

Lebanon
Rescue
Mission



September 2018

MISSION REPORT

Men's Program ♥ Agape Family Shelter ♥ Lebanon Free Clinic ♥ Agape Christmas



God gives

"Immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine"

— Ephesians 3:20

Men's Program 1223 Bittner Blvd., Lebanon, PA 17046 • Agape Family Shelter 139 S. 9th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042
Lebanon Free Clinic 135 S. 9th St. Lebanon, PA 17042 • Ministry PO Box 5, Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 273-2301 • www.LebanonRescueMission.org



A Note From Susan

Dear Friend,

God has blessed us more than we dreamed possible. We see God's hand at work, growing and expanding our ministry in all kinds of ways.

All of us — our staff, volunteers and guests — sense God doing something great. There is a freedom to love, laugh and serve that is contagious — especially for those who come here hurting from a hard life. They feel welcomed and part of a community. It's amazing to them that people in the community send gifts to the Mission to help them. That's so different from the hard lives many have known.

No wonder our guests get caught up in the joy of it all. This is a place love built. The Gospel is lived out here. It inspires and sets us free.

Some people come here with problems they could not solve by themselves. They are taken back by the compassion and love shared by community members. They can feel the love of Christ throughout our ministry. They see the Gospel lived out and find themselves drawn closer to Jesus Christ, their own Lord and Savior.

The prayer of Lebanon Rescue Mission is for Jesus Christ to be lifted up, so all who come here would be drawn to Him. He alone rescues from addiction and an empty life. And we are delighted to say He is answering that prayer more than we dreamed possible.

May God bless you and your family. His mercies are new every morning.

In HIS Service,

Susan A. Blouch
Executive Director, Lebanon Rescue Mission

P.S. Many guests thank God for the Lebanon Rescue Mission. You are part of the Lebanon Rescue Mission, and we thank God for you.

Bittner Men's Campus - fully paid off!

On June 6th, the Lebanon Rescue Mission reached a memorable milestone. We made the last mortgage payment for the Bittner Blvd. Men's Campus and Administrative office.

The debt from buying and renovating this building has been completely paid. We have been able to move from three buildings to one more multi-functional building.



All of this happened in just six years thanks to extraordinary giving by our donors. Clearly the hand of God at work.

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Lebanon Rescue Mission

belongs to God and the staff is committed to Him. The Mission is governed by a godly and compassionate Board of Directors who understand their responsibility to assure your contributions are used honorably.



The Lebanon Rescue Mission is blessed by many who have provided the seed money to purchase 915 Walnut Steet, which is adjacent to Agape's main house. If you would like to help us pay off the small mortgage or provide funds to do the necessary upgrades and renovations, please call Susan at 717-273-2301.

Expanding Agape Family Shelter

You are helping more mothers and children than ever at our Agape Family Shelter.

It is heartbreaking to see a mother with a hungry child and no place to stay or money to buy food. They stay with family and friends as long as they can. But the day usually comes when they wear out their welcome and have to face the street with no idea where to go.

That terrible fear is no longer the experience for more women today ... because you care.

With your help, the Lebanon Rescue Mission has purchased the property next to Agape's main house.

The new property provides the ability to house a woman with several children after she graduates from the program.

This house allows women to stay connected to the Mission until they are ready to move back into the community.

Their time with us in this caring community will change their lives and relationship with God. When they leave, they will have all they need to continue building on the solid foundation from their time in the program.

Thank you for offering a hand up to struggling mothers. They truly need your compassionate support. You prove to them they are not alone.

Can a “free medical clinic” be any good?

Ruth had concerns about her health. She was very depressed and her diabetes was out of control.

Beat down from life's constant challenges and her pervasive loneliness, she felt more like giving up than becoming a patient of a free clinic.

At her first appointment, Ruth and the clinic staff agreed she should talk with one of the clinic's counseling partners. Fortunately, the Lebanon Free Clinic has many partners in the community, like River of Hope, helping us provide holistic healthcare for mind, body and spirit.

With the help of a counselor from River of Hope, she started to receive therapy from Lebanon Valley's CURE Physical Therapy Clinic.

Slowly, Ruth started to feel better. The staff, volunteers and community partners showed Ruth many people care about her. The better she felt, the more she wanted to take control of her diabetes. She lost 20 pounds — a huge step toward managing her diabetes and furthering her physical therapy.



Clinic staff: Margaret, Barb, Diana and Aislynn

Now she likes to exercise and takes long walks without pain.

Showing the love of Christ to our patients is the first step to renewing their overall health. Knowing someone cares about you is an extraordinary gift for better living.

How your gifts helped a young mother.

Before staying at the Agape Family Shelter, Summer and her two children lived with her parents. Their situation was chaotic.

The family was close-knit. Summer's siblings, nieces and nephews came and went. With so many people coming and going, Summer worried for her children. They had no structure in their life. Even though Summer's parents were happy to help, Summer knew, somehow, they had to find a place of their own.

But money was tight. Saving money for an apartment while paying the bills and taking care of her 9-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter was difficult. "The jobs I found were mainly temporary and didn't pay much," she explained.

