



# Red Bird Bulletin

March 23, 2020

## *A future and a hope*

Fear. Anxiety. Isolation. These are the emotions that are running through our world today, but, as Christians, we cling to the words God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah. Our January Red Bird Bulletin theme was “hope”, and we stand firmly knowing that God promises not only hope but a future for the ministries of Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic. God is faithful. God will bring us through the current pandemic.

The theme being shared across the United States is one we want to echo from Red Bird Mission & Clinic, “We are in this together.” We want to keep our supporters informed during this crisis, and will do our best to keep you informed as we, too, are practicing social distancing by working with an essential staff and working remotely as technology and duties allow.

### Red Bird Christian School

Our school moved to distance learning as soon as Governor Andy Beshear recommended this action beginning March 16th. Our experience with providing Non Traditional Instruction (NTI) for winter closures in recent years meant that our teachers responded within 48 hours to provide packets and online platforms for students to continue learning at home. Teachers have expanded the long term accountability and instructional methods since it’s now believed the situation will likely extend for at least several more weeks. We are grateful for the extra efforts teachers are making to ensure that students have internet capability or paper alternatives to continue quality, engaging learning.



The governor has requested and permission has been granted to allow our school’s food service to prepare and distribute meals by “grab and go” pick up and delivery. We are able to provide food to any children in our communities, not just RBCS students.

The vulnerability of our dormitory students staying on campus, most of whom are international students, was assessed. After discussions with their families, travel arrangements were made so that all students will finish out their semester with approved family members or sponsors living in the U.S. or Canada. Their beloved dorm parents will stay in daily contact with them providing encouragement and assistance making sure that the students are meeting the requirements for their education.

### Community Outreach

The vulnerable populations that we serve are a priority concern for us. The DeWall Senior Center was closed for activities and gatherings in accordance with our governor’s recommendations. Meals on Wheels delivery continues and we’ve expanded meal service to include meal delivery to DeWall Center participants.

Community Aid and Family Ministries are still providing food and necessities through our

*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

*- Jeremiah 29:11*

### **Sustain Hope**

We need you to stand with us to sustain hope by praying for and contributing to our ministries. Your financial support will enable us to provide long distance education for our students, assistance to families in need, and support for staff that are impacted by layoffs and reduction of pay.

These ministries are being done in some of the poorest counties in the nation. Please consider giving now, and commit to weekly or monthly donations as we provide the necessities for those we serve in the difficult days ahead.

Please sustain hope by:

- ⇒ Praying daily
- ⇒ Giving weekly or monthly
- ⇒ Asking others to pray and give

You can give by:

- ⇒ [One time or recurring online giving](#)
- ⇒ Mailing a check to:

70 Queendale Ctr  
Beverly, KY 40913-9607

Since Red Bird Mission and Clinic are the only employer in this isolated community we

*(see Sustain Hope next page)*

various food pantries and the Baby Pantry. The monthly food commodity distribution to over 200 elderly and disabled continues because we load food boxes directly into vehicles each month. Those needing emergency food assistance, monthly Family to Family food boxes, or items from the Baby Pantry will be met at the door to assess their needs. Clients will wait in their cars for boxes to be packed and delivered to them. In order to assist with meeting the food needs in our communities, families participating in Grow Appalachia will be able to come pick up of plants, fertilizer and gardening equipment needed for producing fresh vegetables and fruits.

### Dental Clinic

Our dentist, Dr. Bill Collins, has been instrumental advocating for patients that have critical dental needs. One individual's life has already been saved because Dr. Bill intervened by informing the state dental director that one of his patients was not getting admission to the hospital for surgery to get relief from a life-threatening oral infection.

Dr. Bill has closed his private practice in Pikeville, and plans to be available at Red Bird full time during this pandemic because the need is great for the vulnerable population we serve. At this time we are not allowed to perform any dentistry that is not life threatening.

### Work Camp

We are thankful that Work Camp teams have been understanding and prudent as many have postponed or cancelled spring or early summer trips. We would not want to risk infection of volunteers travelling to serve, living in close quarters here and serving the vulnerable clients that Work Camp typically serves. Almost all teams cancelling thus far have been generous in donating their fees to help us financially through this crisis.

### Community Store

The Community Store was closed to shoppers on March 17th. Emergent needs for clothing or furniture for those who are homeless or have experienced a home that has burned will be able to access what they need through the Outreach office. We encourage them to call ahead. We ask that our donors hold on to the items that they were going to bring to the Community Store in order to make sure that we don't run out of storage during the upcoming months. It is important that you call or email first if you are planning to drop something off at the Store. As we go forward we will let you know what items that we are needing

### Administration/Finance/Human Resources/Development

The Leadership Team has met regularly to plan and take action as the situation around the COVID-19 virus progresses. Staff are staggering duties and those with compromising conditions are encouraged to work remotely or in areas with no direct contact with others. We are committed to answer every phone call, but with limited staff and flexible duties please be patient if we don't answer right away. Feel free to leave a voice mail message or email us if that is an option. We are committed to keeping our local community and our supporters informed through multiple social media outlets. Facebook is our daily "go to" social media with feeds going to Twitter. We'll also post communiques to our website as we release them.



### *Sustain Hope (continued)*

are committed to maintaining employment for all staff including benefits, but the reality exists that we have no reserves to go beyond a few weeks of maintaining a full budget.

As with other small businesses it gives us great pain to even think about having to lay people off without benefits and we are working diligently to find ways to minimize the impact on our staff and their families. The tremendous organizational impact to Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic is that we will have to pay the unemployment stipends which means there will still be expenses associated with any layoffs or furloughs.

This pandemic will go away and there will be a tremendous need for jobs and our economy to get back on its feet. We still believe that our vision for creating vocational and technical education opportunities for our students and community residents is hope for the future. We want to make sure Red Bird Mission and Clinic are a viable and vibrant part of that economy.

### Online Access



[RedBirdMission](#)

[RBChristianSchool](#)

[RedBirdClinic](#)



[@RedBirdMission](#)

[www.rbmission.org](http://www.rbmission.org)

**Call Before You Come**— We know that supporters are eager to help with resupply of items, but please call before you come for us to verify that we can receive and utilize your donations .

**Administration—606-598-3155**

**Community Outreach—606-598-0520**