

Serving Beyond the Walls of St. Paul

List of Opportunities for Missions

2023

B.R.I.D.G.E. (Building Responsible Individuals through Discipline, Guidance and Education)

Contact Person: Bo Bickerstaff (bbickerstaff@brasfieldgorrie.com)

Jim Tjoflat (jtjoflat@bellsouth.net)

www.bridgecolumbus.org)

What is it? BRIDGE is a faith based, life changing program housed in the Columbus UMC District office on Second Avenue that strives to positively impact the lives of high school drop outs through G.E.D. instruction (16 weeks), life skill classes and continued career counseling. Unique to BRIDGE is the highly individualized, one on one, teaching style, serving to provide hope, encouragement and assurance to students that may otherwise not be able to succeed. Along with this individual attention, at the core of the program is a very strict and disciplined participation policy that each student must contractually agree to before being accepted into the program. Since its inception, BRIDGE has a 90% success rate and has enabled many former “dropouts” to earn their GED. Following their completion of the program, students are encouraged to and assisted in enrolling in local colleges and technical schools, and are followed up on by BRIDGE staff and volunteers who offer continued encouragement and guidance when needed.

How can you serve? Volunteers can act as instructors, as tutors (math especially), as mentors, and as Life Skills speakers (banking basics or nutrition basics, etc.). St. Paul members form golf teams in the BRIDGE annual fund raising golf tournament.

Boy Scouts

Contact Person: Will Burgin (will@jackson-burgin.com)

What is it? Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program provides boys mentoring, fellowship, education, and more, offering avenues to learn reverence for God and citizenship, avenues to become physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. St. Paul hosts Troop 1 for boy scouts and Pack 1 for cub scouts.

How can you serve? Volunteers are needed to lead and maintain continuity of the program. A willing heart and a belief in the scout programs are the essential traits needed to serve.

Columbus High School

Contact Person: Tammy Reynolds (tjreynolds3@gmail.com)

What is it? St. Paul is an official Partner in Education with Columbus High School, serving the school in a variety of ways.

How can you serve? Opportunities vary from year to year including helping as we host teacher breakfasts and sports and club banquets in our Fellowship Hall, helping to put together cookie and goody bags to hand out during Teacher Appreciation Week, and helping to serve as we host an annual teacher retirement tea.

Hope Harbour Women's Shelter

Contact Person: Tammy Reynolds (tjreynolds3@gmail.com)

What is it? Hope Harbour is a secure, safe shelter for women and their children who have been in abusive relationships. The center provides shelter, food, counseling, and classes for the women and children who live there.

How can you serve? Throughout the year, St. Paul participates in collecting clothing and personal items for the shelter, hosts groups from the shelter to church functions such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Fall Festival as well as hosting on-site picnics and cook outs at the shelter. A work team is sent on St. Paul for All day and often does landscaping, painting, light repair work, and carpentry. Other opportunities include Special Events volunteers, children's aides, shelter aides, donation organization assistant, and "givers of hope" who are volunteers who just go and visit the ladies and children there.

Open Door Community House

Contact Person: Tammy Reynolds (tjreynolds3@gmail.com)

Teri Parker (teriwparker@gmail.com)

What is it? Open Door Community House has been opening doors of faith, hope and opportunity since 1935. Throughout its history, Open Door has been standing in the gap for people who have no voice or no hope. As an outreach of the United Methodist Church, Open Door serves children, women and families. The mission of Open Door Community House, Inc. is to empower impoverished people in our community to realize their full potential as children of God.

How can you serve? There are many meaningful programs at Open Door in which to volunteer! Each year, St. Paul participates in the Annual Walk Classic, usually held in March. We are currently looking for someone to be the Coordinator who would publicize the Walk/Run through the church bulletin and collect money and forms from the Sunday School classes, choir, etc. Not time consuming but essential! On the job training cheerfully provided.

The Reading program is an after school reading experience with at-risk children who come from Downtown and Fox Elementary schools. Volunteers go to Open Door on Mondays and Thursdays from 4:00-5:30 and work with children on their reading skills simply by reading with them. There are also opportunities to serve with the senior citizen group at Open Door and to serve in the CIRCLES program, mentoring women working to make their own way in the world.

