



*Faith Communities in Partnership with Richmond Public Schools*

**Micah Year End Snapshot  
January 2015**



2209 East Grace Street  
Richmond, VA 23223  
804-783-7903 ext. 24  
[micah@richmondhillva.org](mailto:micah@richmondhillva.org)  
[www.micahrva.org](http://www.micahrva.org)

## **Bellevue**

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church (Olivia Brown)** – We supported the Blood Bank registration drive.

**Mt. Gilead Full Gospel (Min. Margie Bell)** – We implemented projects that included the 100 Men Read program, the annual field day event, and the mentoring program.

## **Blackwell**

**First Baptist Church, South Richmond (Otelia Jones)** – Our volunteers tutored and served as mentors in the classroom. Volunteers worked with the Blessings in a Back Pack program. We provided each teacher and staff member with a special gift on their birthday. “Done in a Day” projects included desserts for the Teacher’s Welcome Back Luncheon. The staff and faculty worshiped in a body at an 11am service in appreciation for FBCSR members.

## **Broad Rock**

**Virginia Muslim Coalition (Samina Abdullah)** – The Ladies Group that meets once a week collects \$10 and \$20 donations which makes a tidy sum each week. This is free money that is given on trust and is available to be distributed to any one who needs help urgently. We prefer to help single mothers and refugees first. The Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America (APPNA) organizes various fund raisers to support the Daily Planet. AAPNA also runs a free clinic that conducts screenings.

## **Chimborazo**

**Second Presbyterian Church (Penny Holladay)** – We bake cookies each spring for Teacher Appreciation week.

**31<sup>st</sup> Street Baptist Church (Dr. Jacquelyn Joyner)** – For the past 8 years, church members have been involved as book pals, math buddies, and lunch buddies. The church assisted with and donated desserts for Thanksgiving dinner, and clothes.

## **John B. Cary**

**St. Matthias' Episcopal Church (Janice Dial)** – During teacher work week in August, we gave a Welcome Breakfast for the teachers and staff. We provided food and drinks. The Rev. Brenda Overfield, our priest, came with us, gave the blessing and ate breakfast with us. During August, our church collected supplies requested by three kindergarten teachers for their classrooms. We took 16 grocery bags of scissors, paints pencils, glue, erasers, composition books, dry erase boards, tissue paper, construction paper, crayons, and markers to them. We also donated a play kitchen, bookcase, and rocking chair along with a schedule chart, behavior chart, books, and games. In November, we made a monetary donation (\$100) to the Art Teacher for needed supplies and purchased a classroom set of books for the fifth grade class (\$200).

**Area 10 Faith Community (Nicole Farr)** – Our volunteers help with math tutoring on Mondays and Tuesdays, recruiting volunteers and also with First Friday readers. We helped facilitate reading groups for summer school. We donated coffee and other items for appreciations. We donated to the book drive for summer reading groups. Special projects include garden clean up and picnic table donations.

**Second Baptist Church- Westend (Verona McLeod)** – We purchased 3 books per student for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Summer Reading Program. We tutor math for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades and serve as lunch buddies.

## **J. L. Francis**

**Mt. Gilead International Ministries (Margie Bell)** – We assisted in stocking the school library with brand new books. We gave a monetary donation for the boys and girls bathroom upgrade. Christmas toys and adult gifts were given.

## **Ginter Park**

**St. Thomas Episcopal (Landon Woody)** – We created a pollinator garden in an old overgrown weed bed. We provide reading tutoring with a therapy dog and assistance in the library.

## **George Mason**

**Christ Church Episcopal (Rick Steenrod, Lorraine Gowronski)** – Our backpack and school supply collection (August) resulted in 75 backpacks donated and filled with school supplies for the students at the start of the school year. We sponsored an ice cream social and book fair (May-June), which was a day for all to enjoy ice cream sundaes and select several books for summer reading. We provided reading buddies for the first grade reading program where 10 volunteers per week

spend time reading with every student in 2 first grade classes. We sponsored a staff appreciation Dessert Fair (Feb-Mar).

