Dear Ministry Partners,

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to Grace Mission throughout 2016.** We could not continue all the wonderful work and ministry we do at Grace Mission without our volunteers, sponsors and donors.

Last year Grace Mission celebrated 20 years of ministry.  The 7th Annual Evening of Grace at St. John’s was a beautiful and successful evening due to the hard work of many volunteers. Thank you to everyone that volunteered, attended, donated and celebrated this milestone anniversary with us.

Your contributions this winter season helped us giveaway many coats, blankets, sweaters, sweatshirts along with numerous sweatpants, pants, winter caps and scarves, hygiene products and much more.  Throughout the year we had 4 free Health Clinics (we are partners with FSU Medical School) and we were able to give out 40 free flu shots this year.  We continue to do free showers three times per week.  We also provide free laundry services (1 load of laundry) to those that attend our worship services.  We gave away an approximate total value of $22,505.00 worth of clothing items and a total of $3960.00 ($10.00 each) Goodwill vouchers to those in need through our once a month free clothing giveaway.  These vouchers provide the opportunity for a person to go to Goodwill and get the clothing item(s) they need if we do not have it available at the free clothing giveaway.   Thank you for your donations and please continue to clean out your closets and donate to Grace Mission.

Each month, through our One Campaign/Mobile Pantry we were able to deliver wholesome and nutritious food in the Springfield Apts./Joe Louis HUD Housing Project to over 2009 people with over half of that number being children and seniors. Many churches participated in the One Campaign and we are very grateful for your support!  (In 2017, through our partnership with Second Harvest we are offering more Mobile Pantries at Grace Mission).

Grace Mission continued to support the Brehon House (for pregnant women who need shelter and help during pregnancy).  We delivered baby clothing and other baby items that they needed.  We also support the local humane society by providing towels for the many homeless animals at the shelter.  We have provided clothing, hygiene items and food to other agencies in the Big Bend area.

We have walked the neighborhood each month through our Water-Walk and Adopt-A-Lot ministry picking up trash, handing out cold water to those in need and praying for others.  We continue to raise money, through our outreach basket each Sunday, for many partner agencies that help the poor and homeless populations in Leon County.

We served close to 40,000 hot nutritious meals in 2016.

As a worshipping community within the Episcopal Church we continued to provide Morning Prayer, we baptized 4 adults, and bible study remains strong and vibrant.  We studied and finished the Book of Acts and began the Book of Judges.  Our bible studies bring a crowd and many wonderful discussions arise from each session.  People are learning Scripture and it’s very exciting to see that!

The Christmas Angel Trees at each church provided Christmas gifts to 51 children most of which attend our After-School Program.  St. John’s Episcopal Church partnered with us to provide a beautiful venue and atmosphere for our Family Christmas Service.  We served dinner to the families, provided entertainment and handed out the gifts for the children.  It was a lovely evening.  We had 13 children earn the right to go to Camp Weed  (did you know we outfit each child with new clothes and shoes for the entire 4 days of camp) and enjoy a wonderful Christian Education program along with all the fun camp activities.  The Reading Academy helped 21 children prepare for the new school year by improving their reading ability.  This past year’s theme was ‘*The* *Pollinators’* and how important they are to our eco system.   Did you know that butterflies smell with their feet?  (I didn’t)   It was amazing!  We ended the Academy with a trip to the ocean and a BBQ dinner for all the children.  This year the theme will be ‘*Splish – Splash  All About Water.’* I can’t wait to see what Ms. Elizabeth has planned for us this year.   The beginning of each school year we give out **new** backpacks to the After-School children filled with all the school supplies that they may need to help succeed in school.  We began our new Youth program in the fall with 5 youth who attended our After-School program and it has been an interesting learning experience.  They are doing well with much supervision.  This summer we plan on taking them on many field trips to broaden their world.

Grace Mission is committed to raising money to support our budget and ministry needs.  We raised 36% of our income this year through our Fundraisers, Mail-outs, 100 & 500 Club, and Alternative Markets.  This of course is a reflection of the dedication and commitment of all the volunteers, sponsors and donors who support Grace Mission.  Thank you!  We also want to thank the many churches that support us each month in their outreach budgets.

I hope I will see you at the 8th Annual Grace Mission Gala, ‘*Cheeseburgers in Paradise’* at the Woman’s Club of Tallahassee on April 8.   It will be a beachy, Jimmy Buffett evening.  If you can’t attend I pray that you will support us by buying a scholarship ticket so someone from Grace Mission can attend.  We also have a great Key West trip raffle we are selling.  Information is on our website at gracemission.net.

Thank you for giving of your time, talent and treasure in helping those often forgotten in society but not by God.

Many Blessings to you in 2017.

Rev. Amanda L. Nickles+