Our House

Carpenters Way Ranch, a campus of The Methodist Home
St Paul Contact Person: Beth Sayers (bsayers@ldl.net) or
Laurie McRae (lmcrae26@gmail.com)

What is it? Carpenter's Way Ranch, which is the local campus for The Methodist Home, is a multi-faceted residential care home for boys, providing a continuum of specialized treatment programs addressing the needs of abused, neglected and abandoned children. The Methodist Home's mission seeks to respond to Christ and the Church seeking to restore childhoods, strengthen families and cultivate a people-building organization.

How can you serve? Serving on the Columbus Advisory Board, which focuses on fundraising and providing support for the children's homes, is a vital way to impact lives. There is an annual fundraising luncheon where volunteers and table hosts are always needed. An Awards Night is also held toward the end of the school year that would welcome volunteers to help plan and decorate. People interested in supporting Carpenter's Way Ranch in ways other than serving on the Advisory Board may volunteer to tutor, coordinate outings or events for the children, provide meals or treats, and help with repairs at the homes as needed.

If you are interested in learning more about Carpenter's Way Ranch and the Methodist Home, please contact Lynn Meadows White, local VP of Church Relations and Chaplain for The Methodist Home. She can also tell you more about the other ministries of The Methodist Home, Hope Foster Care and Adoption and Lighthouse for Families Community Counseling. These organizations all serve local children.

Lynn Meadows White:

Lynn.meadowswite@themethodisthome.org

706-464- 6231

SafeHouse Outreach Ministry

Contact Person: Joe Morrow (themorrowco@mchsi.com)

What is it? St. Paul is in partnership with many other churches in the Columbus area to care for the homeless, those in transition from prison and people who are in great need for multiple reasons (personal, financial, work related, drugs, alcohol abuse and other medical problems).

How can you serve? St. Paul's primary focus has been in two areas – one is the clothing bank and the other is to prepare and serve meals four times a year. Volunteers are needed to provide support for the clothing bank by donations of clothes and occasional sorting and organizing of the clothes at the bank. Volunteers are also needed to help organize, prepare, serve and clean up the meals for up to 300 people four times a year.

Periodically, St. Paul hosts work days on site at the mission. On these work days, we organize crews to spend a few hours doing things such as painting a room, cleaning and organizing storage areas and closets, sorting and hanging clothing in the clothing bank . . . Tasks such as these. Nothing is too strenuous and all supplies needed for our work days are provided for you. Likewise, the city recently gifted Safehouse Ministries the Cobis nursing home building that the mission hopes to use as a transition center / dorm / halfway house. We will be hosting work days at the property and collection drives for new and gently used household items as preparations are made to turn this gift from the city into a gift for the clients we serve. All are invited to participate -- even children, with parental supervision. What a great way for families to serve together! Announcements for any work day, meal service, or special event at Safehouse will be posted in the church bulletin and through our social media outlets, so stay tuned!

St. Paul for All

Contact Person: Tammy Reynolds (tjreynolds3@gmail.com)

What is it? St. Paul for All is a day anyone can select from 15 to 20 pre-planned work sites throughout the community, all on the same "St. Paul for All Day". Our mission fields vary year to year, but we are always open to new areas of service if anyone has a particular "calling" or idea. **Date: 2023 Date TBA**

How can you serve? Volunteers are needed to be both team captains and team members. The team captain helps coordinate the supplies needed for their work site and delegates the work at the site on the day of the event to team members.

Sound Choices

Contact Person: Tammy Reynolds (tjreynolds3@gmail.com)

What is it? Sound Choices Pregnancy Clinic is a nonprofit organization that offers educational tools and classes for pregnant women. The women – some of whom are considering abortion when they first enter the center, can get a free pregnancy test and ultrasound by the medical staff and counseled by professional staff and volunteers. A doctor is on call as needed. Before the birth of the baby, clothes and other items or supplies can be earned through participating in parenting classes taught at the center.

How can you serve? St. Paul occasionally participates in the center's "Baby Bottle Drive" campaign to raise money, through the collection of spare change in baby bottles, for the ministry. Other opportunities include male volunteers are needed to just sit at the door once a month on Monday and Tuesday nights from 6-8 for evening hours. Sound Choices is also always looking for people who are willing to be trained as a

volunteer counselor – no medical training needed, just someone with a willingness to love on and pray with the clients they serve.

