

A close-up photograph of pine branches heavily coated in white frost or snow, set against a soft, warm-toned background with bokeh light effects.

**SOUTH MECKLENBURG
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

The best things in life
are not things.



2022 Catalog

THE PERFECT GIFT

Searching for the perfect Christmas gift can be a challenge – Do I have the right size? Is it something the recipient will treasure? Is it something they will remember? Is it perfect?

When the gift is a book for a child, it's just the right size. When the gift is a door for a home or a well-trained service dog, it is treasured. When the gift is a meal for those who are hungry, it is remembered. All are perfect gifts.

Donating to ministries that support our neighbors in need is an alternative and perfect way to honor loved ones at Christmas. With each purchase you will receive a gift card and note that can be given to your recipient acknowledging the gift that has been given in their honor.

You are invited to shop at the in-person SMPC Alternative Gift Market (AGM) on Sunday, December 4 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the hallways surrounding the sanctuary. The accompanying AGM order form provides a list of each ministry's specific needs and their cost.

Purchases may also be made online at SMPCHome.org from November 17—December 25.

Additionally, be on the lookout for giving opportunities for children where this sign is displayed:



Cash, debit and credit cards accepted as well as checks made out to "SMPC".



CHILDREN'S MARKET

The Children's Market, an extension of the Alternative Gift Market, is designed to provide a teaching opportunity for parents to encourage children to select moderately priced alternative gifts for loved ones. Please look for specially marked items at displays throughout the market.

Ballantyne Families Helping Families in Need

\$2.00 will buy a box of pasta to make a family meal.

\$4.00 will buy a box of cereal for a child's breakfast.

Camp Grier

\$3.00 will buy a 2x4 to help build Rustic Units.

\$4.00 will buy five feet of rock-climbing rope.

\$5.00 will buy a Carabiner for rock climbing.

Habitat for Humanity

\$4.00 will buy a paintbrush.

Loaves & Fishes

\$2.00 will buy a jar of peanut butter to feed the hungry.

\$3.00 will buy juice for someone who is thirsty.

Promising Pages

\$2.00 provides a family with two bedtime stories.

\$5.00 buys a new book for summer reading.

Salvation Army Center of Hope

\$5.00 will purchase kitchen items for Welcome Home Baskets

Donate a new or gently used book for a child.

Project 2 Heal

\$5.00 will help purchase a service dog training vest.

Haiti - OFCB

\$2.00 provides ten meals for students

LOCAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

BALLANTYNE FAMILIES HELPING NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Ballantyne Families Helping Neighbors in Need (BFHNIN) is a grassroots 501c3 organization supported by a growing group of over 800 Ballantyne families and organizations. Our primary goal is to address food insecurity in our community for families who work in or attend one of the nine schools in the Ardrey Kell High School feeder pattern* by bringing together our community to care for our neighbors in their time of need. We do this through food or gift card distributions four times per year. We have also recently started a food pantry that is housed at Community House Middle School to help with needs throughout the year. Since March 2020, we have given over \$220,000 in grocery gift cards and over 1,900 bags of groceries to Ballantyne families in need.

Here's how it works. The school counselors/social workers identify the families in need who attend or work in their schools. Ballantyne Families meets their needs by collecting food and monetary donations for four planned distributions per school year (Thanksgiving, December holidays, spring break and summer). For our elementary and middle school families, we provide both food and gift cards. However, for our high school families, we provide only gift cards to purchase the food they need. For spring and summer, gift card amounts are based on the total number of family members.

If there is a need in between these 4 planned distribution times, we fill the need with food from our pantry and funds from our account. Over 99% of the funds we have raised have gone directly to families in need. It has been truly incredible to see the generosity of our community helping our neighbors in their time of need! To find out how to get involved, go to www.linktr.ee/ballantynefamilies.

South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church hosted our 2nd food drive within the first month of schools shutting down at the beginning of the Covid pandemic where we distributed over 650 bags of groceries to over 100 families!

*Ballantyne, Elon Park, Endhaven, Hawk Ridge, and Polo Ridge Elementaries, Community House and Jay M Robinson Middle Schools, Rea Farms STEAM K-8 and Ardrey Kell High School

CAMP GRIER

For nearly 70 years, nestled on 650 acres at the foot of the Pisgah National Forest, Camp Grier has been providing a place of challenge, adventure, and service to others. These are incredible tools that can help us to understand our faith in Christ, our world, and ourselves. The market rate for a week of camp is approximately \$1,500. This cost is unrealistic for many families. We

believe it is our responsibility to make outdoor experiences available to ALL people. We aim to keep our tuition rate around half the market rate. Each summer, nearly 25% of our campers attend on full scholarship. We are grateful to the churches, programs, and partners who prioritize the outdoors and invest time, money, and prayers toward ensuring our children are connected to nature. Your alternative market gift will allow us to continue to provide a quality experience at Camp Grier to our campers and guests.