**First Presbyterian Church (Tassie Madden)** – We participate in the First Grade reading program. Three days per week volunteers come to work on reading levels. Volunteers read with the students for 15 minutes each. We provide meals for staff for the week of teacher orientation and November's parent-teacher conferences. We support the first grade and kindergarten EXCELL program by providing volunteers for events. Micah volunteers were also instrumental in getting a \$40,000 grant from the Community Foundation to provide the EXCELL reading program to the kindergarten class.

### Miles Jones

**Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (Nancy DeNoia)** – We collected school supplies in August and delivered them before school started to give the teachers a chance to go through them. We collect clothes each December for the students who are in need of essential clothing. I have a group of people from my bible study at church that helped make 90 ornaments to go on the Advent giving tree. The ornaments asked the parishioners to donate essential clothing to the students. We collected food and gift certificates to be used at the Thanksgiving dinner served at the school on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>. We also had volunteers who attended the dinner and ate with the parents and students. We volunteered to help make ice cream sodas at the Back to School night in September. We volunteer to read students on Read Across America Day. We have 4 tutors and 2 of these serve on the Citizens Advisory Group that works on projects to help the students and parents at Miles Jones.

### Oak Grove-Bellemeade

**River Road United Methodist Church (Mary York)** – The literacy team is new at Oak Grove this year and organized by the Title 1 Reading teacher. We work weekly one on one with the same two kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students for 30 minutes each on basic reading skills while also fostering a mentoring relationship. During the summer, we collect school supplies for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The birthday ministry is active for the months of October, November and December. Our special projects include the One School, One Book giveaway and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade moving on ceremony.

**Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church (Dick Mateer)** – The 2014-2015 academic year is the tenth year that TPC has had volunteers serving at Oak Grove-Bellmeade Elementary School (OG/B). In our first year we were working at the school with the guidance and support of Trinity United Methodist Church. Their volunteers have been so significant in the volunteer effort at OG/B and they continue to attract volunteers from other churches. At this point, there are volunteers from seven faith

communities – Trinity; Tuckahoe’ St. Peter’s Catholic Church; River Road Church; Baptist; River Road UMC; Second Baptist Church Southside; Second Baptist Church West End – working together to bring about positive change at the school.

For the first time, representatives of several of our church partners had the opportunity to provide input pertaining to the school’s master calendar for the 2014-15 academic year. Our interim CIS-R site coordinator, Rose Marie Wiegandt, deserves the credit for providing this opportunity. It has been so helpful to know what is coming up in a timely fashion and how volunteers can support the school.

The children who attended our Vacation Bible School with the support of their parents donated school supplies to teachers who distributed them to the students as needed. We hosted the back-to-school luncheon for the teachers and staff at the school in conjunction with the volunteers from six of our church partners. Our role was to assist in the preparation of the fruit salad, provide some of the cookies for dessert, arrange the tables with tablecloths and plasticware, prepare the drinks and assist in serving the food.

The Presbyterian Women organization collected clothes and school supplies for students.

For many years the church partners at OG/B have had a steering committee. A number of the members of the steering committee also have attended the CAG meetings. Two years ago, we decided to schedule the Micah Initiative steering committee meeting on the same day with the Micah meeting leading into the CAG meeting. This year we have a combined meeting with co-conveners, one who is our CIS-R site coordinator, Mary Valenza, and the other is a Micah volunteer. We certainly will evaluate this model for effectiveness and efficacy at the end of the year.

Tuckahoe volunteers have participated in a birthday card ministry. Each month, two members of our church create birthday cards for each child in kindergarten and first grade who will celebrate his/her birthday that month. We have twenty-one members of our congregation participating in this ministry.

