2018 CHRISTMAS STORE

Families  Children  Volunteers  Churches

Church Hill Christian Wellness Center  61  115  12 on Fri.  8
Oregon Hill Baptist Center  40  71
South Richmond Baptist Center  50  130
Lighthouse International Church

TOTALS  151  316  126  26

ORBC and SRBC totals combined are:
83 Volunteers from 12 different churches
18 churches, gave items and money

Snow delayed the Lighthouse Christmas Store until Sunday, December the 16th,

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine on you
And be gracious to you;
The Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”
Numbers 6:24–26

To order online for yourself and / or campers go to
https://squareup.com/store/alkulana100/

A hyperlink is attached to the DONATE box on the website. This is an easy way to give to the RCFN ministries. Thank you so much for your support!
This is what an RCFN Christmas Store looks like before it becomes a Christmas Store! It’s messy! And it represents a great deal of work... hours and hours of love drenched labor both at the personal and church level. Church leadership teams agree together to come on board. Church secretaries compose articles for their church bulletins and newsletters. W.M.U. and other missions leaders, Sunday school teachers, and small group facilitators launch into promotion mode. Slick store flyers and rumpled newspaper ads are scanned; online shopping sites are visited; and numerous trips to local retailers result in purchases of bicycles, clothing and toys that in a few weeks will light up the eyes of youngsters and bring tears to the eyes of parents and grandparents who wish they could have provided more for their precious little ones but who are so grateful that they were able to receive items bathed in loving kindness from the three Christmas Stores your River City Faith Network hosts because of your diligent and self-sacrificing generosity to the “least of these.”

At this very moment I am in my office writing as a contingent of volunteers enlisted by Ruth Guill are sorting through the chaos represented in the pictures above. From boxes and bags they will deftly extract games, toys and clothing of all sizes. Carefully they will arrange these items according to size, gender and cost so that parents can shop quickly to find those “special” items to take with them to be opened on Christmas morning.

As Christmas shoppers are met with the smiling con- tentances of dozens of volunteers to help attend to the needs of children, again this Christmas hundreds of children from across our city will learn in a tangible way that God loves them and that His eternal family is made up of kind and caring men and women, boys and girls, who participate to make the RCFN Christmas Stores a reality. From the bottom of my heart allow me to express my gratitude to all who choose to express His love for the people of our city through this beautiful effort that marks so many lives in such a positive way. Jesus is honored by this obedience and hearts become more nearly prepared to hear, receive, understand and respond to the call from Christ to become a part of God’s family and His followers!

This year I want to express a specific word of thanksgiving to our Community Missionaries, the Revs. Glinda Ford, Wesley Garrett and Jennifer Turner, for their leadership that ensures that the RCFN Christmas Stores effectively touch the lives and hearts of under-resourced persons from their areas of ministry. It is out of the relationships and contacts that they cultivate throughout the year that our stores are a safe and trusted place that folks can come to find aid and assistance.

At our Baptist centers there is a small charge of $5 per child to participate in the stores. This nominal fee is collected to give shoppers a sense that they are not just receiving raw charity but are carrying out their responsibility to be providers within their family structure. The combined collective fees then become part of a fuel reserve from which families, who during the up-coming winter months experience a shortage of fuel resources, can draw to purchase fuel oil or other heat energy to get them through a tough and severe place of budget shortage. Absolutely none of these funds are kept by RCFN or our community centers but are given carefully to assist those with need.

Join one another in prayer that the families touched by this annual ministry will sense God’s care for them in a world and all too often in communities where violence and hopelessness prevail and loves seems so scarce. It is the sincere desire of all involved in this season of giving and service in Christ’s Name that God and God alone will be glorified by all that we do together knowing that the toys and clothing are only reflections of the Spirit of God and that the gift of Christ is the greatest Gift of all!

On behalf of your River City Faith Network staff and volunteers, I wish all of you a very Merry and Joyous Christmas and His best for you and your loved ones during the coming new year!