CARE RING

Care Ring's mission is to empower individuals with limited resources to establish and maintain good health. We do this through two focus areas:

Access to Care

Care Ring provides much-needed access to primary and specialty health care services to low-income, under/uninsured Mecklenburg County residents, through our Low-Cost Clinic and Physicians Reach Out (PRO) program. This improves health outcomes for those served, reduces health disparities and saves over \$23 million in prevented hospital charges annually. Last fiscal year, our Low-Cost Clinic served 1,492 patients and PRO served 6,981 patients.

\$25 covers critical lab work for a Clinic patient to diagnose and monitor conditions like diabetes and high cholesterol. **\$50 covers the annual PRO enrollment fee** for one patient, giving them access to free-of-charge primary and specialty care.

Maternal Child Health

Care Ring provides critical maternal child health services to pregnant mothers and their babies through our Nurse-Family Partnership and A Guided Journey programs. Both programs increase prenatal health and birth outcomes, improve developmental milestones, and advance school readiness. Last fiscal year, NFP served 689 mothers and babies and A Guided Journey served 286 mothers and babies.

\$100 covers two years of age-appropriate books for four babies/toddlers in these programs.

COMMUNITY CULINARY SCHOOL OF CHARLOTTE

We provide workforce development training and job placement assistance for adults who face barriers to long-term successful employment. By teaching Culinary Arts, Job Readiness and Financial Management, CCSC empowers chronically unemployed and underemployed adults to secure stable employment and provide for their families. This is upward mobility! Our program offers: personal chef instruction, wellness and recovery counseling, career readiness skills, paid internships and on-the-job training, ServSafe exam and full scholarships. Our vision is to transform the lives of our students and their families and positively impact our community.

CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

Crisis Assistance Ministry's mission is to provide assistance and advocacy for people in financial crisis, helping them move toward self-sufficiency. Mecklenburg County families receive help with life's basic needs: emergency rent and utility assistance, clothing, household goods, furniture, beds, and appliances. Along with financial assistance, donations help provide one-on-one coaching and counseling with a caseworker to help families get on the path to economic mobility. In addition, our Civic Engagement Program increases awareness of the complex issues facing thousands of neighbors in Mecklenburg County living in poverty. Our vision is to inspire our community to justice and generosity as we provide help, hope, and understanding to people struggling with limited financial resources.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF THE CHARLOTTE REGION

Since 1983, we have partnered with more than 2,600 families in need of decent, affordable housing. Our mission is achieved through three distinct programs:

New Homeownership

The traditional Habitat model of building new homes with volunteer labor in partnership with families remains the foundation of our mission. The houses are sold to partner families at no profit and are financed with affordable, no-interest mortgages. Through sweat equity and homeownership classes, partner families commit to the homeownership process before closing on the house and achieve for themselves the life-changing impact of homeownership. We expect to create affordable homeownership opportunities for **88 families** this year.

Critical Home Repair

Critical Home Repair provides urgent, major repairs for low-income homeowners whose homes have fallen into serious disrepair. The program improves home safety, helps preserve Charlotte's affordable housing stock and stabilizes neighborhoods. This year Habitat Charlotte Region will provide affordable home repair solutions for **143 local families**.

Money Matters

Money Matters is expanded financial literacy curriculum offered to residents of Mecklenburg and Iredell Counties. The three-week program focuses on homeownership in the Charlotte region and assists program participants in their pursuit of homeownership and improved financial well-being. Topics include household budgeting, credit building, investing, retirement and more.

Purchases to support our work

\$10 – Habitat Holiday Card

\$14 – Julia's Coffee, Roasted by Magnolia Coffee. Julia's Café and Books is a fundraising division of Habitat Charlotte that not only has a great selection of books but also serves delicious coffee!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Habitat Charlotte Region's work would not be possible without volunteers. The quintessential Habitat volunteer experience is working at the construction site. Special skills are not needed for volunteers to work with our construction program, as Habitat staff members are on site to train volunteers and maintain a safe experience. In addition to the construction program, there are other volunteer opportunities at Julia's Cafe & Books and all seven ReStore locations. All volunteers must be 16 or older. More information can be found at <https://www.habitatcltregion.org/volunteer/>.

