

South Richmond Baptist Center

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Office hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

2022 Annual Report

South Richmond Baptist Center maintains an office and provides some ministry at 700 E. Belt Boulevard, our location at The Saint Paul's Baptist Church's Belt Boulevard campus. Most of the day-to-day activities take place at the SRBC Satellite location.

This year has had a combination of our usual ministry and some unique activities. On August 21, we held a **Tree Dedication Service** at the SRBC Satellite, a first for SRBC. We planted four trees to honor four of the many faithful and supportive volunteers who help make the ministries of SRBC possible. The trees honored three living champions and one deceased champion of SRBC. The trees honored Mrs. Elsie Lee of Friendship Memorial Baptist Church, Mrs. Ruth Guill of Huguenot Road Baptist Church (and also the former of Weatherford Memorial Baptist Church), Mrs. Kathleen Coxon of Derbyshire Baptist Church, and the late Mrs. Barbara Swann of Bon Air Baptist Church. Family members, friends, and others in the RCFN family joined the honorees at the service, sharing shared testimonies and personal memories about their work with SRBC.

The school calendar changed, so we held our **Back-to-School Celebration** earlier than in past years. We received generous donations from churches like Bon Air Baptist (Sunday School class), Huguenot Road Baptist, Friendship Memorial Baptist, Woodland Heights Baptist, Jahnke Road Baptist, Webber Memorial Baptist, Stockton Memorial Baptist, Carlisle Avenue Baptist, and the Weatherford Memorial Mission Group. We had 268 filled backpacks ready before the first day of school to help children and youth of South Richmond get off to a good start for this school year. Ten volunteers helped distribute the backpacks filled with even more supplies than we had requested.

The Satellite location provides a facility we can use for **After-school Programs** for youth and children. We assist with homework and mentoring. Our after-school programs also offer recreation in a safe place. We have various games that promote Christian values, table tennis, and a lending library of uplifting books. Volunteers from Huguenot Road Baptist Church have created some biblical character costumes for our center, and we expect more very soon. We plan to use these to act out Bible stories. Sometimes I spend time with the youth and children on Saturdays to give them a worthwhile place to spend free time. During football season we watch games or even play football in the Satellite's yard.

Mrs. Caroline Davidson, the first lady of Lyndale Baptist Church (in Middle District Baptist Association) blessed SRBC with 30 **Easter baskets** and candy again this year. Mrs. Betty Shires delivered snacks from the Jahnke Road Baptist Church WMU. We welcome snacks and candy to share anytime, including after a holiday when the prices drop.

I lead **Adult Bible Study** at the Satellite location on Wednesday mornings. In September we began studying the Book of Revelation. After study, we teach computer skills to seniors. **We would appreciate donations of undated Bible study materials.**

A group from Gayton Baptist Church visited the Satellite and helped clean out **the Annex, part of the Satellite facility**. I have a vision that we might use the Annex for a furniture

and clothing ministry that could involve RCFN churches and RCFN ministries. Thieves broke into the Annex and stole some items. We have added outside lighting, but the process related to replacing the items and securing the facility continues.

The Old Testament book 1 Kings tells the story of God's provision for Elijah at the home of a needy widow (1 Kings 17:8ff.). Our **Widow of Zarephath** ministry is an unlocked food cabinet that anyone can access at any time. We keep food items that do not require refrigeration in the cabinet. People in the community who cannot make it to the scheduled times for our food pantry distribution or who may feel uncomfortable asking for assistance can find some food in this cabinet. This ministry cabinet is located right outside the ministry center door, and we continually restock it for the community.

When Weatherford Memorial Baptist Church gave its land and buildings to The Saint Paul's Baptist Church, the deed stipulated that the South Richmond Baptist Center would always have a place at the Belt Boulevard site. Leaders of RCFN and Saint Paul's have held some conversations about what that may look like in the future. For now, building damage has required SRBC to make changes there.

We still offer **Emergency Food Distribution** at Belt Boulevard. This ministry has changed from having two weeks to only one week each month. We distribute food at Belt Boulevard on the third Thursday of the month. Several churches assist with this ministry by donating bags of groceries, and we recently received a large donation in October. A WMU member from Huguenot Road Baptist Church picks up donated bread from a Panera restaurant, then prepares it and brings it for distribution. We distribute Thanksgiving baskets for needy families during the third week in November. We have helped more than 650 families with bags of groceries since the 2021 Annual Meeting.

People in need may need something other than food. Our **Clothing Ministry** continues to help families and single persons with gently used clothing as needed. We helped over 90 people this past year. Thanks to Mrs. Annie Smith, a volunteer who assists our clothing ministry by folding, sorting, and handling of clothing for the South Richmond Center.

I sincerely appreciate the churches, WMU members, other donors, and volunteers whose gifts of time and things make our **Christmas Store** possible. In December 2021, we helped 65 different families and over 220 children with Christmas gifts of toys and clothing. We changed our "store" model to a drive-by model. Churches, classes, and individuals sponsored the children by adopting each child and/or family. They purchased the gifts requested for each the child. This "Christmas angel" style of ministry was a huge success, and we plan to continue it through the 2022 Christmas season. Last year River Road Church (by way of Betty Daman) blessed this ministry with gift cards for older youth who were beyond Christmas Store age, and families of Huguenot Road donated bicycles (thanks to Ray Parker).

The Satellite has the internet access and equipment to offer **Computer Classes** for youth and adults. Adults can learn computer skills, search for job opportunities, and place resumes.

None of this would happen without the tremendous support from our churches and the women of the WMU (led in RCFN by Mrs. Mary Palmer). James 1:27 reminds us, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, [to] visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep [oneself] unspotted from the world" (KJV). Reaching people for Christ may mean sharing the Gospel in words. It can also mean sharing the love of God in our deeds.

—Rev. Wesley Garrett, South Richmond Baptist Center Community Missionary/Director

