

Dreaming Our Way Into 2023

Designing and Managing Cause-Driven Opportunities for Groups to Serve



Message from Amber, SPARK Founder and Executive Director

I have been so inspired and motivated by youth and young adults in the Winston-Salem community. You'll read below about our *Winston's Dream* led by 7 youth and young adults mobilizing 286 of their peers in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County during MLK Jr weekend. The friendship that youth are so drawn to and the desire to learn centered around seeing their peers for who they really are keeps SPARK focused on service projects that allow for young people's voices, dreams and creative minds to be heard and seen. I am filled with immense joy that our work is making service accessible and providing service learning to folks in the community that I love. Thank you for being a part of it with us. It only takes a spark.

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Winston's Dream



Planned and presented by a team of four high school students and three young adults, we hosted a weekend leading up to MLK Jr. Day of service learning opportunities for children, youth and young adults to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. We mobilized 286 young people ages 5-25yo and 18 adults.

Our Winston's Dream weekend celebrating the life and work of MLK Jr. started with a service learning youth movie night watching Selma, Lord, Selma and creating murals to travel across our city for three weeks!

The weekend continued with various service options - from a Zoom call, creating a mobile advocacy piece with contributions from 38 teenagers, landscaping in Odd Fellow's cemetery, organizing and sorting in The Community Coat Closet, and meal prepared and served for unhoused friends at The Dwelling and a community event at Peacehaven Mobile Home Park with the Wake Forest Men's Soccer team.

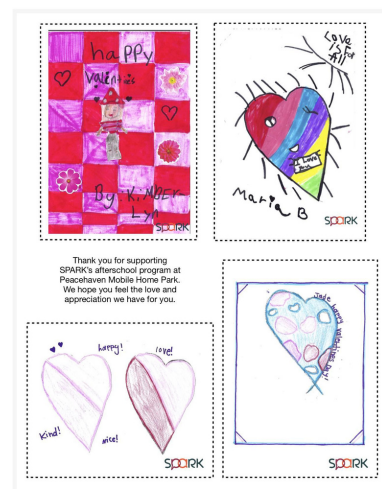
We're thankful for our partners, and all of the young people who spent the weekend honoring a legacy of serving the needs of others.

Celebrate and Support this Valentine's Day

Each Thursday, we spend time with the kids who live at Peacehaven Mobile Home Park. We share an encouraging "SPARK lesson" that focuses on self-confidence and kindness to others. We help with homework, provide a healthy snack, offer sensory play and play a lot!

This year, **you** can support our afterschool program by downloading SPARK's 2023 Valentines created by our afterschool students.

Head to our website to download a set of four for \$5 at www.spark-community.org and print/share all you want!



Did you know we design, organize and coordinate service opportunities for high school classrooms, clubs, teams, neighborhoods, churches, corporations and small businesses? We handle all the nuts and bolts and guarantee it's rooted in kind partnership! There is always service learning involved.

Faith-Based Summer Experience 2023: **Your Backyard** based on John 12: 1-11

More information can be found at
www.sparkdwell.org

If you have groups you'd like to connect to SPARK for a summer 2023 experience, please reach out to Amber. SPARK wants to meet the needs of those being served and who are serving. We can think creatively together!



Cozy Bundle Event

This December we were able to provide 384 children with warm pajamas, books and blankets through our Cozy Bundle Event. We also had 43 children sign up to receive a bed from our partner A Bed and A Book, and served lunch to 300 people thanks to A Taste of the Triad. We're so thankful for all of the donations and time given to bring this event to life to serve our neighbors well.

We're already looking forward to and preparing for Cozy Bundle 2023. If you would like to talk about 2023 event sponsorship, please reach out to us! You can also drop off pajamas and blankets at Burkhead UMC throughout the year!

Please consider donating to SPARK's mission. A gift of \$30-\$100 goes a long way in helping with project design and purchasing program supplies, big and small. If you're looking to donate used furniture that you believe has more love to give, please consider donating to SPARK's Pearl Program (www.spark-community.org/pearl-program).

You can also donate warm wear to
The Community Coat Closet (www.spark-community.org/community-coat-closet).

You can make your gift at www.spark-community.org or by mailing a check to:
Burkhead UMC Attn: SPARK 5250 Silas Creek Pkwy Winston-Salem, NC 27106

