



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH • HELP • HEALING • HOPE

Dear Ministry Partners;

“Share the Love” event! Don’t you love that slogan? The idea and slogan is an ingenious marketing idea for a well known car dealership. *Share the Love* sounds like it could apply to a church or a not-for-profit doesn’t it? The idea and slogan tie into Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s message for the church, *“The Way of Love.”* In Curry’s recent visit to Tallahassee I had the pleasure of hearing him talk about *‘The Way of Love’* and how it is the center of the Gospel message. He said, *“‘The Way of Love’ is unselfish, compassionate, and a sacrificial self-less love. This love seeks the good and welfare of others.”*

I believe each of us can *‘share the love’* by caring and helping everyone have enough to eat and clothes to wear, by helping disenfranchised children graduate High School, by building bridges when we volunteer together, and by embracing diversity and respecting our differences. When we *‘share the love’* and help everyone feel safe, wanted, loved and cared for then we will truly begin to model *‘The Way of Love.’* I thought I would share how Grace Mission is walking in *‘The Way of Love’* to help others.

Background information is important to put what we do in perspective:

The Tallahassee *‘Promise Zone’* was created as a roadmap for the most challenged areas of the city of Tallahassee. Grace Mission, a 23+ year old mission, is located in this *‘Promise Zone’* (Frenchtown, a neighborhood largely abandoned and under constant threat of gentrification); providing many services to those experiencing homelessness, poverty, hunger and addiction. In Frenchtown, 44 percent of the households earn less than \$15,000 per year, according to an independent feasibility study of Tallahassee’s CRA districts. According to *Feeding America*, Leon County has more residents living in poverty than any other zip code in the State of Florida. More than one in every four city residents is living below the national poverty line. In addition, one in every four children will go hungry in Leon County. United Way recently released a statewide report (ALICE) on the working poor and it shows more Florida families are struggling to pay for basic needs and are unable to shoulder an unexpected emergency. People are on the edge of living in poverty.

For more than 23 years, Grace Mission has provided *help, healing and hope* to the unwanted, unloved and uncared for in Tallahassee. We provide help in particular through a hot meal, clean clothes, showers, life-saving prescription medication, and many other services along with a 12 Step Recovery service, recovery meetings, and an active weekly Bible study as well as, Morning Prayer every Wednesday. Additionally, we provide a vibrant, gospel-centered worship on Sunday. As people begin to experience the spirit of belonging and acceptance, *healing and hope* is being restored in their lives.

Many of you are *‘sharing the love’* at Grace Mission through your time, talent and treasure. Thank you to everyone who contributed to Grace Mission this past year. We could not *‘walk in the way of love’* and continue all the wonderful work and ministry we do at Grace Mission without our volunteers (20,000 volunteer hours). Your contributions in 2018 helped us to bring help, healing and hope for many people and children in need.

- We provide a church home to many that feel unwanted in other area churches and unwanted in the larger community
- We baptized 13 adults

303 W. Brevard Street Tallahassee, FL 32301 850-224-3817 www.gracemission.net

Grace Mission is an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida
This institution is an equal opportunity provider

- 4 free Health clinics (partnered with FSU Medical School) and gave out 40 free flu shots this year
- Free Clothing giveaway once a month
- Free laundry service once a week for those attending worship
- 4 free Mobile Food Pantries (partnered with Second Harvest)
- Served over 40,000 meals
- Tuesday night Recovery Meeting and 12 Step/Evening Prayer Service
- Wednesday – Morning Prayer and Bible Study
- Family and Children Christmas service (partnered with St. John's Episcopal Church) – we distributed 350 gifts to children (contributed by many area churches and individuals)
- Children experienced Camp Weed (the children receive all new clothes and shoes for the entire 3 days of camp)
- Reading Academy (a week long intensive learning and reading about Forests)
- Free new backpacks and school supplies for the children in our program
- Numerous field trips for the youth in our program to broaden their world
- Many prayers, lots of hugs and words of encouragement throughout the year to many that come to Grace Mission

Grace Mission is committed to raising money to support our budget and ministry needs. We continue to raise between 30-40% of our income each year through our various fundraisers. This of course is a reflection of the dedication and commitment of all the volunteers, sponsors, staff and donors who *'share the love'* by helping the most vulnerable people in society.

Recently, our budget has been cut by the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. The diocese has reduced their contribution to our budget by \$38,500. This is a very large reduction for a struggling and financially limited inner city urban mission.

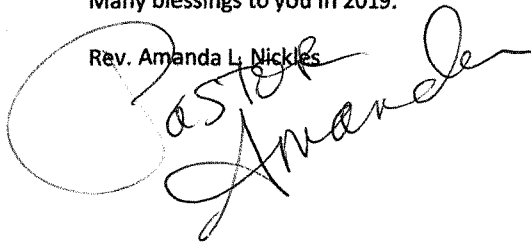
I am appealing to all of you for your financial help to help Grace Mission continue to *'Walk in the Way of Love.'*

Each day at Grace Mission we share the wonderful and glorious hope we have in Jesus Christ for those who are struggling, those in sorrow, doubt and pain, for those who have never felt a warm embrace, a kind word or an act of love. We see so many brothers and sisters with deep wounds, have suffered broken promises, are angry, bitter, and disappointed. But each day brings a new hope as we are reminded, *"The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost"* (Luke 19:10).

Please keep us in prayer and help us to *Share the Love by Walking in the Way of Love.*

Many blessings to you in 2019.

Rev. Amanda L. Nickles



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Amanda". The word "Pastor" is written in a smaller font above the name "Amanda".