

Dear Ministry Partners,

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to Grace Mission throughout 2017.** We could not continue all the wonderful work and ministry we do at Grace Mission without our volunteers, sponsors and donors.

Last year, The 8th Annual Evening of Grace/Cheeseburgers in Paradise fundraising event at the Woman’s Club of Tallahassee was a huge success due to the hard work of many volunteers. Thank you to everyone that volunteered, attended, donated and danced the night away with us. It was our most successful ‘Gala’ to date and I believe the most fun. Who doesn’t like Jimmy Buffett music? Join us this year on **April 14th** for our second ‘Cheeseburgers in Paradise’ fundraising event.

Your contributions this winter season helped us give away 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 25 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 $24,420.00 worth of clothing items and a total of $4,850.00 ($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.

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 1,349 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 began offering Parking Lot Grocery at Grace Mission once a quarter. We served over 1,262 people through this program.

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 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 over 43,000 hot nutritious meals in 2017.

As a worshipping community within the Episcopal Church we continued to provide Morning Prayer, we baptized 6 adults, and bible study remains strong and vibrant. We studied and finished the Book of Philippians and the Book of Ruth. 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! We are seeing larger numbers in our 12 step healing service on Tuesday nights and we have a strong recovery group meeting every Thursday afternoon.

The Christmas Angel Trees at each church provided Christmas gifts to 50+ 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 14 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 our After-School children prepare for the new school year by improving their reading ability. This past year’s theme was ‘Splish, Splash, all about Water*’* and it ended with a field trip to Wakulla Springs. The program reminded all the children of the importance of protecting the Florida Springs. This year the theme will be about ‘Forests.’ 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. The second year of the Youth program began this fall with 5 youth who attended our After-School program and it has been an interesting learning experience. They are doing well with 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.

We are adding two new fundraisers this year. **‘Tips for Trips’** raising money for the children and youth programs. Join us at Madison Social on Feb. 7th from 6:00pm-8:00pm. No tickets, no cost – simply show up. Tips from the bar will go to Grace Mission. Join us for a fun night out. We hope to do a second Madison Social event in May – TBA.

Thank you for giving of your time, talent and treasure in helping to bring help, healing and hope to the City of Tallahassee..

Many Blessings to you in 2018.

Rev. Amanda L. Nickles+