Gratefully,

Mike
Thank You From the OHBC to the churches who donated Thanksgiving Food and Gift Cards! 71 Households (229 individuals) benefited from your generosity. Some leftovers were donated to the South Richmond Center. Other leftovers were used to restock the OHBC food pantry and distributed to other families in need.

Thank you to all churches and individuals who contributed to the OHBC & SRBC Christmas Store through donations and volunteering of your time! Children and families enjoyed a brighter Christmas because of you!!

NEEDED FOR OUR HOMELESS MINISTRY:
WALMART, ALDI, & FOOD-LION GIFT CARDS: to be used toward purchasing Snack Bag Items for Homeless
GLOVES: Waterproof & Knit GLOVES (men & women)
HATS: Solid Color (black or Navy blue) winter HATS for MEN
SCARVES: Solid Color Scarves for MEN
SOCKS: Warm (men & women)
SWEAT SHIRTS (men & women) - especially hoodies
LONG JOHN PANTS & SHIRTS (men & women)
BLANKETS: (used but clean are fine)
SLEEPING BAGS: (used but clean are fine)
HAND & FOOT WARMERS: (Walmart, Target, Dicks, Bass Pro Shop, etc.)

NEEDED FOR OTHER MINISTRIES:
WALMART, ALDI, FOOD-LION Gift Cards - to supplement food for Food Pantry & other food/snack needs for OHBC programs.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VALERIE CARTER

Valerie is the Executive Director/Treasurer of the WMU of Virginia.

On Saturday, December 8, Valerie Carter and Eldridge F. Smith, Jr. were married. Dr. Herbert Ponder officiated. It took place at Mt Tabor Baptist Church in Richmond, VA.
THANK YOU! to all churches and individuals who contributed to the CHCWC’S Christmas Store through donations and volunteering of your time!

NEEDED:
WINTER COATS—All Sizes!
AND
Winter Clothes—All Sizes

BUS PASSES are also needed.

Oregon Hill Baptist Center

Winter Clothes for men: Only casual, comfortable clothes, socks, long johns, gloves and NEW men’s boxers or briefs (in colors).

Winter Clothes for women: Only NEW underwear in assorted sizes, no women’s clothes.

Winter Shoes for men and women: NO dress shoes, please. ONLY comfortable and warm shoes

Blankets, please!

South Richmond Baptist Center

Winter Clothes for people of all ages:

Church Hill Christian Wellness Center

Fall and Winter Clothes for people of all ages.

RCFN Ministries will be closed December 21, 24—28 and the 31st for the 2018 Christmas Holiday.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
And
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Our summer camp program is the heart of our work; we believe a good camping program provides a ripe opportunity for life-changing experiences. Each summer we serve approximately 200 campers, ages 9-14, in a traditional overnight summer camp setting. Our four summer sessions are divided by age and gender. Campers attend Alkulana for either an 8 day session (9-11 year old campers) or a 12 day session (12-14 year old campers).

Our aim is to provide a camp experience for campers who would not otherwise be able to afford it. Therefore, the majority of our camper spots go to children and youth who are eligible for the USDA free or reduced lunch programs in their schools. Our campers are from the greater Richmond area, including Richmond city, Henrico, Hanover, Chesterfield, and Petersburg.

Campers pay from $25-$100 for their camp experience. We provide transportation from Richmond to the campsite, which is about two and a half hours from the city.

Our goals for our campers

- Campers will begin to or continue to recognize God’s love for them, and establish an ongoing relationship with God.
- Campers will understand and appreciate the intrinsic value in themselves and others.
- Campers will improve social skills.
- Campers will develop positive relationships with camp staff and other campers.
- Campers will be kept physically and emotionally safe.
- Campers will have the opportunity for physical and mental challenges and self-expression.
- Campers will develop an appreciation of the natural world.

Friday, February 9, 2018
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Monument Heights Baptist Church—Fellowship Hall
5716 Monument Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226

RSVP Deadline is Tuesday, February 6th* Please respond ASAP with your total number of attendees, including chaperones.

