty become man and wife Eric says, "I'm yours, you led me back to God and He gave me life again. Now I'm His and yours."

Note: As we cling to the promises of God, we can overcome the obstacles of life. He is our only hope for survival.

**Fall Is on Its Way!**

Kids are back in school (in person or not) and, if you haven't noticed, the days are getting shorter.

**Reminder:**

It's never too late to make a cash donation for the School Supplies.



**And Christmas Won't Be Far Behind!**

The Christmas Factory at Agape is ready to start putting together hundreds of baskets for our clients. Your help with the following items would be greatly appreciated.

- Candles (3 oz. jar)
- Dishtowels
- Cocoa (individual packets)
- Mugs
- CDs – Christian and/or Christmas

And for Birthday Baskets:

- Toiletries (men & women)
- Playing cards
- Anything that would go into a beach bag
- Kitchen items
- Purses

**Spreading the Word about the Agape Centers**

A Radio Interview with Sue Lipscomb & Tabitha North



[Click here: Hometown Journal Podcast](#)

Mark Edwards, Program Director of The Journey radio station (88.3FM) recently learned about the Agape Center and asked if he could feature it on his weekly Hometown Journal program.

Sue and Tabitha were happy to do so. They shared with Mark and his listeners the mission and history of the Agape Centers here in Moneta and in Lynchburg. In doing so, Sue also told of a client's powerful testimony.

Mark was interested in how our centers have been functioning during this time of the pandemic. Mark also asked what opportunities we have for volunteers and how local churches can get involved. Of course, Sue and jumped on the opportunity to tell him what we need.

The half-hour program aired on August 25th.

**Sounds of Worship**

presented by Agape Center LYH

Friday, Sept. 18, 7:00-10:00pm

Impact Church, Thomas Jefferson Rd., Forest



**Facebook Event Posting:** Agape Center of Lynchburg presents "The Sounds of Worship" Concert. A night filled with Praise and Worship from various churches in your local community! Join us for a one night, spirit filled event where we raise our voices in unity as the body of Christ! Event to be held and sponsored by Impact Church located behind Forest Volunteer Fire Department.

Monetary Donations will be accepted and all proceeds from the event will be going directly to Agape Center Lynchburg's goal of provided beds for all those in need in the Lynchburg area.

In keeping with current health concerns and regulations regarding COVID-19, we will be having designated and marked out spots separated 10 feet apart for each family unit to safely keep their distances while still be able to enjoy the concert as one church. Everyone is more than welcome to bring their lawn chairs and blankets. We will have vendors and concessions on sight to keep you energized throughout the event! [CLICK HERE FOR UPDATES AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE 18TH.](#)