



Red Bird Bulletin

April 23, 2020

Our Hope

The Apostle Paul wrote letters to the church in Thessalonica to encourage them for their stand during difficult days of persecution. These are difficult days for our nation and our world. We pray that you are staying well and strong physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We echo Paul's words in the verse that follows the quotation (printed on right), "Indeed, you are our glory and joy," because you stand with us in prayer and support to carry out the ministries of Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic.

Over the course of several days during March, Kentucky moved to a "Healthy At Home" strategy enacting recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to slow the spread of COVID-19. **Assistance to the vulnerable populations** has increased even though the delivery of services looks differently at Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic because of social distancing practices adopted like the other parts of our country. Our services are focused these days on addressing **1) Food Security, 2) Safe Environments** for living/working, **3) Enabling Learning/Work**, and **4) Vocational/Technical Training** moving forward. These services address our governor's description of life supporting or life sustaining.

Unfortunately, the **Easter night storms** that ravaged much of the South hit our area hard with hurricane force winds toppling many trees over power and telecommunications lines. While it was a blessing to hear that no lives were reported lost in this storm, our communities suffered much damage and loss, including their limited food that was dependent on refrigeration. There were no electric, telephone, or internet services across the entire Queendale Campus for almost 24 hours, but services were gradually restored by Saturday, 5 ½ days after power and communications was first lost.

Food Security

Red Bird Christian School (RBCS) food service staff are feeding approximately 90 children and youth through the **"Grab & Go" Supplemental Feeding** funding extended to our school. Those with transportation can pick up two meals each day per child age 18 and under, and staff deliver to others without available transportation. Staff packed up a six-day supply (12 meals total for each child) for the week of Spring Break at RBCS that ended Easter Monday. During the initial days of the power outage at the school, staff pulled together meals that could be minimally prepped at home. The staff then moved preparation and distribution to the Red Bird Valley Kitchen at Community Outreach where there was power to provide hot meals for the last two days of the week.



Community Aid is serving **Emergency Food Pantry** and **Baby Pantry** requests through walk up to an exterior window. Staff use appropriate safety measures to prepare boxes of food, baby items and hygiene items while clients wait in their vehicles. Boxes are wheeled out on a cart and left on

For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

- 1 Thessalonians 2:19

Share Hope

During the current pandemic, hope is shared through a phone call, a wave through the window, a handwritten note of encouragement, or a gift of some needed item.

One employee of a major grocery chain called this week to say that he had received a "hero bonus" from his employer, but he wanted to give that to Red Bird Mission. One person tithed their stimulus payment and another pledged to give the entire stimulus to Red Bird Mission.

We need your support to keep sharing hope through food, meals, personal care and emergency home repairs.

Please share 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

the porch for clients to self-load. Family to Family, Gap Pantry and Commodity distributions will be drive thru until further notice. **Grow Appalachia** is providing educational material on gardening in lieu of holding monthly grower meetings, but plants, seeds and supplies are provided monthly by drive thru. All appropriate caution is being used to eliminate or minimize direct contact.

Elderly Ministries Meals on Wheels delivery has doubled to reach more elderly residents needing food while sheltering. Meal trays that can be safely heated by microwave or conventional ovens have been purchased to expand delivery of two meals per day.

Safe Environments

Beyond staggering schedules of essential positions to reduce contact within the office setting, some staff are also working from home. Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic only allow entrance to staff in buildings. Staff temperature checks and screening questions are asked daily to protect the wellness of staff in essential positions. Routine sanitizing of our campus indoor environments is done each day. **Red Bird Dental Clinic** has created **teledentistry** options to determine whether dental issues being presented meet life threatening dental emergency criteria for treatment allowed under the governor's COVID-19 Executive Orders. Our **Community Health Nurse** continues to provide case management services and assists with staff daily health screening. **Housekeeping and personal care** for the **medically frail elderly** continues with our staff changing **our scarce Personal Protective Equipment** after leaving each home. With the temporary suspension of volunteers hosted with our Work Camp ministry, staff completed a major repair to the leaking roof at the **DeWall Senior Center** on Beverly Campus, and are working on another major repair to a leaking **Community Store** roof at Queendale. High priority or emergency project needs in the community will be taken on as staff and funds for materials are available.

Enabling Learning and Work

A week of **Spring Break at Red Bird Christian School** turned into two weeks because power outages affected so many students and teachers the week after Easter, but classes continue in a non-traditional instruction (NTI) long-distance manner through the current school year. Teachers report that students have adapted very well to completion of assignments on time through internet access and good, old fashioned packets mailed back and forth. **Office staff of Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Dental Clinic** have successfully set up connections at home to continue working when they are not physically present in the office. **Eighteen Red Bird Mission staff were temporarily laid off** in March due to non-essential programs closing and resulting revenue shortfalls, but God blessed the readiness and skills of administrative staff with a successful application to the **Payroll Protection Plan of the CARES Act**. Staff that have been unemployed will be able to receive pay again shortly.

Vocational/Technical Training

The **shortage of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)** during the current pandemic is leading to the acceleration of one component strategy of renewal of Vocational/Technical Training at Red Bird Christian School and Red Bird Mission. We have partnered with the Somerset Community College for a Rapid Response **Additive Manufacturing Initiative grant** from USDA Rural Development that **will bring training and equipment to Red Bird to produce necessary items such as PPE** and provide income for people in our community!

URGENTLY NEEDED — Ship to 70 Queendale Ctr, Beverly, KY 40913 — Hand sanitizer, viral cleaning supplies, Lysol®, disinfecting wipes, large size nitrile gloves, procedural masks, N95 masks, sizes 5 & 6 baby diapers, baby wipes.

Questions? Call Administration—606-598-3155 or Community Outreach—606-598-0520



Sharing Hope

A smile transmits hope in an instant even if it's behind a window glass, but there are other ways we see hope shared during these days of
#HealthyAtHome
#TeamKentucky.

- ⇒ Emily and other community volunteers are making masks to safeguard staff from potential COVID-19 exposure.
- ⇒ The Smallwood family posted a chapel service to encourage students in their spiritual journey.
- ⇒ Angela calls her homebound clients to help stave off anxiety and depression.
- ⇒ Maddie posts daily videos to encourage students and help them cope with isolation.
- ⇒ Katie offers encouragement as she provides care to our frail elderly.
- ⇒ Meredith regularly shares inspirational flyers and daily devotionals with staff on the front line.

Online Access



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[RBChristianSchool](#)

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www.rbmision.org