

Compassion in Action



*You can help
FMF during the
Coronavirus
crisis!*

Families Moving Forward

With the on-going coronavirus pandemic, Families Moving Forward faces greater challenges than ever to support the families we serve. Here are some ways you can help!

Amazon Wish List: We have created an [Amazon Wish List](#) for COVID-19 specific needs. Many of these items are to help the children living in our emergency shelter cope with being out of school with limited resources for activities or items to help with sanitation.

Drop-off Donations: Due to the circumstances and need to protect the families living at Families Moving Forward, we have closed the kitchens onsite and are not accepting groceries or prepared meals at this time. Families are being provided three meals a day at a reduced rate through our partnership with Love and Nourish. We have a touch-less donation drop-off bin in front of the door in our lower parking lot. We are still accepting donations of the following items: toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap, and bleach wipes.

Pay It Forward Stimulus Campaign: During these times of uncertainty, we are more reliant on financial contributions to help the families we serve stay fed and housed. All across the country, people are receiving stimulus checks from the federal government to help people in economic crisis from the coronavirus pandemic. We have established a “Pay It Forward” stimulus campaign for just this purpose. Whether you choose to donate some or all of your stimulus check, please know that we greatly appreciate your generosity and will use those resources wisely to support the needs of both our shelter and aftercare families during this crisis. A large number of the parents have lost their employment, and the needs of the children have become greater without the support of the schools and daycares. To donate, go to <https://www.classy.org/give/281805/#!/donation/checkout>.

Elizabeth Erwin
FMF Board of Directors

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YOU CAN HELP REVERSE CLIMATE CHANGE!



A *bipartisan* bill in Congress deals with the proper management and eventual elimination of the common class of refrigerants known as HFCs. We all may know that global warming/ climate change is caused by the excess accumulation of greenhouse gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. The most well-known gas is carbon dioxide, generated by burning fossil fuels. However, HFC refrigerants are also significant, dangerous greenhouse gases — thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide¹ and able to linger in the atmosphere beyond a thousand years.

Part of the AIM Act phases down the use of HFCs and regulates their use. Ninety-four UN member states have ratified a similar document, the *Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer*. Unfortunately, the current administration has not ratified the Kigali Amendment, so a legislative fix is necessary. The AIM Act is truly a bipartisan bill, with equal co-sponsorship of Republicans and Democrats of both the House (HR 5544) and Senate (S 2754) versions. The bill will also bolster domestic manufacturing, create good paying American jobs and address climate change at the same time. Please contact your representatives and senators to support the AIM Act. It only takes minutes to click on these links to download a call script and phone numbers and get a sample letter template.

To contact Senator Burr, click on www.burr.senate.gov/contact/email or phone (202)224-3154. To contact Senator Tillis, click on www.tillis.senate.gov/ or phone (202) 224-6342.

Anne Drennan
Creation Care Ministry

¹“Overview of Greenhouse Gases”, *EPA.gov*, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases>. Excerpted from Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle and the book Drawdown: The most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming. New York, New York: Penguin Books.

*A way for you
to make a
difference in
climate change!*

Missions Connections During the Coronavirus Crisis

As we continue to acclimate to these days of “social isolation,” many of us continue to think about ways we can continue to care for our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Several Watts Streeters are in contact with our missions partners in the community and will continue to provide updates on how we can participate in missions work. To explore opportunities that we as a church are currently addressing, visit the WSBC website: <http://wattsstreet.org/caring-for-our-neighbors-during-covid-19/>.

WS Youth Group organized a Virtual Bingo Night fundraiser to benefit Reality Ministries! And raised more than \$1,400!

Bingo Night for Reality Ministries!

