

Care Ministry Report 2nd Quarter 2019-2020

COVID-19 certainly had an impact on our ministry this quarter. After pantry on March 10, we set up outside in the parking lot and supplied our guests with pre-packed groceries on a “no-contact” basis. We took on a theme of “our pantry looks different each week” and it did.

During the quarter, we served 191 families representing roughly 450 people. Of this total 14 new families were served and we made 55 deliveries of food. The relationship with Carver Elementary School ended for the school year, but we continued to provide our guests with children or grandchildren with kiddie bags. Each bag contained snack foods and single servings of breakfast and or lunch items. We partnered with a childhood cancer organization, Connor’s Heroes, and made deliveries to their Heroes families while these families were strictly quarantined. We also provided a large amount of food for Home Again; a group that Gayton’s own Eleina Espigh is the past president. This organization is working to end homelessness in the RVA.

The Gayton “food fairies” were very active this quarter. We had an overwhelming amount of donations, both in food supplies and monetarily, from the Gayton family. These donations were critically important as our normal shopping outlets limited us in our purchases. We were able to increase quantities of food and staples to our guests. The donations saved us a great deal of money. We began the quarter with a balance of \$18,407.21. We ended with a balance of \$26,003.83 or a net gain of \$7,596.62. We will be researching and exploring additional ways to increase our capacity and outreach. Note: Scott Wagner and I spoke recently and we plan to meet soon to possibly map out a strategy to utilize some funds in other ways for Care Ministries.

We are slowly re-engaging our volunteer base. On pantry day 6-2-2020, the SPACE after school program kids wanted to help us. We had them stock shelves, prepare pre-packed bags and carry the bags out to the parking lot. All under the supervision of the SPACE staff and pantry volunteers. Pantry day 6-30-2020, we had 3 of our regular volunteers come and help us greet our guests.

Our pantry continues to look different. We are in the process of moving from the education wing to the storage area in the gym. Kevin Knitter has been involved with this relocation and we hope to have it completed by July 17. The relocation will provide better security for the ASQ kids and allow for better social distancing. We will continue to serve our guests on the drive through basis, until weather forces us inside or parking lot safety is an issue with AGAPE parents picking up their kids or the SPACE kids arriving at the building after school.

On behalf of Amy, Carolyn, and Mike - thanks to all for the support of our Gayton family!