Dear Ministry Partners,

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to Grace Mission throughout 2015.** We have so much to be thankful for through all of our volunteers, sponsors and donors. We had 20,000+ volunteer hours this past year!

You 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 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 a total of $3020.00 ($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 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 Grocery we were able to deliver wholesome and nutritious food in the Springfield Apts./Joe Louis HUD Housing Project to over 2185 people with over half of that number being children. Many churches participated in the One Campaign and we are very grateful for your support!

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 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 agencies that help the poor and homeless populations in Leon County.

We served over 52,000 hot nutritious meals in 2015. A new record for us!

As a worshipping community within the Episcopal Church we continued to provide Morning Prayer, we baptized 5 adults, and bible study remains strong and vibrant. We studied the Book of Hebrews and began the Book of Acts.

The Christmas Angel Trees at each church provided Christmas gifts to 79 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 17 children go to Camp Weed and enjoy a wonderful Christian Education program along with all the fun camp activities. The Reading Academy helped 19 children prepare for the new school year by improving their reading ability. This past year’s theme was ‘*Oceans of Learning’* and please go to our website – gracemission.net - to see the video on the program. It was amazing! We ended the Academy with a trip to the ocean for all the children. This year the theme will be ‘*The Pollinators.’* We also sent the children to two VBS programs. One at St. John’s and the other at New Mount Zion Church. 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.

Grace Mission is committed to raising money to support our budget and ministry needs. We raised 34% 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!

Bishop Howard quoted Pope Francis in the most recent Diocesan Magazine which summarizes the diocesan mission:

“Christ performed the greatest service of all, reaching out to you and

me from the cross in an embrace in love, so you and I are to

respond to that love in service.”

Each day, as one of the Outreach Missions of the Diocese of Florida, we are responding to the love of Christ by sharing that love to others at Grace Mission. In particular, we are caring for the “least of these” in our midst – the poor, weak, vulnerable, elderly, homeless, addicts and children. As a worshipping community grounded in the Gospel – Jesus reminds us, *“There is no greater love than laying down one’s life for another.”* In love, every day, we lay our lives down to help those that are truly broken, often forgotten, unloved, and misunderstood. Christ gave us this beautiful commission in Matthew 25 and in every possible way Grace Mission lives into the Great Commission.

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 2016.

Rev. Amanda L. Nickles+