



Red Bird Bulletin

June 10, 2020

Forging a New Path

New Beginnings

Members of the Class of 2020 around the world were forced to celebrate their milestone in unexpected and often heart-breaking ways. After several video conference discussions, **the 2020 Class of Red Bird Christian School decided that this time could never truly be reclaimed, and graduation needed to take place before summer.** Most participated with immediate family and a few faculty members in an in-person ceremony at the school, and other ceremonies were held online so that international family members could be present.

Whether in the gymnasium seated amongst nineteen chairs holding individual photos of the classmates around them, or online in their cap and gown, each graduation celebration was special and memorable. **Principal Jennifer Wilder** encouraged each one saying that **the Class of 2020 is forging a new path** unlike any other graduating class. Each will continue **to learn, love, lead and serve** in the years ahead. Guidance Counselor Chesna Osborne reminded each graduate that they **are loved by their Red Bird family.** She reminded them that as they continue to follow **Jesus Christ they would always be exactly where they were supposed to be in life.**



Red Bird School faculty, parents and students will continue forging new paths in the coming school year. While amidst the same uncertainties that are being faced by schools across our nation we are currently planning for classes to begin at the usual time in August. Teachers and administration are exploring and developing various ways to deliver a quality education both in and outside of the classroom..

The plans of forging vocational/technical education for students and adults in our communities now have a solid framework for offerings **in the 2020-21 school year. Curriculum, technology, resources and instructors are being identified as we begin to offer coursework in Heavy Machinery Operation and Allied Health Care. Two Red Bird Mission staff, Jamie Collett and Michelle Young, are preparing this summer to become instructors in Additive Manufacturing (3-D printing) and Computer Networks/Cyber Security.**

New Supplies

Community Outreach already forged a new path by responding to the increasing need during this pandemic to provide food to families that have been hit hard and the elderly that need to remain at home to protect their health. We were **blessed to receive a UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sheltering in Love COVID-19 Response grant** that allows us to purchase additional food. Instead of waiting 90 days to access the Emergency Pantry this additional food is providing these families with necessary food once each month in May, June and July. As **government funding that supports additional meal delivery to the elderly becomes questionable, we need Red Bird Mission supporters to provide** donations in order to safeguard the

For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

- Isaiah 49:12

Forging Support

These unprecedented times are calling for extraordinary action, and that includes support for the sustaining work of Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic. We have been blessed with extraordinary gifts from long term donors as well as from those that have never given before. Some Work Camp fees were donated by spring and summer volunteer teams that realized travelling to Kentucky for service this year was not prudent. This have helped carry us through late winter and early spring. Others donated their entire economic stimulus payment, or a portion that they could spare. The federal assistance extended through the CARES Act came at just the right time this spring to bring back our staff that had been temporarily laid off due to our non-essential programs being shut down.

Your extraordinary support may have been one time or annual gifts in the past, but your extraordinary support could now be making a commitment to give a gift each month. That gift helps sustain our outreach, making a difference in the lives that we serve every day of the year. You can:

See **Support**, next page

elderly that we serve.

New Protections

Construction of self-contained operatories with individual ventilation systems in **Red Bird Dental Clinic** will soon be completed by Work Camp staff that were retained during the suspension of Work Camp hosting. Dr. Bill Collins expects to be **seeing patients by the end of June** and University of Louisville **dentistry students will be returning to campus in August**. Dr. Bill and the clinic staff have spent these weeks procuring adequate PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) for staff and patient safety once the clinic opens.

We all are **forging new habits** of keeping our neighbors and ourselves **safe from COVID-19**, and one of essential pieces for everyone circulating in public places is using a mask. Our policies require staff and those entering our buildings to use a mask unless other medical conditions prevent them from wearing one. Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic are **asking our supporters to help supply cloth masks** for staff and for those we serve. **Hundreds will be needed** in the near future. For those making masks, we suggest using the [pattern shared by the CDC](#).

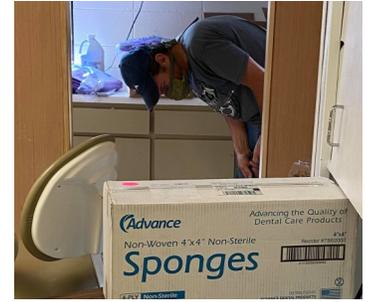
New Spaces

The **Red Bird Mission Community Store** had been planning to make changes in the retail space prior to the pandemic so the forced closure allowed Work Camp and Maintenance staff to take on the repairs and construction to **display clothing, housewares and furniture in the same building**. Community Store staff are switching out sorted stock and furniture with the expectation of **opening to the public by the first part of July**.

New Ways to Serve

Individual volunteers are returning to service as our Healthy at Work protocols are put into place. Camps are scheduled to reopen in Kentucky in July so **Red Bird Mission has tentative plans to reopen Work Camp on July 5th**. To comply with Healthy at Work social distancing guidelines, **only 4 teams will come each week** with a maximum of 40 volunteers for the week. Volunteer groups will be housed in separate cabins. All volunteers will abide by the safe guidelines in place including daily temperature checks.

While donations of PPE, cleaning supplies, food and baby pantry expendables are needed in a greater supply, **no donations of clothing** are being accepted for the Community Store **until mid-August**. For those with Amazon accounts, Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic each have multiple **Amazon Smile Charity Lists** that help you find the items that are most needed. Links to the lists are in the sidebar, or you can call our Administration Office if you have questions.



Support

- Mail your check monthly to 70 Queendale Ctr, Beverly, KY 40913
- Set up a monthly autopay through your bank
- Set up a monthly recurring credit card or bank debit (ACH)
 1. Through our websites, www.rbmission.org or www.redbirdclinic.org
 2. By calling us (888-726-3459) to set up the monthly credit card or bank debit

If you are interested in helping provide items that we need replenished for our clients or to help reduce our operating costs each month,

1. [Download](#) one of the needs list from our website
2. Purchase items from one of the Amazon Smile Charity Lists to ship.
 - * [Community Outreach, Red Bird Mission](#)
 - * [Red Bird Clinic Community Health](#)
 - * [Red Bird Mission Current Needs](#)
 - * [Red Bird Dental Clinic](#)
 - * [Red Bird Mission ECD \(Early Childhood Development\)](#)

Over all these, we ask you to pray for us and to tell others how Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic are forging ahead on this path of hope and opportunities for building healthy, sustainable communities.

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

Community Store—606-598-8801

Websites —

www.rbmission.org

www.redbirdclinic.org

www.redbirdchristianschool.org