**GRACE MISSION**

Episcopal Church

*…a transformative ministry of the forgotten*

Dear Ministry Partners,

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to Grace Mission throughout 2013.** We have so much to be thankful for through our volunteers, sponsors and donors.

Your contributions this winter season helped us to giveaway 131 coats, 163 blankets, 188 sweatshirts and sweaters, along with numerous sweatpants, winter caps and scarves, hygiene products and much more.

The Christmas Angel Trees at each church provided Christmas gifts to 89 children most of which are in our After School program at Springfield Apartments/Joe Louis Housing Unit. St. John’s Episcopal Church partnered with us to provide a beautiful venue and atmosphere for our Family Christmas Service.

Through the One Campaign/Mobile Grocery, we were able to give out 30 - $10.00 gift cards to Winn Dixie to help with the Thanksgiving meal. At Christmas, we were able to giveaway 77 whole turkeys to families in need. Through the *One Campaign* each month we are able to help deliver wholesome and nutritious food (on an average) to at least 71 households. From June to December, we served 1655 people (over half that number being children)! Many churches participated in the *One Campaign* – we have made new partnerships and rejoice in our church partnerships already established.

Grace Mission delivered 7 beautiful baby baskets to the women residing at the Brehon House (for pregnant women who need shelter and help during pregnancy).

We have raised money for College Scholarships, Habitat for Humanity and Global Outreach (orphanage in Uganda). 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.

As a worshipping community within the Episcopal Church we added Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings which began in June. We baptized 20 Adults! Bible Study remains strong and vibrant with approximately 30-40 attending. We had 3 Men’s Spiritual Retreats this year at Camp Weed which was a huge success for the men that participated.

We served almost 39,000 (38,932) hot meals in 2013. We are now serving at least one hot meal each day with the exception of our day off on Monday.

Grace Mission is committed to raising money to support our budget and ministry needs. We raised 27% (up by 5% over last year) of our income this year through our Fundraisers, Mail-outs, 100 & 500 Club, Dinners, 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!**

Max Lucado in his book “Grace Happens Here” said,

*Grace hugged the stink out of the prodigal and scared the hate out of Paul and pledges to do the same in us. Grace is God walking into your world with a sparkle in his eye and an offer that’s hard to resist. “Sit still for a bit. I can do wonders with this mess of yours.”*

And at Grace Mission we believe this promise. We trust this promise. We cling like a barnacle to every hope and covenant. We see the grace of God working in lives, giving hope and a promise of a new life in Jesus Christ. The cross of Christ creates a new people, a people unhindered by skin color or family origin. A new citizenry based not on common ancestry or geography, but on a common Savior. Grace grants us first the power to receive love and then the power to give it. **Thank you** for receiving God’s Grace into your lives and giving of your time, talent and treasure in helping those often forgotten in society but not by God!

Pastor Amanda+

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