

Missions Ministry Report 2023



Bags of Hope

2023 Recap

Bags of Hope Indiana was able to have their largest year yet in 2023. We provided personalized duffel bags to nearly 600 Indiana foster children, making our grand total 2000 bags in the last 5 years! During the year, we had a fun Pickleball fundraiser where a little over 100 people were able to come out to play, eat pizza and win prizes. Our incredible VBS kids filled about 100 toiletry kits to be used. In November, we had 150 volunteers support us at the church in wrapping gifts and filling these duffel bags. Throughout the year, Carmel UMC members were able to make and donate over 200 tie blankets to help fill our bags. Thank you for an amazing year of serving this well-deserving population.



2024 Vision

Each year, Bags of Hope Indiana works hard to continue to grow and serve more foster children in Indiana. We will be working hard again to deliver the most bags to date. Throughout the year, we will accept tie blankets. VBS will continue to make toiletry kits with notes of encouragement written by the kids for local foster children. We will have another Pickleball Family and Fun night. As always, our big “Wrap and Fill” event in November will be hosted at Carmel UMC. We look forward to another great year!

Food Pantry

2023 Recap

The Food Pantry had some major accomplishments in 2023 serving 16,373 guests in a year when high food prices made purchasing a challenge. Many guests of the CUMC Food Pantry continue to live in close proximity to our church with about 50% living in Carmel zip codes, many of whom are new immigrants. In 2023, we received two significant donations of a new refrigerator and freezer for the garage to help store meat, milk and fresh produce. In July, we began a partnership with Fresh Market receiving their food donations on Saturdays and Sundays. Our partnerships with Orchard Park Presbyterian Church and St. Mark's UMC grew in 2023 as well. We celebrate our volunteers and are glad to have the online SignUpGenius to facilitate signing up for volunteer shifts at the pantry (bit.ly/food-missions-cumc) especially the newbie feature to help attract new volunteers as well as the GroupMe app to make communication with each other easier. The Food Pantry Amazon Wish List on the church website has made it easier for people to buy things for the pantry as well. There was lots to celebrate in 2023! Download & read the **2023 Food Pantry Metrics Summary** here: carmelumc.org/ministries/missions/



2024 Vision

Our vision for 2024 is to not be the biggest, but be the best. We hope to continue to grow our relationship with our pantry partners and grow our volunteer pool as well as equip our volunteers to better assist our guests. A major goal is to increase the congregation's awareness of the Food Pantry's needs, both in food/money donations and volunteers. We do not necessarily want to grow our guest base, but rather serve our guests well by making health and human resources readily available and training our volunteers on how to use them. Our hope for 2024 is to continue to make the Food Pantry a community food pantry with more volunteers and donation partners outside the church.

Food Pantry Gardens

2023 Recap

The Food Pantry Gardens produced over 1000 lbs of vegetables, fruits, and herbs. Tomatoes, peppers, beets, eggplant, beans, carrots, radishes, kale, and herbs during last year's growing season. All were grown on the Carmel UMC grounds and shared with the 1,300+ families that visit the Food Pantry every month. In 2023, church members funded the construction of a Grow Room inside the Food Pantry. Starting our plants from seed allows us to grow the varieties best suited for our food pantry guests. Gardening is a labor-intensive project and many people volunteered their time in the garden in 2023, including two CUMC Preschool classes, CHS Softball teams, Scouts, members of the church and the Carmel community. Through the Gardens Amazon WishList, the CUMC church family donated items we needed (and continue to use) to plant and care for crops as well as plastic containers for packaging herbs (so many that we DON'T need any more for 2024!). MANY thanks to these other partners for providing donated produce to the pantry: Carmel Christian Church, Cornerstone Lutheran, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank and Carmel Farmers Market. Together, we made a HUGE impact in the lives of the people we serve with fresh and healthy food!



**Come, play in the
Gardens with us!
Thursdays at 6pm**



2024 Vision

In 2024, we have two Eagle Scout candidates who are building cold frames and a small greenhouse, both of which will allow us to better start plants from seed, and hopefully grow some vegetables off-season! The greenhouse space will further provide educational opportunities for CUMC Preschool classes. We are continuing with our Garden Group this year. We meet weekly on Thursdays from 6:00-7:30pm from April to October. Other Food Pantry Gardens volunteer opportunities can be found at bit.ly/food-pantry-gardens

Kids Coats

2023 Recap

In 2023, Hamilton County Kids Coats served 1,421 children ages 0-19 and 722 adults ages 20+ as well as giving coats to other organizations like Open Doors of Westfield, Head Start of Noblesville, Circle City Relief, Wheeler Women's and Men's Shelters, Soup's On at Roberts Park UMC, and other downtown homeless ministries for a grand total of 3,153 coats distributed in 2023 with 575 of those served right here in Carmel. In 2023, Kids Coats moved to a hub & spoke model where all local distribution partners worked with their school districts to get families registered and connected with warm winter coats. For a list of all the churches that Kids Coats partners with see kidscoats.org/locations. Like in previous years, Kids Coats referred families who had gotten coats to participate in the Angel Tree Christmas program here at Carmel UMC. This is a great partnership that we plan to continue in 2024!



