

Report to the Synod of 2014
From: Sunnyside Ministry of the Moravian Church

Mission, Purpose and Values

The Mission of Sunnyside Ministry is to follow Christ by providing hope through service, education and empowerment to those in need within our community. Following Christ by Empowering Others. (October 13, 2001, Rev. March 3, 2017)

The Purpose of Sunnyside Ministry, a crisis intervention agency of the Moravian Church in America Southern Province, is to serve the people in Southern Forsyth County and Northern Davidson County by offering them assistance necessitated by financial and personal crisis. Sunnyside Ministry also provides hope to people in poverty by providing education and empowerment opportunities. (March 3, 2017)

Sunnyside Ministry has three overarching responsibilities in its intentional service and mission to those in need in our community. First, Sunnyside must do everything possible to help those asking for assistance. Second, provide hope for a better future to those in need through education and empowerment. Third, Sunnyside must be the best steward of the resources donated for that assistance. Searching for and finding reasons to help is sometimes more difficult than finding reasons not to help. In the name of Christ, may our actions bless this earth with peace. (Rev. March 3, 2017)

Responsibilities

There were no responsibilities assigned

Summary of Activities

Sunnyside Ministry of the Moravian Church remains a place of hope for those who are struggling to meet their daily needs. Levels of service remain high and level for the last four years, with only a slight decrease in need. A change in Directors occurred in 2015. Tommy Cole retired after eight years of service; David Holston replaced him at that time. In 2018, Sunnyside Ministry will celebrate 40 years of service to the community.

In 2014, Sunnyside Ministry started to offer Financial Literacy Education through a program entitled “Gaining Control”. The program has been a strong success, educating over 160 people. The program which boasts a 98% success rate of graduates moving to self-sufficiency has shown us that people can learn make positive changes in their lives, even if their income still places them below the poverty level. Students learn skills in budgeting, saving for emergencies and making wise spending decisions. This program charts the course for the future of Sunnyside Ministry.

Meeting the needs of those in poverty has been the primary focus of Sunnyside Ministry since it was established 40 years ago. In 2017 through October 31st, Sunnyside Ministry had distributed

over 125 tons of food, provided over 14,000 instances of service for clothing and paid over \$200,000 in Financial Assistance.

Sunnyside Ministry operates one of the largest Food Pantries in Forsyth County, distributing over 265,000 meals annually over the last 4 years in the form of groceries to people who are hungry that is about 6000 pounds of food each week. Sunnyside Ministry operates one of the few remaining free Clothing Centers in Forsyth County providing more than 40,000 articles of clothing annually. The Scholarship Program administered through Sunnyside Ministry is a strong program that seeks to help students from our services area attain the dream of a college education, the program has a 95% success rate.

Future Direction and Opportunities

Sunnyside Ministry is an important part of the community we serve, a place that people come seeking help when they are hungry or need help with their finances. This is our core program and the need is not changing.

We have explored and are developing plans to help our clients move more quickly to self-sufficiency. This has to be part of the answer. There are clients that come for help that have been coming for help since Sunnyside Ministry was established. We have to be part of breaking that cycle.

Sunnyside Ministry operates with one of the smallest staff of the three agencies providing emergency assistance programs. This helps us to be able to serve more people. We rely on Provincial Support for much of our personnel and administrative functions.

In the last four years Sunnyside Ministry has seen a decrease in its traditional sources of funding. This has left us with new challenges in our efforts to provide assistance and manage operating costs. Our budget has decreased by 5.5% from 2014, most of that savings coming in operating expenses. Local foundations, such as Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust are no longer funding Sunnyside Ministry (or any program providing emergency assistance). This created a void of over \$118,000 and Duke Energy has decreased its support by about 25% over that same period.

This change in funding has created the need for Sunnyside Ministry to develop larger fundraising projects. The addition of a full-time fundraiser to the staff will help us to close the gap that the loss of other funds has created.

Through different programming to help clients gain self-sufficiency, we hope to see a drop in the number of people seeking assistance.

Sunnyside Ministry is a response by the Moravian Church to the words of James in Chapter 2: 15-17 *"If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*

Sunnyside Ministry of the Moravian Church is the place where Moravians have put our faith into action for 40 years.