

# AKINS SPRING UPDATE 2021

## MUMC FAMILY,

Life at Akins High School remains odd like most everything else affected by Covid! Very few students actually go to campus, most are taking classes remotely. This adds an additional challenge to the Student Support Services work with students experiencing homelessness. SSS currently works with about 250 students needing additional support and about 30 of those students are designated as homeless this year. Meg Scarmardo, the counselor, and her staff keep in contact with these students mostly with Zoom calls but also with home visits. They continue to see student needs related to financial strife, grief & loss, homelessness, mental health issues, and technology accessibility.

The good news is that our continued contribution of monthly food bags from our food pantry, thanks to Margaret Bowen and her team, and your donations of personal hygiene and clothing items have helped ease some of the pain. And our continued contributions to an Akins cash fund from MUMC donations and proceeds from past years' 5k runs and Angel Tree gifts have been invaluable to help meet the cost of living needs of students as they arise. MUMC also supported a virtual 5k run sponsored by Akins which added about \$1000 to this account!

While the college trip was cancelled this year, we will continue our tradition of graduation gifts to the seniors to help prepare for college and life beyond high school. This year there are currently 6 seniors. Two of the seniors are young men who have been on the last two college trips we sponsored and I can't wait to see what they will do next!

As Bob and I are moving to Colorado this spring, I am happy to introduce Evan Jordan who will be working with me for the remainder of this school year and will take over my role as liaison from MUMC mission team to Akins High School. He has experience with high school students and college access and will definitely be a great addition to our team and help us fulfill our mission:

*"To open the eyes and minds of the students to a future that is more than what they may have hoped for or considered before. **SOAR: Students of Akins Rise!** They will soar on wings like Eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31."*

Donations are always welcome! Please add Akins High School to the memo line of checks to ensure donations reach the correct account.

Thank you all for your continued support of this program and of me! I have loved every minute!

*Sandee Setterquist*