



## THE J.A.M. JAR

Jackson Area Ministries

P.O. Box 603, 119 McKitterick Avenue, Jackson, OH 45640

Phone: 740-286-1320 or 888-237-3141

Fax: 740-288-4308

E-mail: [jamjar@midohio.twcbc.com](mailto:jamjar@midohio.twcbc.com)

web page: [www.jamumc.org](http://www.jamumc.org)

Office Administrator: *Deidra Libby*

*January 2024*

### *New Beginnings at Jackson Area Ministries*

Can you believe that another year has passed, and we are entering a new year? Where does the time go? We hope and pray that you and your family had a nice Christmas season and a wonderful start to the New Year. There have been a few staff changes here at Jackson Area Ministries in the past few months. Director Michael Williams resigned in September. Deidra Libby, Administrative Assistant, was named Office Administrator and will be taking care of all office tasks and coordinating the different ministry projects of Jackson Area Ministries. Deidra has been with Jackson Area Ministries since October 2018 and very knowledgeable in the operations of the ministry. She is looking forward to a new year and working with the Board of Directors to make the community more aware of the services provided by JAM.

As we look to new beginnings at Jackson Area Ministries, the following scriptures come to mind that I would like to share with you.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

This scripture is a favorite of mine. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

Here's another favorite scripture. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

We have many, many requests that come into the office for individuals who need wheelchair ramps. We are not able to fulfill each request because we need more volunteers to work on the projects. Perhaps, this might be something that your church groups would like to be a part of. The Board of Directors stated that it would be wonderful to have volunteers available to build wheelchair ramps year-round because there is such a need for them. Someone called the office a few days ago that needed a ramp. I told him that I would add his name to the list, because our summer work camps don't start until June. It is so hard to tell an individual in need, that you are unable to help them right now.



***Working together to be the hands and feet of Jesus.***





## Christmas Dinners

Jackson Area Ministries would like to say “*Thank You*” to New Albany United Methodist Church in New Albany, OH for providing us with 40 Christmas Dinners (Hams, Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn, and Dinner Rolls) to be given out to families in need. New Albany UMC has been providing this meal for several years. On December 21, 2023, we put the dinner baskets together and distributed them to needy families. Those families were so thankful. We were blessed to have great volunteers who helped in putting the Christmas baskets together.



Pictured is Gannon, age 11 who volunteered in helping put the baskets together.

## Gardening Program

Whenever anyone complains about the weather, a friend of mine says, “But spring is coming!” That’s the way it is at JAM. Spring is coming and we need to get our seeds and donations collected so that we will be able to help gardeners in 18 counties of southeastern Ohio grow their own food. In March we will have seed potatoes and baking potatoes (through the Society of St. Andrew) to give away. Then in mid-May we will distribute seeds and tomato plants to the 29 agencies we work with. It takes a lot of preparation and coordination of dates and places, but thousands of people can have vegetables to eat, to share, and to preserve.

Some of our gardeners use flower beds and trellises at their rented homes or apartments. Others put their vegetable seeds into whatever large containers are available. Some of the seeds are used in community gardens where several people help with the planting, caring, and harvesting so that food can be shared. Here in Jackson, we maintain a tomato patch behind the local Food Pantry and clients are given the “fruit” of our labors.

You have an opportunity to help. Cash donations are needed to buy the tomato plants and to help with transportation costs of the potatoes. Seeds are needed—everything from herbs to squash. Seeds need to be hardy in Zone 6 and have a relatively short growing season. Our gardening program is expanding each year. Last year we nearly depleted all seeds that were donated. This year we expect more needy families to reach out to JAM, as word is spreading about this wonderful ministry. Early donations, and all seed and monetary donations are greatly appreciated.

If you send your donation through the USPS, please use **P.O. Box 603, Jackson, OH 45640**. If you ship seeds to us through UPS or FedEx, you will need our street address, 119 McKitterick Ave., Jackson, Ohio 45640. If you would like to deliver your seeds in person, please call ahead (740-286-1320). One of the JAM staff would be happy to give you a tour, answer questions, or give you an opportunity to help sort and package. If you are just passing by, you may leave your seeds in the big yellow box that will be in front of our office.

Thank you for helping us help others. Deadline to send your seeds is **April 15<sup>th</sup>**.



**The stores have already begun to put out their vegetable seed packets. So, you can get a head start in purchasing them.**



## Summer Work Camp— Can Be a “*Life Changer*”

Even though it’s only January, it’s not too early to start making plans to attend a Summer Work Camp with Jackson Area Ministries. The success of this ministry is based upon at least 10 mission teams participating. Perhaps, your adult/youth group would like to participate. JAM has many requests, for wheelchair ramps. It is hard to fulfill all the requests. We need your help. Our fees have remained the same as last year. **Application fee \$700 (non-refundable fee) and materials fee \$125 (per person).** To request an application, you can call the

office or log on to our website at [www.jamumc.org](http://www.jamumc.org) Our summer work camps typically are during the months of June, July, and August. However, if you have a smaller group, maybe you would like to participate in a weekend or long weekend work camp. We have discovered that this effort can make a significant difference in the lives of all involved. Be it a porch, a handicap ramp, a floor repaired whatever it makes a difference. To many young people and adults as well, giving time and compassion to a stranger who becomes a friend is a *Life Lesson* and a *Life Changing Experience*. Contact our office today.



**Sowing Seeds & Serving Others**--Last year in March, two truckloads of seed potatoes and baking potatoes came to Jackson Area Ministries from our longstanding partner Society of St. Andrew. In a few hours, teams of volunteers unloaded, repacked, and sent those seed potatoes out again to nearly 20 different agencies and organization across Southern Ohio.

Amidst the larger group, one recipient stood out---Gannon. He is only 11 years old and from a small neighborhood, on the outskirts of town but he has a heart as big as the potato bags he was carrying.

Using the ample space in his grandfather’s backyard and the humble tools available, Gannon transforms a small amount of seed potatoes into a large blessing. This is Gannon’s fourth season of planting and sharing potatoes! He is a living testimony to the old sayings: “age is only a number” and “**anything is possible** if you put your mind to it”.

He regularly spends time serving his neighbors—mowing lawns, cleaning up messes, and generally helping when he finds an opportunity.

At 11 years old, Gannon can dispatch fallen trees, drive a tractor, till the soil, prep seed potatoes. He’s an amazing young boy. Here’s a few pictures of his seed potatoes from planting to harvest.



“After big storms, I help clean up trees, debris or whatever folks need help with. I like doing things where I can work with my hands, get dirty, and I really **LOVE** driving the tractor.”-Gannon

**JAM JAR**  
JACKSON AREA MINISTRIES  
P.O. BOX 603  
JACKSON, OH 45640

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 122  
JACKSON, OH 45640

Current Residence or Current Address



Thank you to the churches and individuals who give to Jackson Area Ministries through The Advance. We appreciate what you are doing and hope that you will continue to give.

**JAM Advance Number 194431**

**Would you like to receive our Jam Jar Newsletter by email?**

**Please email us with your name, address and email address**

**[jamjar@midohio.twcbc.com](mailto:jamjar@midohio.twcbc.com)**

**\*\*We are also updating our Newsletter addresses. If you have a change of address and would like to continue receiving it please let us know.**



**facebook**

Please like our page  
**Jackson Area Ministries**