Four of our church members participated in Career Day, led by Marsha Shuler from Trinity and Jackie Robinson from the OG/B staff. One of our volunteers served as a chaperone for the Federal Reserve Bank trip for the fifth grade class. Volunteers will serve as readers for the First Book events during the year. Members of our church have volunteered to “adopt” fifty OG/B children for Christmas. Each will receive an item of clothing and a book, game, or something else entertaining. The “adopted” children had input into what they would receive. Mary Valenza, this year’s CIS-R site coordinator, deserves thunderous applause for identifying the

students to receive the gifts. Our Presbyterian Women organization “adopted” two children as well.

Volunteers from TPC provided over 100 mini-loaves for the teachers and other staff as a holiday gift. A family in our church has provided the CIS-R site coordinator with a set of four books and stuffed animals associated with the books to be used as she sees fit.

### **Overby-Shephard**

**Trinity Lutheran Church (Karen Holger)** – Trinity gathers food, school supplies and clothes (caps, mittens, jackets) for 2 schools in need on an ongoing basis. Our members participate in career day at Overby-Shephard as well as help with dinners over the holidays and read for Dr. Seuss Day. We supply food for teacher appreciation week. Trinity Elder Hostel builders created a garden on the atrium of the school and built a nook for the tools so the kids could take care of it.

### **Redd**

**St. Michael’s Episcopal (Susan Ellett)**- St. Michael’s Santa and elves will distribute books to each child at Redd’s Holiday Program on Dec. 11. We held a book drive and collected more than 1,000 books for Redd students. We collected children’s clothes and helped organize a clothes closet for the students.

### **J.E.B. Stuart**

**All Souls Episcopal Church of Atlee (Julie May)**- We hold an annual late summer collection of basic school supplies to donate in September. We have weekly prayer during worship by our faith community for the School community. We provide monthly or more frequent newsletter reports about the Micah Initiative project in JEB Stuart for our faith community members with invitations to learn more and join. Thanksgiving project: non-perishable foods and supplies donations for 2 families in need of support, with Thanksgiving Wishes cards signed by members of All Souls Church. Ms. Turner, School Counselor and Ms. Parker, CIS coordinator, help select the families to receive this offering. We have weekly or more frequent volunteer service in the school by our Micah volunteers. We have a January school supplies donation from the members of All Souls (annual Advent Season collection).

### **Westover Hills**

**Commonwealth Chapel (Bryce Lyle)** – The church supported Back to School breakfast by providing food for staff. The church is supporting the new Adopt-A-Classroom program by adopting third grade.

**Gravel Hill Baptist Church, South Richmond (Deborah White)** – We purchased and installed fish and turtle tanks (two years ago). We continue to provide partial maintenance funds in conjunction with the other faith partners. We sponsored a family for Christmas via our Missions ministry. We host quarterly birthday parties, baking cupcakes, providing plates, juice boxes and frosting with volunteers to help students decorate their cupcakes. We provided replacement clear Rubbermaid tubs for the shelves due to lack of space. We still have a team of three that participates with the Eager Beaver readers on Thursdays. The special Done In A Day Project is the Spring Carnival.

**St. Edward's Catholic Church (Jennifer Snider)** – The church provided food to support the school staff's Back To School breakfast. The church held a school supplies drive in September and provided us with 4 car loads full. The church provides holiday assistance to many families by giving the school gift cards to assist families.

**Westover Hills UMC (Mary Mac Harris)** – We volunteered for a spring grounds clean up. We weeded and mulched shrubbery beds and a butterfly garden; replaced four dead bushes; planted a flower garden in school colors beside the front entrance. We sponsored students to attend Westview summer camp, which includes scholarships and transportation to and from camp. We have a designated offering at summer Bible School to buy school supplies for Westover Hills Elementary School. We contributed food and paper supplies to the faculty breakfast at the beginning of the school year and for Teacher Appreciation week. We sponsor and host 1/3 of the birthday lunches.

### **Woodville Elementary School**

**Good Shepherd Baptist Church (Mary Powell)** – Our church community/family had a recognition for the retiring principal in May 2014. We hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Moving On ceremony in June 2014. We held the Dr. Martin L. King Celebration at GSBC. Our special Done in a Day projects include Book in the Bathtub, Teacher's Pet bags, and Teacher Appreciation Effort.