*RSVP to: Judy Rideout – (804)740-0969 judy.rideout@comcast.net

Please join us for a fun night at our Valentine Social!!
Our entertainers will be: Billy Walker - Lively music and square dance caller and Jesse Joyner, juggler and story teller.

Please enter the Church through the covered entrance off the parking lot. Ramps, an elevator, or steps are on the first floor which can be taken downstairs to the Fellowship Hall.
FEBRUARY is the month SRBC asks the children to bring in their REPORT CARDS and PROGRESS REPORTS to the center in order to receive school supplies or a new backpack. By February most if not all the supplies that were given out at the beginning of school are used up. If you have school supplies left over from past projects or if you would like to buy new supplies for the children I know it would be greatly appreciated.

By seeing the REPORT CARDS and PROGRESS REPORTS it gives those helping at the SRBC a chance to congratulate or encourage the children in their pursuit of success. (Or maybe a little extra encouragement to hang on.)

DEADLINE

FOR 2018 CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note that all contributions to RCFN intended to be counted for the 2018 Giving Year must be received on or before Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Envelopes must be postmarked and checks dated on or before December 31, 2018. Thank you so much for tangibly expressing through RCFN your love for our city’s people and the Christ Who was born, lived and died for us all.
CARLISLE AVENUE: Sunday, Dec. 23rd, Christmas Drama & Musical, “Lord of Lights / Prince of Peace”, Sunday, Dec. 16th, 7:00 PM music portion will be presented at the Masonic Home of Virginia, Monday, Dec. 24th, 7:00 PM, Candlelight Communion

DERBYSHIRE: Monday, Dec. 24th, 5:30 PM, Christmas by Candlelight

FIRST of RICHMOND: Sunday, Dec. 16th, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary, “Seeking Christmas” A youth Christmas Pageant.; Monday, Dec. 24th, 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion; 11:00 PM Candlelight Communion

GRACE: Friday, Dec. 14th, 7:30 PM, Magnificat

GROVE AVENUE: Monday, Dec. 24th, 6:00 PM, Candlelight Communion

HATCHER MEMORIAL: Monday, Dec. 24th, 5:00 PM, Christmas Eve Service

HUGUENOT ROAD: Sunday, Dec. 16th, 6:00 PM, Christmas Musical “The Gift”; Christmas VBS, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 20 –21, 9:00 AM—noon; Monday, Dec. 24th, 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Service; 11:00 PM Candlelight Communion

LEIGH STREET: Sunday, January 6, 2019, 11:00 AM, Leigh Street is having a celebration honoring the Rev. Dr. James R. Colvin for his 35 years of dedicated service to the church and its members. Dr. Colvin served with the International Mission Board for 12 years. He and his wife Martha have three children: two sons, Dr. Christopher Colvin of Cape Town, South Africa and Charlottesville, VA, and Jonathan Colvin of Richmond; and a daughter, Elizabeth Colvin O’Rourke of Dothan, Alabama. Following the morning worship service, there will be a reserved-seat luncheon provided by the church in Dr. Colvin’s honor.

MONUMENT HEIGHTS: Monday, Dec. 24th, 5:30 PM, Candlelight Communion

OAKWOOD MEMORIAL: Monday, Dec. 24th, 5:30 PM, Candlelight Communion

RIVER ROAD: Sunday, Dec. 16th, 7:30 PM, Christmas Concert Chanel Choir with Orchestra (FREE tickets on Eventbrite); Wednesday, Dec. 19th, 6:30 PM, TFC Adults Starlight Service of Remembrance & Holy Communion (Chapel); Monday, Dec. 24th, 4:00PM Christmas Eve Family Service, Christmas Pageant; 10:30 Music for Organ and Flute; 11:00 PM Candlelight Service and Holy Communion

SANDSTON: Sunday, Dec. 23rd, 9:00 AM Fellowship; 10:00 AM Christmas Worship; Monday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve, 5:00 PM Candlelight Communion

SECOND: Friday, Dec. 14th, 8:00 PM Carols by Candlelight; Wednesday, Dec. 19th, 6:45 PM The Children’s Choir Christmas Concert, Sanctuary; Monday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve, 5:30 PM, Candlelight Communion; 11:00 PM Candlelight Communion

SOUTHAMPTON and WOODLAND HEIGHTS: Friday, Dec. 21st, 7:00 PM, A Blue Christmas in the chapel at Woodland Heights (Primarily a healing service). Monday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve, 3:00 PM in the chapel and 5:00 PM in the sanctuary of Woodland Heights, both services will be Candlelight and Communion.

