

# TRANSFORMED

April 2024

## 2024 RCFN WEEK OF PRAYER & MISSION OFFERING

City Lights Shine Bright

May 5th through May 12, 2024

Goal: 100 % RCFN church participation

Goal: \$50,000

Children's Offering Goal: \$5,000

Prayer guide and Children's activities, VBS Mission Moments, Video, and mission engagement resources will be available soon!

I John 1:7

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another."

## Ministry of the Week

Please pray for our churches and the activities providing ministry around the RCFN each week. Each week we focus on a different church or program here in Richmond.

APRIL 2024

4/7- First Union Baptist

4/14- Friendship Memorial

4/21- Gayton Baptist

4/28- Ginter Park Baptist

## CAMP ALKULANA AUCTION TAKES HOME THE OSCAR!



PICTURED ABOVE FROM LEFT: DERBYSHIRE FELLOWSHIP HALL AND GUESTS, GABE PEREZ (CAST) & THE BURGESS FAMILY, OSCAR THEMED FOOD STATIONS.

Saturday night was a great success for the Camp Alkulana staff and support team! Thanks to their hard work, Camp Alkulana was able to raise over \$15,000 at this year's auction event. It was a beautiful evening and Derbyshire Baptist were gracious hosts for those who came to enjoy the festivities. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success, including our sponsors:

- Swag Sponsor: Jenny Hodge & Jeff Seebo
- Press Sponsors: Laura Lee & Ted Chandler; Jennifer Hawks; Lisa Brinkley; Richmond's First Baptist Church; and Richmond's First Baptist Church Communications Team
- Catering Sponsors: Tricia Dagliano (Alpaca My Bags); Derbyshire Baptist Church; The Children & Youth Ministries of Richmond's First Baptist Church; The WMU of Richmond's First Baptist Church, River Road Church, Baptist, Huguenot Road Baptist Church Missions, Anna Julia Cooper School

## Upcoming Events

Please be sure to check for all the happenings on the RCFN website for the most up to date information and to register for certain events!

4/2- RCFN Staff Meeting

4/9- CAST Meeting

4/10- Mission Offering Mtg

4/16- RCFN Board Meeting

4/20- CHCWC Support Team

4/23- WMU Spring Meeting

4/27- SRBC Support Team

5/5-5/12 RCFN Week of Prayer and Mission Offering



## UPDATES FROM AROUND THE RIVER CITY FAITH NETWORK



### OREGON HILL SUPPORT TEAM HONORS MEMBER

Members of the Oregon Hill Support Team (OHST) donated funds to buy a much needed clothing racks for the OHBC clothes closet in honor of Ann Loving of New Bethesda Baptist Church. She recently resigned from the OHST having been a member since its beginning in 2015. Ann continues to volunteer at the OHBC 2 days a month and is the longest serving current volunteer having served since 2014. If you would like to help support the ministries at Oregon Hill and their efforts to support the unhoused, please contact Jennifer Turner at 804-329-1701 ext: 103 or email her at [jennifer.turner@baonline.org](mailto:jennifer.turner@baonline.org)



### BON AIR BAPTIST MISSION BLITZ

On Saturday, March 16th, members from Bon Air Baptist Church worked in teams to help our Centers as a part of their Mission Blitz event. They helped organize the clothes closet into a permanent store at Oregon Hill Baptist Center, move office items at Church Hill CWC, and assisted with organizing the new Annex space at South Richmond Satellite Center for the furniture ministry. Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated in the event to help our ministry centers and other mission needs around Richmond!



### SRBC OFFERS NEW MINISTRY- FACE

After months of work and volunteer assistance, the South Richmond Satellite has completed its renovation of the Annex space. This was a project SRBC began last year and asked for prayers and support during the Mission Offering. Thanks to donations and the help of members of our churches, including River Road Church Baptist, Bon Air Baptist, Lakeside Baptist, Jahnke Road Baptist, Friendship Memorial and more for their hard work and prayers that have culminated to begin a new ministry for RCFN. Several families in our communities face difficult housing issues, and evictions. The South Richmond Baptist Center (SRBC) feels lead to help walk with families at this awful time in their life. The SRBC has begun a new ministry called FACE (furniture and clothing evangelism) and is seeking furniture and household items that can be utilized by those in need. At this time, we are not able to take donations of smaller household items such as toasters, silverware, plates, etc. We are currently seeking the following items in good working condition: washer/dryers; refrigerators; microwave ovens, beds of all types/sizes; kitchen tables/chairs; dressers/ nightstands/ end tables; couches/sofas/recliners; and flat screen TVs. We cannot repair items and if you have something you are considering to donating, please call Wesley Garrett to discuss your item at 804-232-0174 or email him at [wesley.garrett@baonline.org](mailto:wesley.garrett@baonline.org). SRBC is very excited about this new ministry and its Support Team has worked hard to outline the criteria for donations received and how those in need can get assistance from the SRBC. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers and we look forward to keeping you informed about any changes in items that are needed or additional features of this ministry, such as item pick up. Again, thank you for the support and teamwork of working together to help our neighbors in need!



