

Outreach Annual Report for 2022

Submitted By: Clark Dingman, Chair

The Outreach SLG oversees the Saturday Morning Breakfast and Clothing Cupboard, Service Camps from visiting churches and emergency homeless shelter in partnership with Bethesda.

The current members are Beth W, Greta S, Deanna S, Alicia P, Tony P, Amber P, Mike W., Clark D, and Michael C. Any member, friend or volunteer at Old First is welcome to participate.

COVID 19 continued to over shadow our goals for 2022. We have adapted our services while following safety guidelines from the Elders, the City and CDC.

Each Saturday morning, the Old First Clothing Cupboard provides hats, gloves, scarves, undershorts, tee shirts, socks, shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, pants, shoes and toiletries as they are donated. Breakfasts have continued to be provided 52 weeks per year on a to-go basis, with the hope of resuming sit-down breakfasts in 2023. We serve around 60 guests per week, about 200 people in total.

This fall we began serving community dinners for the homeless on Sundays at 5 PM. It is a challenge to recruit Breakfast and Dinner Teams, and other volunteers to serve, but each week many guests express their gratitude for the hospitality provided by Old First.

Christ Church, St. John's UCC and Old First combined to provide our guests with holiday gifts, many specific to their requested size and description.

Old First worked with Bethesda to host shelter residents in the Social Hall when they had to be evacuated from St. Mary's during repairs.

To support the Outreach programs at Old First, please be in touch with Devan, our Administrator, at admin@oldfirstucc.org, or Michael at michaelwcaine@gmail.com

Your assistance is appreciated as well as your suggestions for improving our efforts to bring Good News to the homeless, housing and food insecure of our community. Thank you for your support.