

**LEEDS**

# Celebrating 25 Years

In 1994, the pastors of five area churches came together to form Leeds Welfare Cooperative. The purpose was to have a central location to assist those in need and to have some control over individuals that would charity hop. We have started doing business as Leeds Outreach but we are still incorporated under the same 501© (3) and the five founding churches are still active supporters. We have been blessed by additional churches over the years, but as stated in our bylaws our goal is still to distribute food and emergency care to persons in need residing in Leeds. We are grateful the City of Leeds still gives us space in which to operate.

Our funding is still provided by local churches, businesses, and individuals and our office is still staffed entirely by volunteers.

Clients must provide proof of residency and fall below 150% of the national poverty level. Financial assistance and the number of times families can visit our pantry are limited yearly, but all clients are eligible to come to our supplemental food programs two times a week.

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday our volunteers are available to provide financial assistance and a one week supply of groceries from a visit to our pantry.

In addition to office duties on Tuesday we have bread and sweets clients may pick up and Wednesday we have a miscellaneous food distribution (you can read more about these programs below).

These programs are open to all clients in good standing. This is a fabulous way to reduce their monthly grocery bill.

## Our sponsoring churches:

St Theresa Catholic Church\*  
 Leeds First Baptist Church\*  
 Leeds First United Methodist Church\*  
 Church of the Highlands  
 Valley View Baptist Church\*  
 Cedar Grove Baptist Church  
 Mount Hebron Baptist Church  
 Leeds First Presbyterian Church\*  
 Little Rock Missionary Baptist  
 Asbury United Methodist Church  
 Wellsprings Worship Center  
 Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
 Bold Springs Presbyterian Church  
 Ashville Road Church of Christ  
 \*Founding church

## We love these local supporters!

Leeds Walmart is an amazing partner in feeding the hungry in Leeds. Every Wednesday a faithful group of volunteers pick up food that would otherwise be discarded. Our pick up team returns to the Outreach loaded with food that volunteers prepare to distribute. Clients drop their Client Card in a bag and are able to go through the line to select items as their card is drawn. Walmart contributed close to **31,000 lbs.** of food last year.

Publix & Oak Mountain Mission donate bread, sweets and various other items that are distributed every Tuesday. Volunteers from Masonic Lodge 446 have faithfully left Leeds bright and early every week to pick these items up for years.

Pizza Hut and Kentucky Fried Chicken also let us pick up food weekly that would be discarded. Clients love receiving this pizza and chicken in their pantry visits or Wednesday food give away.

Food Giant sold bags of food for \$5 during the holidays. We are blessed that they were donated to us and provide staples for our pantry for several months.

## Where your money went in 2018

Want to volunteer? Call or email us

**699-7291**

leedsoutreach@gmail.com

In 2018 by over 12% need was up significantly. We were able to absorb this increase in 2017, but hope to be back on track in 2019. Here is what we were able to do:

- ❖ **\$17,804** in food and personal care items that provided over **400** pantry visits (fortunately we received two grants for food purchases that took care of most of this).
- ❖ **\$6,983** on Christmas (this number would be much larger without our generous Christmas sponsors).
- ❖ **\$8,383** on school supplies and fees
- ❖ **3.2%** of budget was spent on insurance, computer programs and office needs. This number is slightly higher than normal due to the need for new computers and a copier.

*Since 2011 we have provided over **\$300,000** in financial assistance.*

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# OUTREACH

**LEEDS OUTREACH IS STAFFED ENTIRELY BY AMAZING VOLUNTEERS THAT WORK TIRELESSLY TO SERVE THIS COMMUNITY FOUR MORNINGS A WEEK**

## Christmas at Leeds Outreach

Christmas at Leeds Outreach is always awe inspiring. Parents complete applications the month of October for children ages 2-14 listing their wishes and needed clothing. This information, along with age and gender, is given to amazing sponsors who then shop for a child. The items are then placed in black bags for the parents to give Christmas morning as they wish. This year incredible sponsors provided a complete Christmas for **121** kids. We were able to provide gift cards or toys for **26** siblings that fell outside our age range. We also provided for **31** that did not make our application deadline with our extra toys.

Our volunteers do an amazing job preparing the packages to be distributed and work tirelessly during this busy time of year to make sure every child has a Merry Christmas. All remaining toys are packed up to be used the following Christmas.

Our Christmas program could not run smoothly without the use of Leeds First Baptist Church's gym. They graciously lend us the space the week we prepare packages. Their support has blessed us tremendously.

## School Supplies

This year we provided **108** Leeds City School students with the complete list of supplies requested by the school.

In addition to supplies we provide required paperback books for middle school students and their class fee. High school students are given basic school supplies and we pay up to \$100 in school and elective fees.

We believe this program is one of the most needed we have.

We believe starting the school year with everything needed is vital to student success.

## Making a difference

Church of the Highlands blessed us with two Serve Day teams this year. One poured concrete pads outside of two of our doors which has made rainy days and unloading trucks so much easier for us. They laid a tile floor in our pantry area and cleaned, labeled and organized throughout our entire space.

The second team provided and organized countless school supplies and backpacks for our school supply program.

What a blessing both of these teams were to us this year.

Leeds Family Eye Care held a food drive for us the month of November. This is always a busy time for us and the extra food was greatly appreciated.

In addition to sponsoring a few of our kids at Christmas they also held a toy drive that helped us serve the families that did not make our application deadline. Both of these drives were a tremendous help meeting our clients' needs during the holidays.

Cruising the Creek Bank is the wonderful car show that is held during the Creek Bank Festival. They divide their profits between Leeds Outreach and the Backpack Buddies program. This donation was a tremendous support to our school supply program this year.

**NEED TO CONTACT US OR WANT TO VOLUNTEER?**

**205-699-7291**

**LEEDSOUTREACH@GMAIL.COM**

**OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**