Expanded Safety Measures

Red Bird Dental Clinic reopened on June 17th to in person treatment for patients after weeks of construction by Red Bird Mission Work Camp staff to build self-contained operatories. Individual air handling with UVC lights for air disinfection, ventilation, and temperature control was included in the installations to create an environment to help protect patients and staff from anyone not known to be carrying COVID-19. Illuminated dental isolation systems purchased will greatly reduce aerosols before they leave the patient’s mouth.

With protocols in place to provide the greatest safety for patients and staff, Kayla Collett, Office Manager, and Penny Gray, Dental Assistant, have been contacting patients that need to resume care. They began scheduling a smaller number for those first days due to the time needed to separate patients and sanitize operatories. Like most health care facilities, the waiting room is closed at Red Bird Dental. Patients wait in the parking lot until time for their appointment and are provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) when they enter. As patients and staff gain experience with the new safety procedures, Dr. Collins expects that they will soon return to scheduling 20 patients daily.

Both the renovation and acquiring adequate quantities of PPE were factors in delaying reopening. It’s been a team effort, including help from our State Senator Robert Stivers and University of Louisville School of Dentistry Dean Bradley bringing donations. We still need supplies to keep us operating in the weeks ahead. Contact the clinic directly about needed items (606-598-5138), or Amazon Smile members can view our Charity List and purchase needed items for direct shipment.

Expanding Technology for Education

State government in Kentucky has issued Healthy At School, a set of guidelines to be followed that provides measures allowing students to continue in person education during this pandemic. Red Bird Christian School administrative staff have developed two educational options for students:

1. On site instruction with limitations to class size. Larger size classes will adopt hybrid instruction involving 2 days on site and 3 days at home utilizing direct live video participation during the school day.
2. 100% online instruction utilizing live video participation.

The Red Bird Mission Education Committee has set a later starting date, September 8th, for students that will allow teachers extra time to prepare and test new equipment needed for video instruction. Staff will also use the extra time to work with families to ensure each family has adequate equipment, internet access and orientation to daily online instruction so that each

Reopening Regenerates

There’s an energy generated when reopening any place or activity. We’ve been fortunate to receive what might be termed crisis or emergency funding to help us meet the increased needs and costs of delivering opportunity that God calls Red Bird Mission and Red Bird Clinic to serve. No one seems to know when we will end the “new normal, but we know that we need you to continue giving so that we can sustain our vision of “Building healthy, sustainable communities.”

Sustaining support is needed to provide safe dental care for low income patients, cover the technology costs for low income students, provide needed food for families and meals for the elderly, and fund start up entrepreneurial projects that are giving our people economic opportunity.

Many faithful people over the past 100 years have sustained Red Bird Mission. Our time is now as we look to a new century of providing opportunity for each person to renew their energy and vision of creating stronger communities and a stronger world.

You can:
See Support, next page
Several modifications in facility and management in recent years has dropped the annual electric bill over $20,000. A grant from The Left Coast Fund paid for a small installation of solar panels on the roof of Red Bird Christian School that will lower that bill even more. Cecil Hall, Red Bird Mission Maintenance, received training from the solar panel installation company adding to his knowledge of energy conservation measures gained through his energy internship with MACED, a nonprofit economic development organization.

Expanded Food Aid
Community Outreach has been able to respond to the increased food insecurity issues in our communities largely through three months of funding from an UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sheltering in Love COVID-19 grant received. The ability to serve the increased needs is evidenced in the number of people and households that the Emergency Food Pantry served in May - 177 persons in 107 households, a 60% and 75% increase, respectively, compared to May 2019. Meals delivered by the DeWall Senior Center to elderly adults considered to be at high risk have increased from 436 in March when the closure of in-center activities was mandated to 2,296 meals delivered in May through July.

More Fresh Food
Red Bird Grow Appalachia Farmers Market reopened the last weekend of June with ample, fresh produce coming each week in July. Baked goods made in the Red Bird Valley (RBV) Kitchen by one Certified Home Based Processor expanded the types of food products sold in addition to salsa, pickles, eggs, apple butter and honey sold by certified processors using the RBV Kitchen or other growers that Community Outreach staff assisted with the certification process.

The RBV Kitchen has become widely used by the community. Thus far in 2020, 18 individuals have used the kitchen for personal production, cooking demonstrations, preparation of meals for local children, and production of value-added products. Products that have been produced include salsa, cupcakes and frosting, hot pepper sauce, corn dogs, tater tots, corn, bosco sticks and sauce, green beans, corn on the cob, cinnamon rolls, and carrot-zucchini cake.

Shopper Safe Store and More
The newly renovated Red Bird Mission Community Store with doubled floor space is reopening its expanded retail offerings but to limited numbers of shoppers due to increased COVID-19 in our local counties. Shopping is by appointment only for a few weeks, and the schedule is filling rapidly. Staff follow the Healthy at Work protocol which includes wearing masks, distancing and frequent hand washing. Shoppers are required to wear masks, observe distancing and use hand sanitizer when they enter to shop. Other safety precautions include a sneeze guard around the register, sanitizing high touch areas between customers, and wider aisles.

Urgent Needs —
• Face masks for children
• Disinfectants (Clorox wipes, Lysol spray), paper products (towels, tissue), baby supplies, food service sized baking sheets
• The Community Store continues to have stockpiles of clothing, household items, and furniture due to the long term closure of our Community Store. We continue to ask that our donors hold on delivery of these items until September. Call to schedule a delivery appointment (606-598-8801) to help us follow our Healthy At Work protocols.

Phone: Administration—606-598-3155 Outreach—606-598-0520