



LENT 2020

Dear Ministry Partners,

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Grace Mission throughout 2019. We could not continue all the wonderful work and ministry we do at Grace Mission without our volunteers, sponsors and donors.

Last year, The 10th Annual Evening of Grace, **Benefit on the Bayou**, 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 organized the event, volunteered, attended, donated and danced the night away with us. I also want to say a special thank you (for another successful event) to everyone that volunteered and attended the 8th Annual **Blues & BBQ** fundraising event in August. We also raised money through **GoFundMe** for a new on-demand hot water tank and a new ADA-compliant shower room. All of us at Grace Mission are very grateful for your generous support.

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 Leon County Health Dept.) and we were able to give 40 **free** flu shots this year, as well as 40 **free** Hepatitis A shots. We continue to provide **free showers** three times per week, as well as **free laundry services** (1 load of laundry per person). We gave away an approximate total value of \$29,050.00 worth of clothing items and a total of \$6,260.00 (\$10.00 each) Goodwill vouchers to those in need through our once a month **free clothing giveaway**. Thank you for your donations and please continue to clean out your closets and donate to Grace Mission.

Grace Mission, through our partnership with Second Harvest, offered **free quarterly Mobile Food Pantries** giving away wholesome and nutritious food to over 1529 people in Leon County. Many people volunteer to make this event successful and we are grateful for your support!

"The truth about it is, whether we is rich or poor or something in between, this earth ain't no final restin' place. So in a way, we is all homeless - just workin' our way toward home."
same kind of different as me by Ron Hall & Denver Moore

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. Grace Mission supports 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 continue to raise money, through our outreach basket each Sunday, for many partner agencies that help people suffering from poverty and homelessness in Leon County.

We served 38,000 hot nutritious meals in 2019.

As a worshipping community within the Episcopal Church we continue to provide a Eucharist celebration every Sunday, Morning Prayer on Wednesday, Evening Prayer on Thursday and we baptized 7 adults. Bible study remains strong and vibrant. People are learning Scripture and it's very exciting to see that! We are seeing larger numbers attend the 12 Step Recovery Service on Tuesday nights.

The Christmas Angel Trees at each church provided over 300 Christmas gifts for children attending our After-School Program and their siblings. 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 8 children earn the right to go to Camp Weed (did you know we outfit each child with new clothes and shoes for the entire 5 days of camp) to 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 'Friends of the Earth' and it ended with a field trip to Wakulla Springs. The program reminded all the children of the importance of protecting the environment and being good stewards of this incredible planet. This year the theme is 'Sea TurtleTastic.'

The beginning of each school year we give out **new** backpacks (Blessing of the Backpacks) to the S.O.A.R. After-School children. Each Backpack is filled with all the school supplies that they may need to help them succeed in school. Thank you to all the people who donated back packs and school supplies especially Holy Comforter Episcopal Church. We are humbled by your support. We also shared additional school supplies with Riley Elementary School and Griffin Middle School. The Grace Mission S.O.A.R. After School program continues to help and encourage the children enrolled in the program to academically succeed in school.

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.

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 2020.

Pastor Amanda+



Grace Mission Gala 2020
Stay tuned for pictures and recap of our Gala 'Saturday Night Fever' held in February.

Summer Camps

Financial camp scholarships are needed for all summer camps (FSU Flying High Circus, Camp Weed in Live Oak, FL and Reading Academy). Grace Mission is asking for contributions to sponsor a disadvantaged child to attend these camps.

If you are interested in helping sponsor a child, please make a donation of any amount to GRACE MISSION and designate in the memo line: SUMMER CAMPS. Please mail check to:

PO Box 10472 Tallahassee, FL 32302 or donate through Paypal at gracemission.net.



S.O.A.R.'S FLIGHT ITINERARY

2019 Recap



This past spring, Grace Missions S.O.A.R. After School program helped children experience success by learning dictionary skills, completing homework, overcoming fears, and learning foundational skills in the art of practice, good study habits, and perseverance. Grades and efforts at school are improving with an average of a one-letter grade increase in some cases.



Grace Missions week long intensive summer Reading Academy titled, 'Friends of the Earth' shared lessons on climate control, global warming, carbon emissions, sustainability, recycling, pollution, and how God calls us to be good stewards of the Earth. The week began with a nature hike and wildlife learning through Lafayette Heritage Park and ended with a trip to the Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park for an educational boat ride along the river and swimming!



Grace Mission sent 8 students to Camp Weeds 'Outer Space Camp' and it was a huge success! Campers enjoyed swimming, archery, sports, kayaking, spiritual music and lessons, teambuilding, and fellowship. My heart was warmed when we picked them up from camp during chapel worship and we were able to share in the Eucharist and watch them sing and dance the youth camp songs. They received so many hugs goodbye from new friends and counselors, you could just feel the energy and support that they had experienced all week long.



Blessing of the Backpacks equipped students and families with necessary school supplies to encourage and achieve academic success in the new school year. Over 35 backpacks were filled with school supplies from community members, ministry partners and a special offering from Holy Comforter Episcopal Church. Supplies were also shared with Riley Elementary School and Griffin Middle School.



This past fall, **Grace Missions S.O.A.R. After-School** program helped children learn by encouraging positive relationships/friendships, social skills, while developing a teamwork environment.



Throughout 2019 Grace Missions **Big Fish Chapel**, held on Wednesdays during the S.O.A.R program, focused on the ideas and practices of, 'Ten Ways to Love' based on Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's book, "The Way of Love."



The Grace Mission **Family and Children Christmas celebration/worship** at St. John's Episcopal Church ended the year with a beautiful Eucharist celebration followed by a lovely sit down dinner with the families. What a blessing it is for us to be together in community and share in the joys of the Christmas season. All of the children and parents went away spiritually and physically fed, not to mention, the wonderful gifts all of the children received through our Angel Tree program. Thank you to each and every one who participated in giving to the gift program!



THANK YOU to our ministry partners who help support the Children's Program. Your support, passion and generosity to serve others by giving selflessly does make an impact and a difference in the lives of our children!

We are so very grateful!

Grace Mission has big plans for advancing the academic achievements from 2019 into our Spring 2020 semester. In addition to homework assistance, tutors will focus on repetitive practice of phonics, reading strategies, comprehension, sight words, mathematical skills and flash cards. Teachers and administrators have stressed these skills are vital to master and prepare the students for the next grade level. Creative play will include social emotional learning curriculum such as, STEM projects, ARTS in education, team-building and physical fitness.

We will end the 2019-2020 School Year with a fun field trip to Wakulla Springs. Field trips to local treasures, such as Wakulla Springs, gives students new opportunities to explore their local environments while instilling appreciation for nature and the importance of community involvement to protect these local treasures.

Sincerely,

Dawn Adams, Grace Mission, Director of Family and Children Services