HOSPICE

Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region provides end-of-life care for those facing a serious or terminal illness. Care is patient-centered and family-focused. **We accept all patients regardless of their age, diagnosis, or ability to pay.** We proudly serve patients in 29 counties throughout North and South Carolina and through our Charity Care Program. We provide expert care as well as grief support and community education. We guarantee compassionate and high-quality care for our neighbors who come to life's end without the ability to pay for what they need. Headquartered in Charlotte since its founding in 1979, Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region remains the Carolinas oldest and largest hospice provider. We were built by this community for this community. ***Please contact Nancy Cole at colen@hpccr.org for more information.***

LOAVES & FISHES/FRIENDSHIP TRAYS

Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays provides groceries, meals and hope through a network of food pantries and as the primary Meals on Wheels program for Mecklenburg County.

Last year, Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays provided groceries and meals to 80,000 people. Half were children and seniors.

Loaves & Fishes – providing a week's worth of nutritionally balanced groceries to individuals and families experiencing a short-term crisis through a network of emergency food pantries located throughout Mecklenburg County.

Friendship Trays – delivering nutritious meals to elderly or infirm individuals who are unable to obtain or prepare their own meals while also providing human connection to the isolated and lonely and peace of mind to their families.

Food Drives: We are always in need of more food drives. Please reach out to Lindsey Houser to register and get a priority needs list.

Volunteer Opportunities: Delivery drivers is our biggest volunteer need. We use volunteer delivery drivers Monday-Saturday to deliver both a week's worth of groceries and our prepared

meals. Children of all ages can ride along to make these deliveries. We welcome individuals and groups of up to 15 people to work in the warehouse doing a variety of activities. The most frequent activities include sorting, inspecting, and/or packing donated food items. Volunteers must be 14 years old to participate in the warehouse. For more information, contact volunteer@loavesandfishes.org for more information.

Please contact Lindsey Houser, lindsey@loavesandfishes.org, for more information about Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays. Or Jane Royther, jroyther@gmail.com, our SMPC contact for more information.

Friendly Reminder: Minimum age to volunteer is 14 and closed toe shoes are required!

PROJECT 2 HEAL

Our mission at **Project 2 Heal** is to reduce the cost and time it takes to place a service dog with a person in need. We accomplish this by nurturing, socializing and training purposely bred Labrador Retriever puppies, for donation, to carefully selected service dog organizations. Project 2 Heal provides early training to all pups starting as early as 2 days old. The success rate of Project 2 Heal puppies graduating as service dogs is an astounding 80%.

Project 2 Heal believes in not wasting a day in a dog's life and therefore, also provides canine assisted sessions to local children and adults in need, free of charge, and stress down days to local corporations and schools. Pre-Covid, Project 2 Heal visited an assisted living home weekly and provided canine therapy visits to the Union County, NC school system as their approved organization.

Our goal is to utilize the healing power of Labrador Retrievers to increase independence in mobility impaired individuals and to provide emotional healing for children with special needs and wounded warriors.

2023 Project 2 Heal calendars are available for \$15.

PROMISING PAGES

Promising Pages collects new and donated books and shares them with children living in the Charlotte Area Book Desert: those with few, if any, books at home. We work to create a culture of book sharing and ownership. With only 21.5% of economically disadvantaged 3rd graders in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools reading on grade level, it is critical that students have access to books in their homes to support reading recovery efforts.

Last school year we distributed 276,610 books and served 54,364 children through our network of 14 free little libraries and the following programs:

Books on Break - FREE in-school book fairs that provide five summer reading books to

elementary school students to help prevent "summer slide". *11,553 students in 23 Title I schools received over 71,260 summer reading books in May of 2022.*

Feed the Body, Feed the Mind - Partners with local food banks and pantries to provide books alongside groceries and meals. *18 partner locations distributed almost 15,000 books to children in families receiving food assistance.*

Bookseed & Reading Resource Centers - The Bookseed Program works in affordable housing communities to "seed" home libraries (25 books per child) and provides ongoing access to books & literacy resources for 1,000+ children and their families.

Community Partner Program (Book Bank) - This past school year, 226 nonprofit and child-serving organizations received free books for their students, schools, libraries, programs, and families in 61 zip codes throughout 9 counties.

Books: Books are donated via book drives, individuals, organizations, and purchased through our wish lists at local retailers and online. Visit <http://promising-pages.org/donate-books-2/> to see our 15 drop-off locations!

Volunteers: Volunteers help us clean, sticker and sort donated books and are a critical element of our process. Our warehouse volunteers must be 16 years+ but we have lots of projects on the Get Involved page for younger volunteers! <https://promising-pages.org/get-involved>

ROOF ABOVE

Roof Above is an interfaith organization dedicated to uniting the community to end homelessness one life at a time. Roof Above was born from the merger of Urban Ministry Center and Men's Shelter of Charlotte; now one comprehensive homeless service provider working to end homelessness. Roof Above offers everything from street outreach and basic services, to shelter and housing. Our services and programs reach over 1,200 individuals every day across seven campuses in Charlotte – and during COVID, we have added one more campus, converting dorms into an emergency shelter for working men.

