

Report to the Synod of 2014

From: Sunnyside Ministry

Mission, Purpose and Values

Sunnyside Ministry, an agency of the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, expresses the love of Christ by providing short term emergency assistance for life's basic needs to families who find themselves in crisis situations.

We serve residents living in zip codes 27107 and 27127 in southern Forsyth County and northern Davidson County. Financial assistance is provided for housing, utilities and medicine along with food and clothing. We also operate an educational program called Gaining Control which is designed to help clients develop life skills leading to a financially sustainable life. Money management, budgeting, time management and saving are important parts of the program. The Sunnyside Scholarship program provides college scholarships for students who attend school in our service area. We are volunteer based and provide a place for people to live out their faith in service to those in need.

Responsibilities

There were no responsibilities assigned.

Summary of Activities

Sunnyside has continued to experience increasing demand for services. During the second half of 2010 and early 2011 we completed a total renovation of our facility. This renovation followed a successful capital campaign and resulted in a new floor plan, new furniture, fixtures, flooring, porches and loading dock. We completely redesigned and up-fitted our food pantry, clothing closet and clothing work room. I like to say that we have a "Harris Teeter" food pantry and a "Hanes Mall" clothing closet. We also doubled the size of the parking lot. We are now fully utilizing our entire facility in a much more efficient manner. Almost all of the work was completed by a talented team of Moravian volunteers, most of whom, came from New Philadelphia Moravian Church. A recent Eagle Scout project has blessed us with a long needed sign.

We continue to provide assistance to families in crisis situations in a caring and loving environment which attracts volunteers who are looking for a way to serve their neighbor in need. We have 200 volunteers from over 60 churches sharing their time and talents with neighbors in need. We are currently averaging over 600 interviews each month, giving out an average of over 500 grocery orders monthly to feed over 1500 people with 4 to 5 days worth of meals and providing clothes to almost 1,200 people each month. Financial assistance is given an average of 210 times each month. Total value of assistance given each month is over \$147,000.00

In 2013 we saw a door close and another open. After over 34 years we closed the Sunnyside Medical Clinic due to declining attendance. The attendance had been declining for several years and even with intentional promotion and efforts to build the attendance we continued to see declines. Closing the Medical Clinic was a collaborative effort between Sunnyside and the Forsyth County Department of Public Health.

After months of study and research by a small task force, we started a new program called Gaining Control and a new door opened. Our first 2 classes consist of 12 individuals who are learning how to budget, manage their cash flow, set goals, make good financial decisions and the habits required to set money aside to prepare for an emergency. They will also be exposed to banking, we have opened accounts for them at the Latino Credit Union, encouraged to save, good nutrition and time management skills. Help will be given on interview skills, resume creation and time management skills and practices. Each class meets for 2+ hours every other week for 6 months with one on one counseling during the weeks that class doesn't meet. Follow up will continue for up to one year. We will be starting 2 new classes in November 2013. Future plans include a formal mentoring program for those in the Gaining Control Program.

We continue with three fulltime employees, a part-time food pantry staff person and a part-time Gaining Control Program person. Our almost 200 committed volunteers make all of this possible. It is important that we continue to question and refine our product delivery to insure that we remain relevant. Our collaboration with Crisis Control Ministry and the Salvation Army help make emergency assistance in Forsyth County a model program.

Future Direction and Opportunities

For over 35 years Sunnyside Ministry has maintained an important presence in the southern part of Forsyth County. Maintaining our relevance by tweaking our programs has made us a valuable asset in the community and an important part of the Forsyth County Emergency Assistance Network. With the recent closing of our Medical Clinic and the beginning of the "Gaining Control" program we have responded to changing needs in our community. We have made a concerted effort to broaden our base of support beyond the Moravian Church and are now supported by churches and individuals of every denomination. While thousands are blessed by our services, those who serve (our volunteers) are also blessed many times over.

We continually question and debate our direction and programs to insure that they remain relevant and sustainable. The temptation to add services or take on additional opportunities is great and one of the greatest challenges a ministry like Sunnyside faces is remaining focused on its core mission. Sunnyside Ministry is grounded in its mission of serving the poor and needy in our community with life's basic needs. We are financially sound and look forward to many years of continuing the Lord's work, serving the needs of the poor and needy in our community.

In Deuteronomy 15:11 we are commanded to "open our hands wide unto thy brothers and sisters and to the poor and needy." Sunnyside is a Moravian church response to that command.

In Galatians 5:13 we are told to "serve one another through love." Sunnyside is a response to that admonition.

I once heard it said that "Jesus went to where there were broken spirits, hungry stomachs, grieving hearts and heavy shoulders." Those are the people that come to Sunnyside each day and we try to show them Jesus and give them hope.

Our 2012 Fact Sheet is attached.

Sunnyside Ministry 2013 Fact Sheet

Sunnyside Ministry provides emergency assistance for life's basic necessities to families living in zip codes 27107 and 27127 in southern Forsyth County and the northern part of Davidson County. We are a Christian based ministry started by the Moravian Church in 1978.

Highlights:

- Sunnyside Ministry conducted 7,459 Interviews with clients seeking assistance.
- We provided \$1,805,225 worth of services to clients in crisis situations.
- Sunnyside Ministry gave 4-5 days of groceries 6,157 times to families consisting of 18,241 people.
- We provided clothes and household goods 4,792 times to families consisting of 14634 people.
- Sunnyside Ministry's free Medical Clinic gave medical care to uninsured children and adults.
- Our Scholarship Program supported 13 scholars in college, including buying a laptop computer for each incoming freshman scholar, and 2 summer interns.
- Sunnyside Ministry operates with dedicated volunteers from over 60 churches of all denominations. With a staff of 4 we could not do what we do without our committed volunteers.

Assistance Provided	Value of Assistance	Times Assistance Given
Electricity	\$ 237,774	1,448
Electric Guarantees	17,316	138
Food	702,425*	6,157
Clothing & Household Goods	618,761*	4,792
Natural Gas	18,356	94
Fuel	28,806	149
Rent/Mortgage	119,112	538
Water	23,634	180
Scholarship Program	36,349	13
Other	<u>2,692</u>	<u>11</u>
Total value of assistance given	\$1,805,225**	11,744

*includes in-kind donations

**Medical Clinic not included