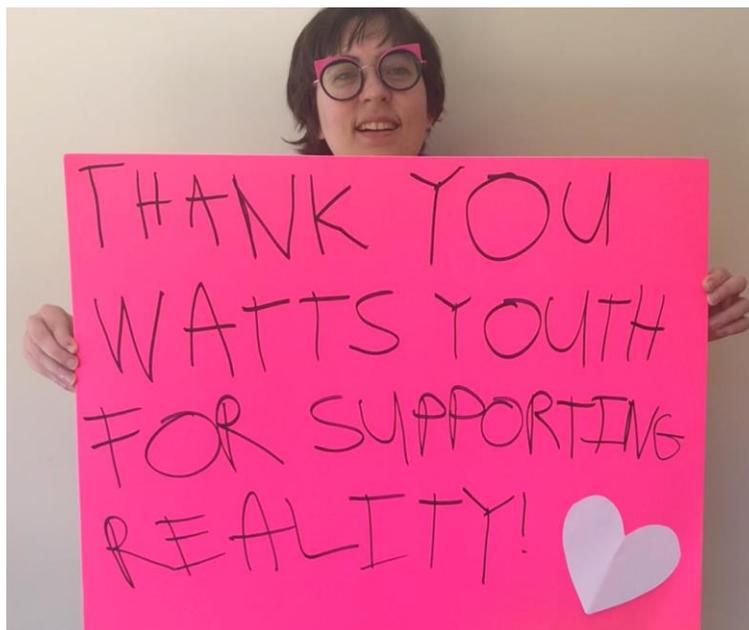
Reality Ministries, as is likely true for many of our mission partners, has been impacted dramatically by the COVID-19 pandemic. In-person Reality Daytime and evening weekly activities were put on hiatus in late March. Reality staff has been especially cautious in protecting this community because, according to the CDC, people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) are often more at risk of coronavirus complications due to other medical and neurological diagnoses. There is also additional concern that communication and other challenges may lead to being misdiagnosed, mistreated, and misunderstood when in the health care system. Because the beauty and power of Reality Ministries is based on relationships, being unable to be together has been especially hard for all. Although the Reality staff have continued to find creative ways to maintain connections via

phone, Zoom, and mail, not being able to work together to develop acts to perform as part of the annual Reality Talent Show has been an especially devastating blow.

The annual talent show has become a much-anticipated event that allows every participant the opportunity to demonstrate a talent that is joyously celebrated in the most spectacular way - and performed on the DPAC stage! Originally scheduled for May 17, it was anticipated also to be an event that would bring in a large number of donations to support the ongoing activities of Reality Ministries (about 70% of their financial support comes from individual donors).

When the Watts Street Youth Group learned of these financial challenges, they stepped up to the Zoom plate and organized a fun-filled Wednesday night event on June 17 – a Virtual Bingo Night fundraiser to benefit Reality Ministries! Marketed as “a fun night of Bingo, intergenerational fellowship, fabulous prizes, comedy gold, and a lot of FUN,” it delivered as promised, and also raised more than \$1,400 for Reality! Kingdom of God Sunday School members Jennifer Barnes and Alex Furiness gave some pre-recorded information about the importance of their involvement in Reality Ministries and a lot of encouragement for Bingo players. And members of the Youth Group rolled out their favorite jokes to entertain. Fun was had by all, and Reality Ministries benefitted greatly! Thanks, Watts Street!

Cari Furiness
Reality Ministries Mission Group



Update on Merrick Moore

On March 13, 2020, Durham Public Schools (DPS) announced that they would be closing their buildings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They changed their calendar so that Spring Break would begin the following week, which meant that they were not obligated to provide free breakfast and lunch for students during that week. At that time, I decided to start an Adopt-A-Family Program for families at Merrick-Moore who were in danger of being food insecure very quickly. I requested donations from friends, many of whom are from WSBC and have been loyal supporters of several projects to support teachers and students at Merrick-Moore Elementary School in Durham. The response was overwhelming!

Fast forward to June 1, 2020. Over \$21,000 in contributions has been collected. The funds collected have been used to purchase gift cards from Food Lion and WalMart (stores most frequently used by the families) in the amount of \$50 or \$100. Over seventy families have received gift cards, most of them on a weekly basis. We were also able to secure food donations from the DPS Foundation (which was food paid for by federal funds for the families we serve), the Parktown Food Hub at Parkwood Methodist Church, and Sheetz. All food and gift cards were delivered by fourteen teachers who volunteered their time weekly. We were also able to deliver donated handmade masks to over 50 families and donated books from friends and Book Harvest to over 60 families. We had some families who were dealing with COVID-19, so we provided them with groceries and home cooked meals as needed, until they could go out in public again.