Teen Advisors and Velocity

Contact Person: Tammy Reynolds (tjreynolds3@gmail.com)

What is it? Teen Advisors and Velocity are peer-counseling groups that hope to have a positive impact on teenagers. This group tries to live a life of integrity and model healthy living and wise decision making. There are over 500 local Teen Advisors and Velocity students who speak to underclassmen in their schools about relevant teen issues like drinking, drug-abuse, sexual promiscuity, depression, bullying, relationships, etc.

How can you serve?

Occasional – Help with upkeep on landscaping, flower/shrub beds, weeding and general cleanup, indoor deeper cleaning like blinds and washing/painting walls.

Ongoing during the school year –

Adult Listener –volunteers are contacted via email and asked to attend a classroom session given by our Teen Advisors and Velocity students. A listener is there to witness, assist if needed and love & encourage our students at the end of each session. There are different schools a volunteer could connect with on a rotating basis volunteers could plug into just one school. There are 4 to 6 sessions per year at each school. Volunteers could serve for just one session (about 1 hour) or for several sessions, depending upon the amount of time they are able to give that day.

Team Leader – This volunteer serves as the liaison at one school and serves as the primary connection to that school’s administration. This involves more time than just listening but is very rewarding as this person makes personal connections with the students, parents, and school administrators.

Truth Spring Ministry

Contact Person: Emily Trotter (emilytrotter@msn.com)

What is it? Truth Spring is an organization devoted to developing the North Highland neighborhood through Christ-centered projects and strategies. Truth Spring’s work in the neighborhood falls under two “umbrellas”, Housing and Education. Truth Spring seeks to provide low-income housing through their Housing Initiative and Christ-centered education to children in the neighborhood through Truth Spring Academy.

How can you serve? Volunteers are always welcome to be a part of the weekly Saturday “chicken and rice” events. Each Saturday from 10:30am to 1:00pm, a meal of Chicken and Rice, along with the Gospel, is served up as an invitation to all in the neighborhood to come and know Christ. Volunteers are always needed to organize and host a Mission Meal. “Mission Meals” is an opportunity for churches, small groups or families to come on a given Sunday and serve during Breakfast Club or a Lunch Service. Those who come have the

opportunity to take part in the worship service or serve in some part of the service, plus the chance to serve a meal at Highland. There is always a need for volunteers to help with maintenance, handyman or work project in the area as well.

Ukraine Orphan Ministry

Contact Person: Tammy Reynolds (tjreynolds3@gmail.com)

What is it? The Ukraine Orphan Ministry's mission is to share God's love and His word with the last, the lost and the least in the orphanages in Ukraine, specifically, three orphanages in Krivoy Roy, Ukraine. Starting in 1999, teams of volunteers have traveled to the Ukraine on a regular basis evolving into two trips per year. In addition to the mission trips to Ukraine, St. Paul has established year-round children's programming in the orphanages to include tutoring, English classes, weekly Sunday school classes and Bible studies, as well as graduate programs for children who have "aged out" of the orphanage. Donations have helped fund much needed remodeling and renovations in the orphanages and a scholarship fund has been established to help the children as they "age out" of the orphanage to further their education through trade school and university opportunities.

How can you serve? Volunteers are needed to help with organizing and putting on events such as awareness events and fundraising. People with graphics design skills could help with "branding" the ministry and those with social media skills could help with "top of mind awareness" for the ministry. Also needed are people committed to praying for the orphans and for the travel teams, people willing to be a part of the travel teams, and volunteers to help sort and pack donations.

Wynnton Neighborhood Network (WNN)

Contact Person: Mary Lou Jarrell (maryloujarrell22@gmail.com)

What is it? Wynnton Neighborhood Network (a coalition of eight churches/synagogues) provides food and utility assistance to needy families in Muscogee County. We are the busiest food pantry in the county, serving more than 10,000 individuals in the past year, and providing utility assistance to nearly 600 families.

How can you serve? This is an entirely volunteer run organization, so all jobs are open. Volunteers can bag groceries, fill food orders, greet customers, log food customers served into the database, and answer phones to work with clients needing utility assistance. Other volunteers also load food deliveries onto shelves and purchase and deliver food to the pantry. The Food Pantry is open Monday – Friday 10:00 - 12:00, as well as the 1st Saturday of each month. Sunday School classes or other groups are invited to take on staffing one of the Saturdays – training is cheerfully provided! Wynnton Neighborhood Network is housed at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Hilton Avenue. St. Paul has also two months of the year designated to help collect donations of food from our members.

12/14/2022

MLJ