

STEWARDSHIP CORNER ~ FEBRUARY 2020

Sharon Kemmerer, Stewardship Chair

2020-02-03

Leaving our mark on Rockville and Montgomery County

A few weeks ago, I touched on the few (of many) volunteer and funded efforts toward Disaster Response that our church members are stepping into society with personal passion and feeling called to serve. This week I'd like to touch upon our great success within Community Reach (CR), founded by Rockville United over 50 years ago as Community Ministries of Rockville. As recent as the 2017-2018 annual report, RUC has a dozen volunteers and two dozen personal donors who find passion in the work Community Reach does through its many ministries, along with >50 faith-based organizations also sponsoring the work of the Kaseman Health Clinic, REAP – Rockville Emergency Assistance Program, Elderly Ministries, Housing, Language Outreach Program, and Advocacy. Thank you, Rockville United passionate congregants, in your time, talent, and financial gifts towards this work in our community. Next week, a highlight of the many of us passionate in staving off hunger in our community.

2020-02-09

Hunger, pervasive, here at home and around the world

Hunger... That feeling of discomfort or weakness caused by lack of food, coupled with the desire to eat. Perhaps as you read this, you feel a personal discomfort and wish for a snack. Many in our church recognize the need for food and are passionate volunteers and fund-raisers to serve our community. We have many helping monthly to feed our homeless at a local Methodist church through the Lord's Table ministry. Our teens (NOISY) serve monthly at Rainbow Place Shelter, an emergency shelter for women, and raised over \$400 in their Souper Bowl Sunday fund drive. The 11 family backyard gardeners and Weebit Farms, with their contributions in produce for cash, made a sizable donation (\$2000+) to Manna Food Rescue for its work to get food to the needy. Service Saturday, with its dozen+ volunteers, provides monthly meals to the Community Reach houses for the homeless. We have even found a way to "volunteer" our physical space for fund-raisers like last week's Community Reach REAP ministry fund-raiser. Hunger. It's persistent, it's universal. Our dozens of passionate RUC volunteers and donors are fighting it one volunteer hour, one dollar donated, at a time.

These last several stewardship corners were meant to whet your appetite to learn more, and hopefully tease out even more from each of you on where your passion lies... in service (time and talent) or financial commitment. It is also the passing of the "time, talent, giving" baton from within our Rockville United walls as Stewardship to that which is personal and collective stewardship outside in our local, national, and international communities as we are a body representing Church in Society. Stay tuned for our Church in Society call for your input.

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2020-02-24

Do you have it in you?

I'm talking about being a missionary for Rockville United Church. Yes, I used that scary word "missionary." I used to be horrified to be called a missionary when I went on disaster response mission trips, but then realized it's not just about proselytizing by faith, and God, and Jesus; it can be about simply performing ministries of service. And we can use all ears to the ground and being a voice of options when it comes to RUC space rental. When we balance the annual operational budget each year, Council assumes an incoming cash flow from pledges, offering plate, and renting our building. This latter money-maker has declined, and we can use your help. Our rental rates are very reasonable, and we have a building worth sharing --- 8,000sf of sharing. Found at the top bar of our website is "Building Rental" and suggests uses such as Weddings and Receptions, Meetings and Conferences, Birthday and Anniversary Parties, Community Events, Recitals and Concerts, Classes, Workshops and Seminars, or Memorial Services. Or perhaps you hear of an entrepreneurial friend looking for a commercial kitchen to kick off a catering business, or needing space for one-time meetings, or office retreats? Your neighborhood association needs a central location to meet? Dial Dalia to set up using RUC. As we hear our politicians talk of the small donations received and how important it is to receive them, similarly RUC can reap the financial benefit by one-time rentals. Expand your pledge to RUC through your time and talent. Think creatively, and be a voice of options when the opportunity knocks. Thanks!