In May, some WSBC members contributed funds and gifts so that every staff member at Merrick-Moore received a Teacher Appreciation gift. Gifts were delivered to the homes of teachers who live in Durham, and mailed to those who live in other counties. Also in May, donations were given so that we could purchase

beautiful carnations that we delivered to children to give to their mother's (grandmothers, aunts, mother figures) for Mother's Day.

The Adopt-A-Family Program was designed to last from mid-March through June. Many thanks to all who contributed to the program. The families were very appreciative and we heard "May God bless you and your church" from numerous families when we made deliveries or by text messages sent through their teachers to us.

On a personal note, my heart is full, once again, because of the outpouring of love and support from fellow Watts Street members to let the families at Merrick-Moore know that they are seen and valued. I had to make a difficult decision this summer, but I decided to resign from Merrick-Moore and DPS. I will be teaching fifth graders at New Hope Elementary School in Orange County Public Schools. It is a Dual Immersion School and also a Title I school, which means the majority of the students live in poverty. I will miss the students, families and teachers at Merrick-Moore, but I plan to stay in close contact with them, and I will continue to advocate for them when I can.

Paula Januzzi-Godfrey



Flowers for Mothers!

Bull City Fair Trade

“AND they have beautiful, lightweight masks for just \$8.00!”

As we all know, the pandemic has touched everyone’s life in one way or another. A non-profit close to our hearts, Bull City Fair Trade, is no exception, but they are hanging in there! The storefront was physically closed for two months from mid-March until they opened with limited hours on May 15th. Currently, they are open 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, but also offer shopping by appointment if you would rather have the store to yourself. The staff has implemented cleaning procedures to keep everyone safe, and masks are required with disposables available if needed.

While they were closed, the BCFT team turned their attention to online sales. The store has had a small online store for a few years; however, with limited staff and booming in-store sales, there wasn't much time to devote to it, so only a small number of their custom items were available. Fast-forward to COVID19 closings and two employees working solely from home. Now Bull City Fair Trade has over 800 items online! You can order online

and have your order shipped to someone as a gift, or to yourself. For orders over \$30, they will deliver to your door, (within a 10-mile radius of Ninth Street), or you may do curbside pick-up. AND they have beautiful, lightweight masks for just \$8.00!

Total sales are down about 40% from last year, but Bull City Fair Trade received a coveted PPP loan in April and has just gotten notification that they will soon receive an additional Economic Injury Disaster Loan. We are thankful for our extremely dedicated, flexible and creative staff of three women, and we are hopeful that Bull City Fair Trade will ride out this unexpected pandemic. Continued support from WSBC members is very appreciated! Current WSBC members who serve as BCFT board members are Steve Booth, Melissa Godwin, Paula Januzzi-Godfrey, and Jan Williams. And in case you might not remember, Bull City Fair Trade (formerly One World Market), had its beginning in the WSBC Fellowship Hall!

Paula Januzzi-Godfrey
BCFT Board Member

MOW Help Needed!

Throughout the pandemic, Meals on Wheels of Durham has continued to stay in touch with phone calls to its clients. Because MOW now only delivers on Mondays, volunteers regularly call MOW recipients on Wednesdays and Fridays between 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. to check on their wellbeing. Additional volunteers are needed to make wellness calls when current volunteers are unavailable. Also volunteer drivers and loaders are often needed for Monday deliveries.

If you are interested in helping with these services, please contact Britt Barnes at britt@mowdurham.org, or call the MOW office at (919)667-9424 for more information on how to get started.

Bob Kruhm
rkruhm@nc.rr.com

Dementia Beyond Disease Conference: A Virtual Gathering

Dementia Inclusive Durham invites faith leaders and caregivers for persons living with dementia to a virtual conference, “Building A Creative Community of Care.” The gathering on Zoom will be held Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Participants will discover how faith communities and individual caregivers can enhance the lives of persons living with dementia. Watts Street members will be represented on the program by Mitchell Hefflin, MD, Duke University, and by Robert Kruhm, Dementia Inclusive Durham Organizer and Family Care Partner. For further details on registration, refer to the Watts Street Weekly, call (919)724-5596, or email ckarhoff@dcsinc.org.