*Pictured from the top: work in progress, middle: new secure space and storage, bottom: installed mini split unit for temperature control*

## RIVER CITY FAITH NETWORK IN THE COMMUNITY

### COMPASSION IS DRIVING THESE VOLUNTEERS

#### A LOOK AT ACTIVITIES IN THE RCFN WITH STEVE BLANCHARD AT FBC

The Ministry of Compassion at First Baptist Church in Richmond, is located at 2709 Monument Ave. It's beginning roots, which was known simply as Community Missions, started over 65 years ago, though the actual date escapes me. I came to this position in 1997 as the Minister of Community Missions and our focus ministries were a food pantry, clothes closet, a Thursday night dinner program and an after-school program called the Fan Club. My position had been previously operated by Pat Allen and several volunteers. Since that time, the program has become known as the Ministry of Christian Compassion, a name change given by Rev. Jim Somerville when he arrived in 2008.

In 2000, the ministry was given responsibility for our overseas and national missions which at the time consisted of a few once a year trips. We quickly grew and for several years averaged around 12 mission trips a year, establishing multi-year partnerships, some of which are still in existence today.

After speaking with some of those in the homeless ministry we operated, it was determined that one of the main needs of that community not being met was a place for individuals to take showers. The church had two shower rooms that were currently being unused since the renovation that had taken place around 1995. We quickly cleaned them out and placed shower curtains so that we were able to provide seven showers. They became an instant hit, opening three days a week and allowing people to take showers, receive towels and washcloths, clean underwear and clean socks. Since those early days, we have expanded our Compassion ministry to 21 different programs which include adopting three local elementary schools, providing a laundry service and assistance to obtain ID's, medications and birth certificates for the homeless community, support groups, and seven international and national partnerships. God has blessed, and continues to bless us with the resources, which includes volunteers from within the church and the community. We strive to look for ways we can continue to glorify God by serving those whom He places in our daily path.

Most recently, FBC has partnered with River Road Church to begin the Community Street Outreach (CSO). The CSO started February 17. Each Saturday, from 10 am-12 pm, we have a van that goes to a different set location and distribute supplies from a designated list. As we do so we also serve coffee, conversation, and love. Again, this is a partnership with two volunteers from each church serving each week and also splitting the cost of supplies. On Saturday mornings, the four volunteers take a bus to different neighborhoods with supplies for the homeless community. On their first outing they served 12 individuals—coffee, 4 blankets, 12 pairs of socks, 5 toiletry kits, 5 ponchos, 2 tarps, 7 sets of handwarmers, 8 hats, 9 pairs of gloves, 3 boxes of feminine hygiene products, 2 toothbrush/toothpaste sets. We had quite a rainstorm the next occasion, however, we continue to work for this ministry no matter if it rains or shines for our neighbors in need. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Steve Blanchard at [blanchard@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:blanchard@fbcrichmond.org)



*Pictured above: the Mobile Ministry van, top and bottom right: Compassion Ministry team of FBC and RRCB preparing and feeding the Homeless.*

**River City Faith Network**  
**Richmond Baptist Association**  
**2828 Emerywood Parkway**  
**Richmond, VA 23294**  
**Phone: 804-329-1701**  
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**[www.richmondbaptist.org](http://www.richmondbaptist.org)**

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## **RCFN CENTER CORNER**

Our Centers are currently looking for assistance with the following items:

**Church Hill CWC**– is working to assist a family with the following needs: a living room set, kitchenette, twin beds with mattresses and a mattress topper.

**Oregon Hill**– Now collecting spring and summer men's clothes for the unhoused in Oregon Hill. Help serve a Thursday meal to the Oregon Hill Community!! Available dates are: **April 25, June 20, July 18, Aug 15**

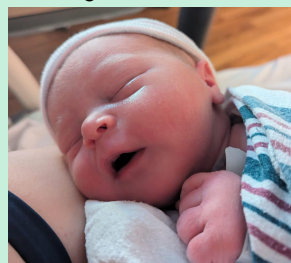
**South Richmond**– canned/shelf stable food items are always appreciated for the urgent food insecurity in South Richmond.

Please contact our Center Directors for more information and to make an appointment to deliver your items. Thank you for your support of our Centers!

804-329-1701

## **RCFN CARE AND CONGRATULATIONS**

The River City Faith Network would like to share congratulations to:



**Dr. Maria and Randy Lynn** on the birth of their grandson, Timothy Jacob Lynn (TJ) on February 20th!

**The River City Faith Network extends sympathy to the family and friends of:**

**Ms. Edna Flemming**, a faithful member of Woodland Heights Baptist Church & WMU in addition to being the RBA Associational WMU Director from 1985–1988.

[www.richmondbaptist.org](http://www.richmondbaptist.org)