**The West Clay Elementary School
Compass Leadership Team volunteering
bundling hats and gloves. Kids Coats
Carmel giveaway - Nov 4, 2023**

2024 Vision

In 2024 we are excited to go back to in-person giveaways and move away from the drive-thru model that was implemented during COVID. We are continuing to connect more businesses and volunteers directly with the churches that help us distribute coats. Our goal is for giveaway churches to have more control to envision and implement what Kids Coats will look like in their city/town as we work together to provide warm winter coats for kids and adults in our county. For example in 2022 & 2023, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church provided new socks and underwear and a \$15 gift card to girls who needed a bra for all Carmel Clay elementary and middle schoolers at the Kids Coats giveaway here at Carmel UMC. This partnership is a fruitful one that crosses missions at Carmel UMC as Orchard Park is also a huge supporter of the Food Pantry.

Family Promise

2023 Recap

During May 2023 we collected over 120 household items from 66 CUMC members to furnish a two-bedroom apartment for a family coming out of homelessness. In addition, two CUMC members donated to Mustard Seed which provides the furniture for these apartments. In September, we began our first meal delivery program which involved 17 members of the church preparing and delivering a meal to the same family one day a week for a month. In addition to the meals, we also delivered books and birthday gifts to the kids. Both children wrote thank you notes and the mother was very appreciative of the break from cooking on these days! We had 88 volunteers participate with Family Promise at Carmel UMC in 2023, an increase of 38% which we are thrilled about!



2024 Vision

In 2024 we will again participate in the Apartment Furnishings Project during the month of May to help a family out of homelessness and into an apartment where they can live permanently. In addition, we will continue to participate in the meal delivery program twice a year which serves families living in the apartments. We hope to continue growing volunteer participation in this important mission to help families experiencing homelessness.

Soup's On

2023 Recap

We went to Roberts Park 5 times in 2023. We prepared and handed-out about 150 sack lunches each time. This totals approximately 750 sack lunches for guests of Roberts Park's Soup's On meal program. Each sack lunch contained a ham and cheese sandwich, fried chicken, fruit cup, chips, dessert (cookies, brownies, etc.), and Gatorade; water was also available. We have had 12 unique volunteers from the church serving this mission over the last two years. For each trip, we needed about 8 volunteers to make and pass out the lunches.



2024 Vision

In 2024 we have started serving **hot meals** at Roberts Park again, like we did before COVID. This requires 16 people each time we serve rather than the 8 needed in the past. We serve fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and a dessert — a popular meal at Soup's On! In addition, we also hand out Snack Sacks and other items for each guest as they leave. We would love to have new people who have never served at Soup's On before! We are encouraged by the online SignUpGenius link for signing up to volunteer (bit.ly/soups-on-cumc), which can be found on the Missions page of the CUMC website. In January of this year, we partnered with Kids Coats to provide 150 coats to the men and women at Soup's On. It was a really cold day and the coats, hats & gloves were very much needed and appreciated!

Angel Tree

2023 Recap

In 2023 we partnered with the Salvation Army Angel Tree program and served over 300 children in Hamilton County. Last year, we went back to the shopping model where parents came into the church and shopped in “Santa’s Workshop” for gifts for their children. The Salvation Army provided the selection of gifts in the gym, including plenty for restocking the tables. It always felt like there were plenty of choices throughout the day. As a church family, we adopted over 100 kids to fulfill their Christmas gift requests. This meant developing a hybrid model where CUMC-adopted angels received the gifts purchased specifically for them by storing those in the sanctuary. Parents were overjoyed by the gifts and generosity and were appreciative of the option to go to the gym afterward to shop for books and stocking stuffers for their kids. This model proved to be so successful that the Salvation Army is going to duplicate it at their other distribution centers in 2024!



2024 Vision

In 2024, our goal is to continue providing Christmas gifts to children in need and building connections and relationships with the families we serve. There are many positive procedures and strategies to carryover from last year to this year’s Angel Tree program. We hope to serve 350 kids in 2024! We will continue to work with Kids Coats to provide early signups for parents. We are grateful for the leadership and help of the Salvation Army team and look forward to working with them again as well as continuing the same model for gifts purchased by CUMC members.

