

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again, I say, Rejoice." Phil 4:4

LOVING OUR COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL OUTREACH



On November 26th, volunteers packed 1300 Thanksgiving meal boxes and delivered them to families throughout our community. The meal boxes were purchased by churches, organizations, and individuals at a reduced price thanks to a large grant given by Fred Meyer.

God had a plan for each and every meal box. Here is the story of one meal box: A teacher felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to purchase three meal boxes not knowing where the third box would go. Sure enough, this teacher learned of a single mom who needed a box. The teacher connected with her and personally delivered the meal, including a few extras such as a countdown Christmas calendar for the children. The mom was so moved and blessed. God knew all along where that extra box would go. He saw that single mom in her struggles and saved a box just for her.

This is one of the 1300 ways the Lord blessed our community through His people. Let's praise God for his provision and blessing to families in need.



A CHRISTMAS MEMORY DHS CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR FOSTER KIDS

For four years now, Every Child has facilitated a Christmas party for foster children and their biological parents. Local churches and businesses partner together to lead an afternoon full of fun-filled activities for these families.

Over 200 children attended this event, blessed with the opportunity to spend hours with their biological parents, playing games, decorating cookies, taking pictures with Santa, and listening to stories from Mrs. Claus.



Local churches and businesses provided presents that biological parents gave to their children at the party. So many gifts were donated, that the surplus supplied DHS and other non-profit organizations who work with children in care with gifts to give more children.

We rejoice in this sweet moment when families are reunited in joyous activities, and when laughter fills the hallways melting the hearts of the volunteers. Let's continue to pray for foster children as they overcome the trauma of being removed from their home, for biological parents that they may strive to do what's needed to reunite their family, and for foster parents that they may have support and wisdom in caring for these children.

WIPING THE SLATE CLEAN NEW HOPE CLEARS THE LUNCH DEBT



This answer to prayers highlights how we've prayed for schools, families, and *The Register Guard* stories.

On December 23rd, *The Register Guard* reported that New Hope Church paid off the school lunch debt for children who qualify for free and reduced lunch. The church reached out to Bethel School District and 4J District and were told that tackling the lunch debt would be most helpful. New Hope raised over \$13,700 to pay off the lunch debt for Bethel schools and \$5,700 for Eugene 4J schools.

Paying this debt removes the financial burden from families who cannot afford to pay it, and alleviates the negative impact the debt puts on the districts' general funds.

Let's praise God for this beautiful act of the church partnering with schools and for the relief this brings to over 1,000 students and their parents.

DOVE MEDICAL GRANT

Dove Medical is hiring a Nurse Practitioner in 2020. This will allow Dove to expand their services.

At the end of November, Dove Medical received the news that they were awarded a grant from the Murdock Charitable Trust which will pay for the Nurse Practitioner's salary for the first year of employment! The grant will also supply partial funds to compensate the NP's salary for years two (66%) and three (33%). *Continued next column.*

Please pray that Dove will receive funding for the remaining salary for years two and three as well as funding to pay for the NP's annual malpractice insurance.

MORE MENTORS IN SCHOOLS

In November, we prayed for more mentors to come alongside students at every grade level bringing hope and encouragement. We have received a report that more mentors have been connecting in schools, and Bethel School District is starting a mentoring program!

Monroe Middle School reported a large increase this fall, currently having 26 middle school mentors. This is a praise, and is making a difference. Students who have attendance issues have been more consistent, looking forward to their lunch with their mentor.

Furthermore, one local business is providing an opportunity for its employees to engage as mentors in schools. And because of this, one woman shared her testimony of impact she is making in a student's life.

Praise God that more and more people are stepping up to mentor students. Let's pray that every student who needs a mentor will get one.



"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

1 John 5:14