

2019 NEWSLETTER



You are making a meaningful change

Jan 2020

2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

I just celebrated my 12th Christmas at Leeds Outreach. I look back at all this ministry has been able to accomplish and I am in awe of our community. Because of your generosity we have continually served those in need for 25 years. Your faithfulness has enabled us to expand and add programs, provide more nutritious foods, and spread love to those in need.

I have worked with some amazing leaders in my time at the Outreach. Under the direction of Euel Musgrove, Barbara Higginbotham and Carolyn Harry this organization has grown by leaps and bounds. I am grateful I have been able to work alongside them and witness their love for their community and those in need.

We continue to be staffed by phenomenal volunteers who work tirelessly four days a week. Their service and dedication is a true gift to me and those we serve.

I am humbled daily by the stories of those who receive, give, serve, and volunteer. I have seen parents give selflessly in the midst of great loss. I have watched clients gracefully battle cancer while continuing to strive for better for their family. I have watched volunteers take from their own purses, closets, and time with family to serve this Outreach

I believe we are filling a vital need. I am inspired by the forethought of the five founding pastors. I am humbled by your generosity and I am truly blessed to be a part of Leeds Outreach.

Thank you for making a difference,

Beverly Riddlesperger

Facts & Figures

Even though donations were down again in 2019 we were still able to do some amazing things.

This is where your money went:

Pantry and personal care items \$8,650 about 390 pantry visits.

Utilities, medicine, and fuel for doctor appointments, \$34,825 helping 165 families

Christmas \$9,559

School Supplies \$9,983

We are proud to once again be able to say that over 98% of your donations went directly to client support. The rest pays for liability insurance, office supplies, and a database for assistance tracking that lets us see if clients are frequenting another charity.

Who we help

Leeds Outreach serves those that fall at or below 150% of the national poverty level. For one individual poverty level in 2019 was \$12,490. Our threshold of 150% of poverty level was \$18,745. Many of our clients are single working mothers and retirement aged women. But, our services are open to any Leeds resident that provides proof of income, residency, and need for assistance. We take our job of spending your money seriously and work diligently to provide appropriate help to those in need. Financial assistance and pantry visits are limited yearly, to stretch our resources fairly throughout the year.

A Huge Thanks For Amazing Support in 2019

- Walmart continues to donate allowing us to provide fresh fruits and vegetables for about 40 families every Wednesday.
- Pizza Hut and KFC donate food that would otherwise be thrown away. Who doesn't love pizza and fried chicken?
- Masonic Lodge 446 travels weekly to pick up donated items from Publix that are immediately distributed to about 20 families.
- The Cruising the Creekbank Car Show donated the proceeds from the show to Leeds Outreach and the Backpack Buddies program. They are making a huge impact of ending hunger in our community.
- Tommy Hilfiger from The Shops of Grand River donated unsalable merchandise that we were able to give to clients with school supplies and Christmas items.
- Mount Hebron Baptist Church did a great job collecting school supplies lightening the load of what we had to purchase.
- Church of the Highlands blessed us by laying a floor, painting and cleaning our facility on their annual Serve Day
- The churches of Leeds held their first community outreach day and we were blessed by folks from Epiphany Episcopal and First Baptist spending a Saturday helping in our pantry.
- Leeds First Methodist held a Support Your Team food drive providing food at a time our pantry was critically low.

- We benefited greatly when Leeds Jane Culbreth Library allowed patrons to pay fines with cans for a month.
- Leeds City Schools held a huge food drive filling a box truck and bringing about 15 kids to help unload.
- Leeds Food Giant sold food bags again during the holidays that will provide much needed items for months.
- Hubble Power Systems held a food drive the month of November blessing our clients through the holidays.
- Leeds Family Eye Care has been a great partner for several years holding a food drive in November and a toy drive in December.
- Peggy's Barber Shop also held a toy drive for our Christmas

Christmas for Kids

The Earl Street Christmas Program was around before Leeds Outreach. In talking with Mrs. Pauline Street this past Christmas I think Mr. Street would be proud the program is still going strong and impressed by the numbers we serve.

For Christmas 2019 the parents of 157 kids between the ages of 2-14 submitted applications for assistance. We worked to find sponsors for each of these kids and provided a list of their wishes and needs. Our sponsors do an amazing job and this program truly couldn't work without them. In 2019 we were short 15 sponsors, but fortunately our budget was able to absorb this number.

We provided gift cards for the 24 siblings that fell outside of our age guidelines and provided for 6 households that did not meet our application deadline.

All remaining toys were packed to be used next year. These will become a valuable resource when we are filling the bags this coming Christmas.

This program would not run smoothly without the support of First Baptist Leeds and the use of their gym for the week. We can't thank them enough for this support.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

This is one of our biggest undertakings . We provided supplies for 128 kids in 2019. Using the supply lists provided by the schools we shop for all the items requested. This takes several weeks of planning and organizing our volunteers, but students are able to start the year with all the materials they need. This includes the books requested for middle school students and the fees needed for both middle and high school students. This is a huge expense lifted off families and we believe one of the most important programs.