Henderson Settlement

2023 Recap

In 2023 we sent a team of thirteen to the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. Throughout the week the team was there they built relationships and helped repair five homes for families in rural poverty.



2024 Vision

We have partnered with Henderson Settlement since 2001 and would love to introduce new participants so they can fall love with this beautiful community like we have!

African Missions

2023 Recap

We sent people from Carmel UMC to Sierra Leone in January and October 2023 to continue our partnership with Operation Classroom's Taiama Enterprise Academy as well as continuing to develop our church's relationship with Carmel Preschool in Goderich (named after our church's preschool) and the Betty Carew Women's Training Center in Freetown. We again made a \$17,000 donation to fund scholarships through the Sierra Leone United Methodist Conference. This education and training, in a country with over 70% young adult unemployment, will make a long lasting impact in the lives of over 110 students a year to enable them to support themselves, their families, and their villages. We also partnered with the Betty Carew Foundation by hosting a fashion show and donating \$3000 to support women learning fashion design and hospitality to become entrepreneurs and lift up their communities. In addition to these donations, we continued to support Pastor Daisy in her education at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio until she graduated in August and we sent her back to Sierra Leone with our blessings to continue her great work and teach others to be pastors and pastors-in-training in her beautiful homeland.

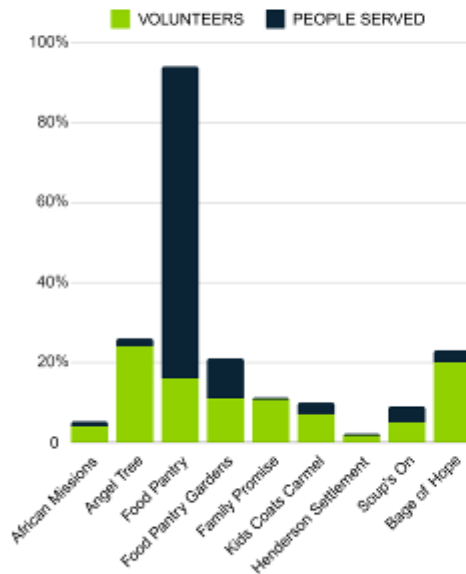


2024 Vision

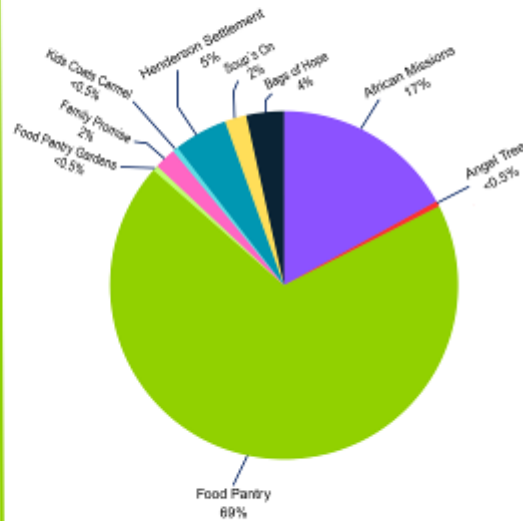
To continue CUMC's partnership, along with other Hoosier United Methodists, with the Sierra Leone United Methodist Conference to support education and career development for young women and men at the Taiama Enterprise Academy (TEA) and the Betty Carew Training Center. Training at TEA includes growing crops and food-producing trees, animal husbandry, structure design and building, welding, engine mechanics, solar array installation and maintenance, and carpentry. Both TEA and the Betty Carew Training Center help reduce the large degree of young adult unemployment in Sierra Leone. We continue to support Carmel Preschool. In January, we sent \$10,000 for installation of toilets at the preschool! We are arranging to send a larger mission group from our church to Sierra Leone in February 2025.

2023 MISSIONS IMPACT NUMBERS

PEOPLE IMPACT % OF TOTAL



MISSIONS EXPENSES % OF TOTAL



| Mission (Name) | Invested (\$) | Volunteer (#) | People Served (#) |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Food Pantry | \$147,081 | 130 | 16,373 |
| FP Gardens | \$621 | 80 | 2,145 |
| Kids Coats Carmel | \$365 | 55 | 601 |
| Soups' On | \$4,622 | 40 | 750 |
| Family Promise | \$4,431 | 88 | 6 |
| Bags of Hope | \$8,000 | 160 | 585 |
| Henderson | \$10,722 | 13 | 7 |
| African Missions | \$36,877 | 35 | 200 |
| Salvation Army Angel Tree | \$946 | 187 | 306 |
| TOTAL | \$213,665 | 788 | 20,973 |

Thank you for your support
with your time, talent, gifts,
and service here at Carmel
United Methodist Church.
Because of your generosity, we
can tangibly and visibly be
the hands, feet and face of
Christ in the world.