Homeless Services:

Basic services (showers, laundry, mail, lunch)

Resource Center (IDs, prescriptions)

Room in the Inn (offsite emergency shelter Dec-Mar)

Approx. 500 shelter beds for men

Income and Employment Programs

Housing Programs:

SECU The Rise on Clanton – 88-unit permanent supporting housing for the chronically homeless

Moore Place – 120-unit permanent supportive housing (PSH) for the chronically homeless

Hillrock Estates – 341-unit Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH)

Scattered Site and Rapid Rehousing

SABER – Recovery Program and transitional housing community

Volunteer Opportunities:

Roof Above depends on the generosity of community to meet the daily needs of our neighbors. This winter season we are in need of in-kind donations such as food, special winter items and new welcome home kits. You can support us through hosting a collection drive and donating these items or purchasing from our Amazon Wishlist.

Check our **Wish List**

Items (<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/genericItemsPage/3TGAR7H8GVVFF>) where you can order and have our most needed items delivered directly to us!

Moving Home Kits - <https://www.roofabove.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Shelter-Flyer.pdf>

Welcome Home Kits - https://www.roofabove.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Welcome_Home_FINAL.pdf

Fresh Start Kits - https://www.roofabove.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Fresh_Start_Kit_FINAL.pdf

To become a volunteer and to see all opportunities to engage in our mission, please visit www.roofabove.org/volunteer.

SALVATION ARMY CENTER OF HOPE

Homelessness creates hopelessness. Loss of hope is a tragic condition, and yet this tragedy persists in ever-increasing numbers in our community and nation. The potential causes are many: lack of affordable housing, loss of income due to job layoffs and losses, domestic violence, addiction or mental illness. Our foundation of faith compels us to do everything we can to help restore security and hope to these families.

At The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte, we help people experiencing homelessness get back on their feet and avoid having homelessness become their permanent status. We do this through our Center of Hope shelter, Booth Commons Family Center, housing programs and support from people like you.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Individuals and groups are welcome to come on site to prepare and serve a meal, or just be an extra pair of hands for our kitchen staff.

Groups are welcome to donate ingredients for meals or prepared meals that can be heated by our kitchen staff.

Volunteers can also provide “Welcome Home Baskets” – laundry baskets filled with necessary household goods for families transitioning to permanent housing.

GLOBAL MISSION GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic event.

DR000148 – General Relief and undesignated program support: supplements the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering and enables members and congregations to make general designations to use funds where they are most needed as determined by PDA.

DR999999 – International Disasters and Emergencies: supplements the OGHS offering to enable a significant, initial response to major international disasters and emergencies.

DR 000015 – U. S. A. Disasters and Emergencies: supplements the OGHS offering to enable a significant, initial response to major national disasters and emergencies.

OFCB MINISTRIES – SCHOOL, MEDICAL CLINIC, and COMMUNITY in Bayonnais, Haiti
SMPC has supported OFCB Ministries since its inception in 1994. SMPC members have traveled to Bayonnais regularly, and we have strong, personal relationships with the leaders of the school, medical clinic, and community.

SCHOOL

OFCB educates 2,300 students ages K-13th grade in 3 locations. School graduates are in Haitian colleges and medical universities, and have returned to Bayonnais to teach, preach, nurse, and work as doctors, dentists and agronomists. Donations to the OFCB school are used primarily for school food and secondarily for other school needs like teacher salaries and uniforms.

MEDICAL CLINIC

OFCB’s medical clinic was the first in Bayonnais and was built to support a community of 80,000 people. Several OFCB graduates are employed by the clinic. Donations to the clinic support salaries and medical supply needs.

AGRICULTURE

Families in Bayonnais are very poor. One way to help is by providing for agricultural needs. SMPC provides funds for the purchase of goats and chickens for families to raise. The offspring of these animals are sold to increase family income. We also provide funds for farming tools.

OFCB STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS

SMPC partners with EWO (the Haitian Creole word for hero), an organization based in Charlotte, to secure school sponsorships for OFCB students. Annual sponsorships are \$480 and help provide education, meals, a school uniform, and access to a medical clinic. Sponsors build relationships with students through letters, prayer, and even an in-person visit if you choose. Students available for sponsorship are pictured below; visit our table for additional students or contact Judy Jones: judy21jones@gmail.com.



Erseline Fils-Aime



Preslene Francius



Wilkender Pierre



Youander Louima



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