

Compassion in Action



End Hunger Durham seeks support in providing a bridge to feed Durham's most vulnerable population.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Watts Street Shopping Day at Bull City Fair Trade	2
Stewardship and Missions	3
Mission Baskets	4
Share Your Christmas	5
Walltown Food Bank	5
Update from HELP	6

End Hunger Durham and COVID-19

On November 8, Spencer Bradford, representing End Hunger Durham (EHD) and Durham Congregations in Action (DCIA), made a Minute for Mission appeal for donations to the COVID Senior Meal Delivery Program serving a vulnerable population of frail seniors who urgently need some kind of meal delivery. An estimated 100-300 low-income seniors in senior housing communities are homebound, frail and at very high risk for complications from COVID-19. They may be eligible for Meals on Wheels, but due to insufficient funding most will be on the wait list as volunteers and outreach workers help collect applications.

In response to requests from Community Health Promoters and other volunteers living in senior communities, EHD will respond by leveraging existing meal delivery services starting with the Duke

COVID Social Support program. With state funding ending in December, this program will continue delivering meals to the most vulnerable seniors for the rest of the year.

In collaboration with Meals on Wheels, EHD is requesting financial support from the Durham faith community for a *bridge* service to this population that would start in January. Pending funding, EHD is prepared to deliver three prepared meals weekly to each identified senior until their application reaches the top of the MOW list, or the pandemic crisis begins to abate. This will only partially meet the nutritional needs of the individuals, and so is not meant as a substitute for MOW, but it will be a welcome support until the individuals can receive full service. The cost of a three-meal pack delivered weekly for one individual will be \$72 per month.

Donations are needed now so that EHD can plan for the program to begin in January. Checks can be made out to Durham Congregations in Action, the fiscal sponsor for EHD. Online donations can be made through the donation page at www.endhungerdurham.org.

For more information, contact Spencer Bradford at (919) 688-2036.



End Hunger Durham – feeding low-income seniors during COVID-19

Watts Street Shopping Day at Bull City Fair Trade

If you are not familiar with Bull City Fair Trade (BCFT), it began as One World Market in the fellowship hall of WSBC 27 years ago. The store is unique and with our support, it changes the world each and every day. BCFT is the only fair trade, non-profit store in Durham! Your purchases make a big impact in creating opportunities and sustainable jobs around the world.

BCFT has some of the most beautiful Christmas and holiday decorations and gifts in all of Durham! The annual Watts Street Shopping Day is Sunday, December 6, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., and all WSBC shoppers receive a 10% discount on their purchases.

COVID has changed the way that some of us shop, so you have two options. If you are comfortable coming into the store at 811 Ninth Street, just mention at checkout that you're from Watts Street and get the 10% discount. Masks are required in the store and social distancing is observed. If you prefer to shop online, go to bullcityfairtrade.com and find many wonderful gift options

there. Enter the code WATTSDAY at checkout for your discount. The discount code will be active from 12:00 a.m. -11:59 p.m., so you can shop online all day. Online orders can be shipped, picked up curbside, or delivered (over \$30 and within 10 miles of the store).

Questions? Ask any of these WSBC members, who also serve on the BCFT Board of Directors: Jan Williams (jan.adams.williams@gmail.com), Steve Booth (spbooth@mindspring.com), Paula Januzzi-Godfrey (januzzi@gmail.com), or Melissa Godwin (Ashley.M.Godwin@gmail.com).



The WSBC discount code will be active from 12:00 a.m. -11:59 p.m., so you can shop online at BCFT all day on December 6!

Missions Committee: 2020-2021 Missions Committee Members include: Karen Barber, Elizabeth Erwin, Clark Godfrey, Karen Kimel-Scott, Bob Kruhm, Laura Lee, Rebeca Olmedo, Lloyd Patillo, Pat Revels. Please feel free to contact any of the members for more information about Watts Street's Missions.

Stewardship and Missions

[This article is based on an offering from Greg Palmer on Pledge Sunday, November 8, 2020.]

This year our theme for stewardship is to *Pledge with Gratitude*. I wanted to take a minute to tell you why I am grateful that we give to the work of Missions through our budget. Our budget – and more importantly pledging the budget – allows us to give \$140,000 in support of over 50 organizations each year in the important work of missions - the work of connecting us to the community. For example, we give money to the Diaper Bank of North Carolina which was founded by a member of Watts Street and helps families in need of diapers. There's Durham CAN - Congregations, Associations, and Neighborhoods – an organization that works to advocate for a better, more just Durham for all its citizens. Another is Communities in Partnership, an East Durham initiative run by its members that seeks to promote racial justice and equity, and also works on workplace development and leadership training. And finally, there is a discretionary fund

that the Mission Committee uses. This year particularly it has been helpful during the pandemic. We have been able to support the Walltown Food Pantry to help families with food insecurities. We also teamed with End Hunger Durham to help kick off a program to provide meals for seniors in Durham public housing. Those are just a few of the many organizations that we are able to support through the Mission's budget each year.

Like you, there are a few organizations that are important to me that I give to outside the church. But what makes giving to the Watts Street budget important and really exciting to me is that I am able to see how my money is collectively added to all the money that others give and support many more organizations than I could just on my own. So, it creates a connection between all of us in the church, but more importantly, creates a connection between the church and the larger community.

