

Oakland Ministry Center Volunteer Report

For the time that the clothing ministry has been in existence, everyone that volunteers there has known that it takes many people working many hours to provide the services that are offered. Every clothing item that is donated must be sorted, marked and placed in its appropriate place on the racks. Every pair of shoes must be sized and marked and placed on the shoe shelves. Electric household items must be tested to be sure they work before they are placed in the houseware's room. Sheets, towels, and blankets are sized and labeled before they are placed on shelves. Dishes, glassware and decorative items are arranged in lovely baskets that shoppers may choose as their household item. Things that are donated but cannot be used in the center must be boxed up and prepared for donation to other agencies such as the Kidney Foundation. What we have not known is how much time it takes, and how many people it takes to complete all these tasks. During the month of February we collected that data for the first time with the following results:

280 hours worked by 52 different volunteers

The other services offered at the ministry center are provided by the benevolence program. Each week community members may come to the center for assistance with overdue power bills, and medication needs. They can also receive items that are not allowed for purchase with SNAP vouchers, such as hand soap, dishwashing soap, detergent, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, and other personal care items. During the month of February data on this ministry was collected with the following results:

33.5 hours worked by 10 different volunteers

Throughout the year the ministry center provides service for over 5000 people in the Rock Hill area. Using the data we collected in February, we can estimate that each year it takes around 4000 volunteer hours to provide these vital services. These volunteers do not all come from Oakland Baptist Church. We work cooperatively with volunteers from a number of churches in Rock Hill and Fort Mill.

The entire ministry center is a labor of love done by all the wonderful volunteers guided by our fabulous leaders, Caroline Krueger (clothing ministry) and Libby Gilbert (benevolence). Without their guidance and organization this ministry could not exist.

Please consider joining all the ministry center volunteers as we continue to provide services for a community in need. Volunteers work every day of the week, not just the days we are open for shoppers, and volunteers of all ages are welcomed.



Shoppers who come to the center are provided clothing, shoes and housewares items free of charge each time they shop. Participants are allowed to shop about 6 times per year.