

JANUARY 2023 SERVE REPORT

The Serve committee continues to support ministries that help our community members as well as those across the region, country and world. Please see below for updates on ministries in December.

1. Micah: The Coldest Night of the Year fundraising event for Micah is 2/25/23. Our goal is to raise \$59,000 or more through folks signing up to walk (5K or 1-mile) and ask their spheres to support monetarily. Here's the link with ALL of the information:
<https://cnoy.com/location/fredericksburg> FUMC will serve as the host church with a large tent on the Methodist Green where walkers will gather and return for a soup kitchen style meal afterwards. Event is 4PM until 7PM and we'll need all sorts of volunteers along with an FUMC Team of walkers. Jillian is our Team Captain for FUMC. I'm organizing the event with Jill Clare at Micah. Our goal is about 200 walkers. POC: Clay and Jillian Murray
2. Community Dinner: Community Dinners continue as normal -- 70ish meals served each month with new volunteers coming into the fold each month. POC Clay Murray
3. Micah breakfasts are held every Tuesday morning for cold weather shelter guests in the downstairs fellowship hall. Currently, we have 2 Tuesdays covered by Judy Lowman from the Presbyterian church with my help. Wayfarers provide a Tuesday and the Deeper in the Word Sunday School class does the fourth. Currently I am looking for a fifth Tuesday group. They would only serve 4 times a year. If you know of any early risers, send them my way! POC Diane Cotter
4. Cold weather shelter has averaged about 25 people a night. I still have slots to volunteer for Saturday nights at the end of February. We provide transportation on Tuesday morning and Saturday morning as well as Saturday and Sunday nights. Our small contingent of bus drivers have been outstanding! POC Mike Cotter
5. Street church continues with pastors from the Micah churches. Pastor Jerry will lead us this coming Sunday. This will continue through Epiphany. We had a full house on Sunday with Father Sina from St Mary's. POC Mike and Diane Cotter
6. Refugee resettlement and LUCHA Ministries Immigration Legal Services (LMILS): Our Afghan tenants are vacating their Spring Valley townhome by 1/15/23 and Christy Escher expects to have a new Afghan family ready to move in by the end of the month. Sue and I will therefore be asking FUMC members to help furnish the new family's home by the end of January. We will provide updates as soon as we have further information about the new family and its needs. LMILS continues to represent local immigrants in obtaining adjustment of status to legal permanent residence (green cards) and to citizenship, as well as, to obtain work permits and to renew DACA status. A number of clients have obtained green cards, citizenship, work permits, and DACA renewals since November 1. LMILS currently has 65 open cases. POC: Bill Botts
7. Furniture Bank: The Micah Ministries/FUMC Furniture Bank continues to utilize faithful volunteers from five different churches to pick up donated used furniture and deliver it to partner organization Habitat for Humanity (at their Habitat ReStore facility) and to needy

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households referred by Micah, Empowerhouse, Loisann's Hope House, Catholic Charities, and other local services organizations. 2022 YTD: 46 donor households and 13 recipient households served. Volunteers and pickup trucks are welcome on our next second Saturday of the month, which is 01/14/2023. POC: Bill Botts

8. Legal Aid Workshop (LAW): monthly report from LAW is pending.
9. SAWs: SAWs (Servants at Work) continue to build wooden wheelchair ramps for the disabled homebound. Those interested in helping, or requesting help, can visit SAWsRamps.org or email virginia@sawsramps.org or call 540-646-0896. The next build is scheduled for 9am-3pm Saturday, January 7th for 80-year-old June Landrum, who uses a walker but cannot manage the stairs into her house at 9015 Fox Run Drive, Spotsylvania Courthouse, Spotsylvania, VA 22551. She has fallen more than 10 times since May. Bill Botts has signed up and those interested in joining him can call or text at 540-656-0843.
10. Affordable housing: Caroline Habitat CEO Jason Tickle hopes to had a groundbreaking/prefabrication in December. Once we have a group of FUMC volunteers, Habitat will partner us with a small local Methodist church which will provide lunches when FUMC volunteers are on site. I will provide updates as soon as I receive them.

For further information or to suggest other mission areas, please contact Carol Knott, ckknott@gmail.com or any member of the Serve committee.