

Missions and Outreach  
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**Mary's Kitchen**, Chaired by Dale Hudson and with Bob Schneider as chief cook overseeing a staff of weekly volunteers from both St. Mary's and the broader community, continues to provide approximately 210 meals per week:

- 125 takeout meals every Wednesday night
- 40 meals per week to Project Lift
- 35 meals per week to the Salvation Army
- 20 meals per week to a local veteran's group

The Lenten Soup Series is on track to distribute 500-quart bags of soup (1,000 meals) to St. Mary's parishioners and the broader community of Mary's Kitchen clients by Good Friday.

**St. Mary's Bookstore** is open three mornings a week -- Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. During the day when the church is open, there are browsing carts outside the bookstore and a mailbox to use for book payments. Payments continue to be on the honor system, and it works well. The sale tables stay outside 24/7 where books are available for 50 cents or less. Parishioners and people in the community love the bookstore and are happy to see it open again. The Children's Little Free Library, in front of the youth building, is open 24/7 to provide free books to children and families.

**ST. Mary's Thrift Shop**, as of today March 23, is open four days a week—Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The interior has been completely updated with new wall hung racks. This allows for more clothing to be displayed. We have also updated size signs, allowing customers to easily find the size they are looking for. Our customers have repeatedly mentioned how much easier it is to shop. Our repeat customers continue to increase daily. Our daily sales have also continued to increase. We continue to need more volunteers. Several have told me they will return after they receive the vaccine. We have also updated our signage. The door has a new sign, the parking signs now match the door and say customer parking. We have a new sign facing Osceola that directs folks to parking around the corner.

Sue Riddell has agreed to take the manager position as of April 1 and this will be a paid position. A meeting is scheduled for the volunteers to meet Sue and for those who have not seen the changes we have made there will be a chance to peek at the Shop. The meeting is scheduled for March 29th at 2:00pm. The Thrift Shop is a vital resource to allow us to reach out to the local community.

**St. Mary's Outreach Committee** (chaired by Tami Larkan) has supported the community in many ways including:

1. We recently paid a month's rent to help support the Treasure Coast Foster Closet.
2. We are currently supporting 86 children at JD Parker Elementary through Backpack Buddies.
3. We adopted two families from Family Promise for Christmas and were able to provide them with a very special Christmas.

4. We gave gift cards to the teenage boys and girls at Project Lift and Treasure Coast Foster Closet.
5. We have continued building our relationship with and supporting the Monterey Community by donating items from the newly re-opened Mary's Closet.
6. We have paid rent, utility, electric, pest control and other bills for members of our community thanks to your generous donations to the TRUE Fund.

### **Family Promise**

Below are programs that April Young, our Family Promise Case Manager will begin setting up and may need some assistance in finding a volunteer program leader.

1. Finance planning - University of Florida (Carol)
2. Parenting - Healthy Start/ Families (Tonya). Tykes & Teens (Dorothy) Additionally, I would like to have someone commit to one hour a week for early childhood skills with parents (volunteer who has experience in this field).
3. Healthy relationships- professional connection through community agencies-still in need
4. Father & Child - father support group/meetings (Drew).
5. Moms support group/playgroup- I will need a volunteer to lead this program.
6. Community events/Family game night/park picnic (weekend) - volunteer to connect families and possibly take them to a free event once a month.
7. Cleaning/Organization (Life skills) -volunteer to lead in teaching skills - maybe someone from professional cleaning agency/organizer.
8. Job readiness- IRSC (Linda J) mock interviews, resume writing career direction
9. Education/Tutor - IRSC (Maryann S) we can always use extra volunteers in this are to be an "on call" when kids need help. I know of one child that needs this help because she is virtual/homeschooled and struggling.
10. Sexual trauma support groups - Inner truth project (Jessica).
11. Sponsor drug/alcohol - although April knows of meetings in the area, it would be nice to have someone "on call" that would be interested in being a sponsor or temp sponsor until family could connect to a support group. April has found this to be helpful in other case management positions.

Here are some highlights of other events that have occurred at Family Promise:

- \*Secured a Day Center.
- \*Hired two staff members (an executive director and a part-time case manager)
- \*Five of our 9 host congregations began to safely shelter families.
- Served 20 families (54 people, 34 of them children).
- Two teenagers who were failing high school are now on track to soon graduate.
- Three adults who lost their jobs have now secured new jobs with our support.
- Recorded 413 volunteer hours (does not include all unreported hours).
- **Shelter Program:** Moved in 2 families (3 adults + 2 children = 5).
- **Homelessness Prevention Program:** Kept 2 families (2 adults, 5 children) from becoming homeless.
- **Shelter Diversion Program:** Helped (and continue to assist) 4 families living in safe, temporary homes from entering shelter. We continue to case-manage with them so that they can create financial stability and return to independent quality, permanent housing.

Our first family in the rotational model moved into one of the small efficiency homes next to the Day Center. We will continue to support them with case management and meal delivery several nights a week.