Then she called Agape Family Shelter. "I felt nervous for my kids when I first came to Agape. It was a new environment, and I didn't know how they were going to take it," Summer admitted. "It was hard for my daughter to get used to it, but now she loves it. Mrs. Smith and Bree made it comfortable for her. It doesn't feel like a shelter — it feels like a home."

"It was like a breath of fresh air to come to Agape," Summer said. "This is a good place to get your life in order again from the bottom up."

Life began to settle down for them. Summer found a full-time job at a local elementary school. With their own bedroom and a new schedule, her son and daughter thrived. Summer established a healthy, daily routine for her children. Their grades improved. Over the summer break, Summer's son participated in a summer football program. Her daughter will be a cheerleader in the fall.

"My children have a daily schedule and routine that has provided so much stability. They clean up after themselves, and they have a bedtime schedule. That's a big improvement — my son picks up after himself. He never did before!"

"I feel like I've grown emotionally during my stay in the shelter," Summer said. "I can go to Mrs. Smith and speak to her about certain things. She's supportive. She helps me feel good as a parent."

Summer still visits her parents and spends time

with her family. But now, she has a home, a routine and a sense of security for her family. Her savings are growing. She recently enrolled in GED classes. Living at Agape has given Summer and her children new opportunities.

"It was like a breath of fresh air to come to Agape," Summer said. "This is a good place to get your life in order again from the bottom up."



Join us for the Greatest Agape Christmas yet.

For many years, the Lebanon Rescue Mission managed the Operation Santa program for the Lebanon Daily News. Thousands of families were served throughout the years. Then several other community programs grew up to serve needy families and we felt called to serve our community in a new way.

One day, Cynthia Smith, the Director of our Agape Family Shelter, was on her way to work and praying and dreaming when the following scripture came to her heart:

“Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD.” Leviticus 19:32, NIV

Cynthia felt sure this was a call to somehow love seniors in our community who have given so much. That thought grew into a partnership with the Lebanon Housing Authority and the Community Homes organizations, and Agape Christmas was born.

An Agape Christmas bag is delivered to each senior living in one of the senior communities operated by either The Housing Authority or Community Homes. In the first year, we served 450 seniors. Last year was our second year, and we served 650 seniors. This year, we hope to reach 800 seniors!

We have wonderful letters from these seniors who were very grateful for the gift bag and deeply thankful for the kind volunteers who knocked on their door on delivery day!

Agape Christmas is not about need ... it's about fellowship and sharing the love of Christ. With the limitations of aging, isolation often comes. The joy of a hug and a kind word has great value. Praise God from whom these blessings pour!

We hope you want to be part of Agape Christmas. There are three ways to join us:

1. Donate funds specifically for Agape Christmas
2. Volunteer to pack bags, deliver or help wherever needed
3. Donate items for the gift bags, including the following:
 - Small jars of peanut butter
 - Granola bars
 - Boxes of individual packets of oatmeal
 - Sleeves of individual cups of fruit
 - Boxes of individual packets of hot chocolate
 - Crocheted lap robes (please, not full afghans)



A rapidly expanding Back Dock Ministry

One of the many blessings of our new building on Bittner Blvd. is our loading dock.

In our original location, at the corner of 6th and Elm, managing large donations was often impossible. Navigating through various levels and old staircases made even moderate-sized donations challenging.

Then, on July 28, 2014, the men's program and all administrative offices moved to Bittner Blvd. Almost immediately, there were large trucks backed up to our dock to unload donations.

When a large truck has a load that is dented or refused for whatever reason, the driver is instructed to "dump" the load. When the driver looks around for a place to unload, we are now willing and able to receive it.

Very quickly, we began receiving more than we needed at the Mission. Jenny, our Food Services Manager, developed a list of a dozen or more organizations with which to share these extra blessings.

But, we still have to turn away the very large donations of everything from food to children's toys because we don't have the room to sort, store and redistribute them.

More space would give us the opportunity to become a larger central location. With more dry storage space



and more refrigeration and freezer space, we could serve our community even more.

We believe God will provide the solution to make the most of this opportunity. We are in prayer and discernment for God's will to move forward. Please be in continued prayer for us as we step out in faith to expand the Back Dock Ministry!

To hear more about how you might help with the development of this new program, please call Susan Blouch, Executive Director 717-273-2301.

God gave Tucker a new way to see things.



For Tucker, Jesus has replaced that self-serving attitude with a strong desire to serve others.

Tucker started to see things more clearly once he lost his job and apartment due to excessive drinking. He was so depressed and scared, he didn't know where to turn.

Thankfully, he reached out and contacted Jubilee Ministries, our prison ministry partner. They referred him to the Lebanon Rescue Mission.

He knew he needed to change, but admits he could never have imagined things working out the way they have for him.

Today, Tucker has a new job, and his attitude is completely changed. Once, he only thought about himself and feeling good. But today, Jesus has replaced that self-serving attitude with a strong desire to serve others and care for their needs — even more than his own.

Following Jesus was never on Tucker's mind, but he will tell you today that it is the best decision he's ever made.