“Enhancing Well-Being of Persons Living with Dementia”

Durham CAN: Watts Street Community-based Listening Session

In August and September, Durham CAN is advocating virtual listening sessions with congregations and neighborhoods. Watts Street will join with neighborhood churches and local communities in our outreach to vulnerable populations during the pandemic. Please contact Bob Kruhm at rkruhm@nc.rr.com if you are interested in joining an upcoming Watts Street community-focused listening session.

Missions Committee: 2019-2020 Missions Committee Members include: Greg Palmer, Chair, Elizabeth Erwin, Clark Godfrey, Bob Kruhm, Laura Lee, Joy Turner, Dan Winn, Lloyd Patillo, Karen Kimel-Scott, Henry Koonce. Please feel free to contact any of the members for more information about Watts Street’s Missions.



URBAN MINISTRIES
OF DURHAM

July Mission Baskets are going "virtual" to support Urban Ministries. Recently, shelter residents and staff returned to UMD's campus after three months at the Marriott at RTP. However, due to social distancing requirements, the shelter will only be able to accommodate half the normal number of guests. There is an urgent need to house 50-60 men, women, and children.

Ways to Donate:

Donate airbeds, mattresses, twin and full sheets, pillows and pillowcases to UMD. Items can be new or gently used. Drop off at the lobby of 410 Liberty Street under the purple awning, Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Some of these items are also listed on this [Amazon Wishlist](#) for quick order and delivery.

Contribute to Project ROOF (Removing Obstacles to Occupancy Funds). These funds will be used to assist with rental deposits, first month's rent, utility hook-ups, transportation to identified housing and other needs directly tied to housing homeless neighbors as quickly as possible. [Make a gift online](#) and put "ROOF" in the dedication or send a check to UMD at PO Box 249, Durham, NC 27702 with memo line "ROOF."

Donate non-perishable food and bottled water. After a four-month hiatus due to COVID-19, food distributions to the community will resume on Tuesday, August 4. Bring your donations to the Resource Center front desk at 410 Liberty Street, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or arrange a contactless drop-off by calling ahead to (919)682-0538 x126.

July/August Mission Baskets

Contact Clark Godfrey (clarkgodfrey820@gmail.com, 919-602-4829)

Update on the Chicas Family: Sanctuary Living August 2020

Ms. Sandra and Pastor Jose had just completed their monthly fundraiser food/car wash event when we got a chance to talk. We discussed how the last few months have been for their family since Ms. Sandra and their youngest son, Ezekiel, returned home after being stuck in El Salvador when the airport closures hit due to coronavirus. Ms. Sandra said she and her husband are deeply grateful for the community that has come around them and provided support and care. She said we have seen them through so much in the last year.

Ms. Sandra and Pastor Jose pray daily for a change in the presidential administration later this year. They hope Pastor can come home if we vote in a new POTUS and look forward to Pastor Jose being able to get back to work. It has been very hard for him not to provide for his family while living in Sanctuary. Ms. Sandra had to purchase a car this spring when her engine died in their old car. She said she looks forward to the time when her husband can bring in money to help pay such bills.

Ms. Sandra said after many requests that she make and sell pupusas again at their fundraisers, she brought them back this past weekend to many cheers. She and Pastor Jose will continue these fundraisers, which will be held the fourth Saturday of each month at The School for Conversion at St. John's Baptist

Church, 903 Onslow Street in Durham. She said last weekend's fundraiser was such a blessing to her family and thanked the people who participated. Ms. Sandra commented that people in Durham have big hearts.

One specific need we discussed was that Ms. Sandra would be helped by having a couple of sessions with a counselor who could help her know how to address some personal family issues. She said talking to someone can give her ideas of how to help the significant family dynamics that have cropped up. If someone in our church family with those professional skills is interested in being that short term resource to Ms. Sandra, please contact Camilla Hovey at (919)607-9900, who will help facilitate that.

Lastly, Ms. Sandra asked us to keep her 23 year-old son, Oscar, in our prayers after a recent hospitalization. Ms. Sandra took days off work to be with her son in the hospital last week and hopes for his continued recovery at home.

Financial assistance to this family can be given through the pastor's web site, www.pastorjosechicas.org/.

Camilla Hovey

"Where every member is a minister"



Watts Street Baptist Church

Missions Committee

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*"...fundraisers ...
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fourth Saturday of
each month..."*