



THE J.A.M. JAR

Jackson Area Ministries

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June/July 2024

Thoughts and Reflections of Jackson Area Ministries.....

Over the past 2 years there have been several changes in leadership at JAM but, one thing that remains the same is the focus of helping others and sharing the love of Jesus. Our new slogan of Jackson Area Ministries is: "Serving Christ by Serving Others".

We are still very much focused on our gardening project: helping families to grow their own food to help with the inflation of the grocery bills. The other project that we are focused on is our Summer Work Camp by building wheelchair ramps and working on other small projects for individuals. Our office receives many requests for wheelchair ramps. Summer is an exciting time when these Youth/Adult work camps come to southern Ohio to build the ramps. We ask local churches to host these groups that come in. In June we hosted one of our largest groups ever! Approximately 85 people representing 3 churches were serving with Jackson Area Ministries all at one time. We thank the Lord for these groups.

There are a few scriptures that comes to my mind about serving others.

Matthew 25:21 His Lord said unto him. Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the lord.

Galatians 5:13b: but by love, serve one another.

Psalms 100:2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

*As for me and my household
we will
serve the
Lord*
Joshua 24:15

We are looking ahead and expecting God to do Great and Mighty things here at Jackson Area Ministries.

Spreading the Jam

Change.... many of us do not like change. When something is working well for us, we say, "Don't change it. We like it just the way it is!" However, **change** is inevitable. Especially in these days of ever changing modern technology and increasing high costs.

We, here at Jackson Area Ministries, have reached a difficult decision regarding our newsletter, "The Jam Jar." Increasing prices have made it no longer feasible to continue printing and mailing our newsletter. We usually print and mail approximately 850 newsletters three times per year. With the continuous postage increases and the rising costs of supplies (cases of paper, ink cartridges, labels, etc.), the expense is becoming too great. Sadly, this will be the last copy of "The Jam Jar" to be printed and mailed.

Moving forward, we will be sending all newsletters by E-mail. This will not only save hundreds of dollars, but we can "spread the jam" by sending updates more often. This will enable us to keep you informed of all the wonderful things going on at Jackson Area Ministries.

We would like to thank all of you who have been receiving the newsletter electronically in the past. If you would like to begin receiving "The Jam Jar" via e-mail, please send your name and email to ministriesjam6@gmail.com

If you know someone who is unable to receive the newsletter electronically, we urge you to "spread the jam" by printing a copy for them.

GARDENING 2024

Our seed sorting season began in mid-February as we prepared tables and totes in anticipation of donations of seed packets. We were not disappointed. Some days we added hundreds of packets of carrot seeds to their tote and other days cucumbers were the most profuse. When we thought we were not getting enough herbs, the next box we opened would have an abundance of parsley and sage. Some days we spent hours repackaging 50-pound bags of green beans into more family friendly portions.



In mid-March a truckload of potatoes arrived from the Society of St. Andrew. We do not have a loading dock at the JAM office so the potatoes are delivered to Community Food Initiatives in Nelsonville. Agencies from the counties we serve collect their allotment at the CFI warehouse. Approximately two-thirds of the potatoes were for food; the rest of them were seed potatoes.

JAM ordered 600 flats of tomatoes—21,600 plants. Some were picked up at the greenhouse by the agencies that requested them; the rest were brought to our office to be distributed. We had over 200 flats loaded in a 20-foot U-Haul truck plus at least 20 flats in the back of an SUV. Our supplier is in Racine, on the Ohio River, about 50 miles east of Jackson. We also have a retired pastor with a greenhouse who brings several dozen tomato plants to add to our giveaway after Mother's Day.



Nauvoo Methodist Church in Scioto County is our largest recipient of seeds and plants—enough for 400 gardens. The volunteer coordinator works with 10 different agencies representing 7 different denominations. Most of the food pantries in the county are church sponsored. Our smallest agency is



Jackson Municipal Court that gets enough seeds and plants for one family-sized garden. Also, we have about a dozen tomato plants growing in two raised beds behind our local food pantry.

This year we have been blessed with sufficient monetary donations to cover staff expenses, truck rental, and the cost of tomato plants. Our plan is to visit some of the gardens and share pictures and stories on our website throughout the season. Keep watching your donations grow!

Donations

You can be a small part of what we are doing to Serve Christ by Serving Others
by sending in a donation to help the ministry.

We are a non-profit organization and strictly operate by donations.

Would you like to be a part of helping the work of the ministry to continue?

Are you a creative giver? Maybe you could encourage your church to adopt a JAM Project.

Fifth Sundays are perfect for a special offering for missions.

Work Camp

Work Camp season at Jackson Area Ministries has been very busy. We had our group of men from Sidney, OH in April. This group is led by Paul Soliday. We always enjoy Paul's group coming and working on projects. Every work camp is special with projects but this one was extra special. They were able to build a ramp for a lady that had to be carried out of her home by her son for doctor appointments because she was not able to go down the steps.

Then another project that they were able to complete was building a ramp for a lady in Oak Hill, OH that was having hip replacement surgery due to cancer. When she was able to return home after surgery and rehab the ramp was such a help for her to be able to get in and out of her home. Please remember this lady in your prayers as she has started her radiation and chemo treatments.

The week of June 9, 2024 was a very busy week for Jackson Area Ministries. This year was a little different for JAM. We had Youth/Adult workers from 3 churches here the same week. There were 8 worksites, with 7 ramps and 2 porch repairs/reconstructions. In addition one team helped finish a home by hanging drywall. One group even helped a neighbor clean out her flower bed. Everyone worked hard and we were blessed with great weather and no rain for the week. All these groups were being the hands and feet of Jesus and sharing God's love with the homeowners.



"Everyone who then hears these Words of Jesus and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the Rock."

Matthew 7:24

JAM would like to thank Waid Radford, Gary Stabler, David Brookover, Scott Helsel, and Jeff Seeds for coordinating these projects.

A special thank you to Waid Radford for getting all of the supplies to each work site. When they needed extra materials, they would call Waid and he would deliver it to them. There were many hands and feet that made this week a huge success!!!!



One of the groups had t-shirts made and on the back of the shirt was ***Go, Love, Serve*** which is taken from the scripture Mark 16:15, Jesus said, ***Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.***



Maybe your church has a missions team that would like to participate in a summer work camp next year. It's never too early to start planning for next year.

Check out our website or call the office for more details.

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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

How are you spending your summer vacation?

**Our Work Camp Volunteers
enjoy spending time with friends,
getting fresh air and sunshine
and sharing great food!**

**Special Bonus:
Sharing God's Love
With Others**