STOCKTON MEMORIAL: Sunday, Dec. 16th, 11:00 AM, Christmas Music and Potluck; Monday, Dec. 24th, 6:00 PM, Candlelight Communion

TRINITY: Sunday, Dec. 16th, 8:00 PM, Hour of Power

TABERNACLE: Sunday, Dec. 16th, 4:00 PM, Christmas in the Fan, Saturday, Dec. 22nd, 8:00 PM, Providing music in Williamsburg, Bruton Parish; Monday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve, 5:00 PM Candlelight Communion

TRINITY: Sunday, Dec. 16th, 8:00 PM, Hour of Power

WEBBER MEMORIAL: Monday, Dec. 24th, 5:30 PM, Christmas Eve Service

December 25, 2018
CHRISTMAS DAY
(RCFN Offices are closed)

January 1, 2019
NEW YEAR’S DAY
(RCFN Offices are closed)

January 7, 2019 9:30 AM
RCFN Staff Meeting, SCR
3111 Moss Side Ave, Richmond

January 8, 2019 6:30 PM
CAST Meeting, SCR
3111 Moss Side Ave, Richmond

January 21, 2019
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(RCFN Offices are closed)

January 22, 2019 7:00 PM
RCFN Board of Directors’ Meeting, LCR
3111 Moss Side Ave, Richmond
TRANSFORMED! is published monthly by the River City Faith Network of the Richmond Baptist Association

Contact: Danette Moen via phone (804) 329-1701 ext. 101, email or USPS at the addresses listed above:
- To submit an article: it must be received by the 4th of each month.
- To be added to or deleted from the mailing list, or
- To submit a change of address: in a timely manner so that the Network will not incur postage due costs for undeliverable newsletters.

THANK YOU for your continued support of RCFN

Deaf Mission, First, Richmond
Derbyshire Cambodian
Friendship Memorial
Hatcher Memorial
The Mount Carmel
Woodland Heights

Pray for the RCFN Churches seeking a PASTOR

Pray for the RCFN Church of the Week
JAN. 6.......................United for Christ
JAN. 13......................Stockton Memorial
JAN. 20......................Woodland Heights
JAN. 27......................RCFN of the RBA

She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy. (Proverbs 31:20) NASB

Making a Delivery to the RCFN/RBA Office?
Please call before you plan to arrive to make sure that someone will be at the office. There are times during the day when everyone may be away, so it will save time and gas to call ahead. The RCFN Office is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Thursday.

2018 November RCFN Budget Report

RCFN Monthly Budget Amount: $44,363.00
NOVEMBER Budget Receipts: $ 35,747.00
NOVEMBER Budget Expenses: $ 44,561.00

RCFN YTD Budget Amount: $ 487,993.00
RCFN YTD Budget Receipts: $ 352,800.00
RCFN YTD Budget Expenses: $ 526,222.00

Camp Alkulana Offering $158,850.00
YTD Budget Amount: $ 145,057.00
YTD Receipts: $ 157,052.00
YTD Expenses: $ 182,594.00

The Insert Pages, (white sheets) are designed with sections that can be cut and used as bulletin inserts, bulletin board notices or Prayer Guides for Sunday School classes, Small groups, Mission groups, etc.

If you would like something put in the next TRANSFORMED! or a future TRANSFORMED! Please send it to office@rbaonline.org. Please put newsletter or TRANSFORMED in the Subject line so I will be able to see it when checking emails.

Most links for the ads in the TRANSFORMED! can be found on the RCFN website: www.richmondbaptist.org/news-events/