

**Alexandria Region
2019 Outreach Ministries**
Approved September 25, 2019

Outreach

Meade Memorial Bag Lunch Program	2,000.00
Refugee/ West End Lazarus Emergency Financial Ministries	3,000.00
Total	\$ 5,000.00

Meade Memorial Bag Lunch - \$2,000

Meade's Bag Lunch program is going well. It provides lunch to men, women, and children from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 6 days a week. The numbers increase during the winter since a heartier meal is provided. The number being served has dropped from 50-65 per day to 28-50. It is speculated this decline is due to the temporary move of Carpenter's Shelter to the West End. Volunteers make the bagged lunches at various churches about every six weeks and take them to Meade for distribution by two volunteers. The program has a significant financial impact on the church including utility costs and cleanup.

Refugee Ministry and West End Lazarus Emergency Financial Ministry

There are now 22 refugee families that are being provided assistance by Alexandria churches. Each family is assigned to a care team made up of 2-3 individuals. The families have a special immigrant visa since they had been working for the US government as translators. The government provides 90 days of housing and assistance from case workers including help finding a job. However, after that time period they are not yet ready to be on their own. The refugee ministry helps to bridge that gap. One of the major forms of financial assistance is help with rent for another 3-4 months. The volunteer assistance is time intensive, and there continues to be a need for volunteers.

The average dollars needed per month in 2019 is \$9,923. Income for 2019 has been \$63,300; expenses are anticipated at \$92,383; leaving an anticipated deficit of \$29,083.

The West End Lazarus Ministry, under the leadership of Melanie Gray, opened its doors at Church of the Resurrection September 17, 2015. Julie Duke, Christ Church, and Lynn Rohrs, Grace Church, are Co-Coordinates. It operates every Thursday afternoon from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church while Resurrection property is under construction. The ministry has 12 trained financial counselors from 5 churches and Goodwin House. For the 29 weeks of 2019; donations of \$81,618 were received. \$69,117 was distributed covering 359 bills for 316 people. The average check is \$193. 81 percent was for rent assistance.

Both ministries were hit very hard financially this year due to the government shutdown. There was increased need among City residents and some still haven't fully recovered. As you can see, the Refugee Ministry, which has traditionally received financial support from a number of sources, is now struggling financially. In addition, the WEL program is losing a grant of \$35,000 due to the relocation of the family to Texas and their intention to take the grant money to their new location.

Additional Ministry Support in 2019 Approved

Interfaith Service in the Park

Church of the Resurrection is planning an interfaith church service at Fort Ward Park on Sunday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m. The service will coincide with the annual STEP ALIVE! Walk. At the moment, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Fairlington United Methodist Church are planning to participate. One of our Episcopal Bishops and the new Lutheran Bishop will be celebrating with us. Details are still being finalized. No money is being requested, just your presence. We encourage you to be a part of this All Alexandria worship service.

Fundraising Event

The amount of funding for the Refugee Ministry and West End Lazarus Emergency Financial Ministry fluctuates from year to year and always is in need. The committee would like to reintroduce a proposal from last year to hold a fundraiser for these ministries. The idea being considered is a HymnFest involving any interested performers. A possible location could be VTS.