A number of local organizations are supported by WSBC through the Missions Budget, and Watts Street members have been instrumental in creating some of them. In addition, there are several internal mission groups, denominational relations affiliations, and a pastor's discretionary fund in the budget that connect us to the community. It is exciting to see how far our money and efforts reach!

Organizations Watts Street Members Were Instrumental in Beginning and Supported in 2020

Bull City Fair Trade (formerly One World Market)
Capital Restorative Justice Project
Diaper Bank of NC
Families Moving Forward (formerly Genesis Home)
Habitat for Humanity of Durham
Host Homes (for patients at Duke Hospital)
Meals on Wheels of Durham
Reality Ministries
Rebound
Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham
Scout Troop #440
Threshold Clubhouse
Walltown Neighborhood Ministries

Other Organizations Supported in 2020

Baptist Children's Homes of NC
Baptists on Mission/NC Baptist Men
Bull City United

Campus Ministry at NCCU
Church World Service (Durham)
Communities in Partnership
CROP Walk
Durham CAN (Congregations, Associations, Neighborhoods)
Durham Congregations in Action
Durham Crisis Response Center
El Futuro
End Hunger Durham
End Poverty Durham
Healthy Families Durham
Housing for New Hope
Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel (San Salvador)
NC Council of Churches
Partners for Youth Opportunity
Rutba House
Sanctuary for Pastor Jose Chicas
Senior PharmAssist

Walltown Food Pantry

November/December Mission Baskets are going "virtual" to support the Walltown Food Pantry which serves over 135 seniors and handicapped recipients each month.

Ways to Donate:

Purchase \$25, \$50, or \$100 gift cards from the following food sources: Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Harris-Teeter, Costco, or Wal-Mart. The gift cards should be sent to St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, c/o Minister Sylvia Belcher, 917 Onslow Street, Durham, NC

Order specific grocery items to ship or deliver directly to St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, c/o Minister Silvia Belcher. These items include: canned meat, canned green leafy vegetables, macaroni and cheese, jars of coffee and cream, gravy, sugar, breakfast bars, boxed mashed potatoes, and small frozen turkeys and hams.

If you have questions, contact Minister Sylvia Belcher, stjohnsba1@frontier.com, 919-286-0332, ext 20.

November/December Mission Baskets

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

*40 Gift Cards
Needed!*

Share Your Christmas

While the pandemic has changed much in our lives, our congregation can still participate in our traditional Share Your Christmas event with our Walltown neighbors. We are still engaging in the work of sharing Christmas with those of low wealth around us.

Watts Street has been challenged to provide 40 gift cards of \$40 by December 10. Suggested gift cards include Visa, Amazon, Wal-Mart,

Roses, and King's Red and White Grocery (305 E. Club Blvd). Gift cards and donations in any amount should be mailed to or dropped off at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, Attn: Sylvia Belcher, 917 Onslow, St. Durham, 27705.

Please be in touch with Bob Kruhm (rkruhm@nc.rr.com) or Rebeca Olmedo (roselolmedo@gmail.com) if you participate so that they can keep track of our progress. Thank you, Watts Street!

Walltown Food Bank Needs Delivery Volunteers

On Thursday December 17 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., the Walltown Food Bank needs volunteers to deliver groceries and cleaning supplies to over 100 vulnerable seniors and disabled residents. The pickup location is St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, 917 Onslow Street in Walltown.

Volunteers are connected with one or more at-risk families. Social distancing practices are observed.

For more information contact Minister Sylvia Belcher, St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, at (919)286-0332 or (919)475- 9466 or by email to stjohnsbal@frontier.com.

*The Walltown Food Bank
operates from St. John's
Missionary Baptist Church*





HELP (Health Equipment Loan Program) has experienced a few changes lately! After initially being closed down from March 13th, we resumed services on Tuesday, October 13th at our new location. We are no longer housed within the Scrap Exchange, but have space at the new offices for Project Access of Durham County. Our new space is located at 4206 North Roxboro St., Suite 100, Durham, NC 27704. Our hours are Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and Fridays 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. We are excited about being available to serve the public.

In light of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, all services are offered curbside. We are also keeping an eye on things and understand that further suspension of services may be necessary. Our mission remains the same: we seek to provide Durham residents with durable medical equipment as needed without regard for income or insurance status. Each loan is for a three-month period of time, but can be renewed for additional time by phone or email. If you know someone who could use some adaptive equipment for mobility or

Update from HELP!

the bathroom or other needs, please reach out to HELP.

We continue to be staffed primarily by volunteers. These days we try to limit the number of volunteers on hand to two or three per shift. All volunteers wear masks and are screened upon entry. If you are interested in volunteering with us for two to four hours on a Tuesday or Friday, we'd love to hear from you! Contact us at (919)748-1022 or help@projectaccessdurham.org.

Visit our updated website at [https:// projectaccessdurham.org/projects /health-equipment-loan-program/](https://projectaccessdurham.org/projects/health-equipment-loan-program/) to learn more. If you or someone you know needs equipment or would be interested in volunteering, we would love to hear from you. If you have equipment to donate, it is recommended (but not required) that you check ahead of time to see if those are items we can use.

HELP is glad to help our community!

Amy Armstrong
Manager
HELP

help@projectaccessdurham.org

"Where every member is a minister"



Watts Street Baptist Church
Missions Committee
800 Watts Street
Durham, N.C., 27701
Phone: 919-688-1366
Fax: 919-688-7255
E-mail: wattsstreet@nc.rr.com
Web: www.wattsstreet.org

*Volunteers needed
at HELP!*