**GRACE MISSION**

Episcopal Church

*…a transformative ministry of the forgotten*

Dear Ministry Partners,

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to Grace Mission throughout 2014.** We have so much to be thankful for through all of our volunteers, sponsors and donors. We had over 20,000 volunteer hours this past year! Alleluia!

Your contributions this winter season helped us to giveaway 143 coats from October to December with an additional 46 coats given out in January. We gave out 76 blankets and many sweaters, sweatshirts along with numerous sweatpants, pants, winter caps and scarves, hygiene products and much more. We gave away a total of $3,555.00 ($10.00 dollars each) Goodwill vouchers to those in need.

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 now an annual event. We also served dinner to over 200 children, siblings and parents with the ‘In-A-Chord’ Barbershop Quartet singing in the background. It was a lovely evening. St. John’s helped us last summer when we needed a space to hold our two-week Reading Academy. The Reading Academy helped 21 children prepare for the new school year by improving their reading abilities. We had 14 children go to Camp Weed and 10 children attended St. John’s VBS program. We also gave new backpacks in the beginning of the school year (filled with school supplies) to 32 children.

Each month, through our One Campaign/Mobile Grocery, we were able to deliver wholesome and nutritious food in the Joe Louis HUD Housing Project to over 2,275 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 supports the Brehon House (for pregnant women who need shelter and help during pregnancy). We delivered 10 beautiful baby gift baskets to the women who reside at the Brehon House along with many diapers and baby wipes.

We raised $2,000 (through our Sunday outreach basket – think of the widow’s mite story in the Bible) for the Habitat for Humanity house build this year. We continue to support many local agencies that help with the poor and homeless in Leon County, as well as ministries within the Diocese of Florida. 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. Once a month we have a free clothing give-away to all those in need. We had 4 free Health Clinics and a free foot care clinic.

As a worshipping community within the Episcopal Church we added Morning Prayer on Thursday morning beginning in February. Morning Prayer is now twice a week (Wednesday and Thursday). We baptized 5 Adults! Bible study remains strong and vibrant. We studied the Book of Joshua and Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. We began a new Recovery/Healing class on Thursday which is well-attended. We had 3 Men’s Spiritual Retreats and our first Women’s Spiritual Retreat this year at Camp Weed. Both well attended. We began a new 12 step (AA) Evening Prayer service on Tuesday in June.

We served almost 48,000 hot meals in 2014. We are now serving at least one hot meal each day and four days out of the week we serve 2 meals. We also serve a hot meal to our After-School children three times a week. Thank you to all the churches that partner with us to provide a hot meal for our Christian Education night for the children.

Grace Mission is committed to raising money to support our budget and ministry needs. We raised 38% 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!

Why do we do all that we do at Grace Mission? Let me share with you a message from our new Board Chairperson, Yolanda Bogan:

*“When I have a good meal, I believe the world is a much better place. When I am not hungry my mind is more open to thinking and learning and my heart is more open to giving. I assume others are the same. A full stomach and a clean body help to provide dignity and make way for health, healing and hope. Grace Mission believes that everyone, even the poor, should be healthy and whole. In such a state of being, there’s an increase in law and order, family stability, and well-being. Grace Mission nurtures spiritual development by providing two church services on Sunday, weekly Evening Prayer and twice weekly Morning Prayer along with a Spiritual Recovery meeting and Bible study each week. Grace Mission improves school performance through meeting with children regularly (3x per week) for homework assistance during the school year and providing summer camp scholarships, as well as Reading Academy to help children prepare for the new school year by improving their reading abilities. Grace Mission promotes community pride by helping local residents keep the neighborhood clean.* *Grace Mission prevents illness and restores health by providing coats, blankets, and prescription medication, and collaborates with other like-minded organizations through donating to local, national and international programs. At Grace Mission, we feed the hungry twice a day on most days. While Grace Mission is a ministry of the Christian Church under the Episcopal Diocese, we welcome those who want to do something to promote dignity, health, healing and hope.”*

Dr.Yolanda K. H. Bogan

Professor and Director

Department of Psychology

Principal Investigator, FAMU MSI-CBO Program

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

Pastor Amanda+

303 W. Brevard St. Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850-224-3817 [www.gracemission.net](http://www.gracemission.net)  
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