



Hope in the Mountains, Inc.

“The Hope Center”

USPS: PO Box 1675

Sophia, WV 25921

Physical:

410 West Main Street,

Sophia, WV

Community Outreach for Sophia, Southern Raleigh County and NE Wyoming County

Our mission is to be an outreach for Jesus Christ in communities where there is need, offering a connection to Christ by offering an environment of hope and practical ways to improve lives.

Hope in the Mountains 2022 Year End Summary



2022 opened with a focused on renovating the Hope Center building, purchased in 2021. We had a good group of contractors who worked well together. As expected, we ran into some delays in obtaining materials and getting approvals from government code authorities. The renovations were completed in April and we received the necessary approvals from the WV State Fire Marshall and other code authorities in June. The building looks wonderful and is more functional. Once the renovations were completed the donated office furniture that had been stored at Alpha Rentals was moved into the Hope Center. This donated furniture was supplemented by Hope Center purchases and purchases by our ministry

partner, Raleigh County Family Services Center (RCFSC).

The first half of 2022 was not spent entirely on the Hope Center renovation. The Board of Directors (BoD) spent time in visioning and scheduling for programming in 2022 and beyond, searching for an Executive Director and developing new contacts and programming.

- In May, Bob and Nancy Parsons from Williamsburg UMC, Williamsburg, VA, visited the Hope Center. HITM is in a missional, covenant agreement with Williamsburg UMC. Williamsburg UMC has committed to assist with financial support of the Hope Center as one of their missional projects. In October, HITM Board Chair Rev. David Rumberg reciprocated the visit to speak at worship and other gatherings, thank and report to Williamsburg UMC on the work and plans of HITM.
 - Two other UM churches fulfilled commitments for financial support to the Hope Center: Oak Hill UMC and United Methodist Temple in Beckley.
- Grants and funding received in 2022 included a grant from Mac's Toy Fund to purchase toys for children for Christmas. Toys were purchased for the children identified by RCFSC along with clothing selected from a very large donation of new clothing from Walmart. Each child received 3 toys in Christmas wrappings. Six families with 11 children were served through these donations.
- Through the Beckley Area Foundation (BAF) Community Grants we were able
 - To purchase a commercial refrigerator for the Hope Center and have another Community Grant pending with BAF to purchase a commercial freezer.
 - And to purchase nine (9) Chromebook Laptops for children and adults.
- These churches along with the many individual and Foundation grant contributions have kept the Hope Center moving and evolving.
- The Hope Center was selected as one of the Southern District work sites for the observance of Celebration of Mission Event in June. We gave out water and popcorn to the public while work crews moved and cleaned furniture and the facilities.





- Also in June, the Hope Center was a host site for DaySpring, a daytime church camp with counselors from Spring Heights, the WV Annual Conference campground. Children from the community attended the camp which ran from 8 AM – 3 PM daily. HITM provided volunteers, food, drinks, and snacks for the children and volunteers.
- Other activities in 2022 included the United Women in Faith UWV spring district meeting being held at the Hope Center. The women provided donations of paper goods, cleaning supplies, and other items.
- Beckley Community UMC donated pots, pans, and utensils from the kitchen of their South Kanawha building.
- RCFSC and HITM purchased food to fill 36 Christmas food boxes. These boxes contained enough food for a family of four (with larger families receiving 2 boxes). The boxes were filled and distributed out of the Hope Center the week prior to Christmas.
- RCFSC received approximately 17 pallets of unsold, new clothing from the Walmart store in MacArthur, WV. The clothing was temporarily stored in the Hope Center while being sorted and prepared for distribution. Some clothing was given away with Christmas food and children’s gifts while some was distributed in a community clothing give-away in conjunction with an open house at the Hope Center and distribution through other community agencies in Raleigh County.
- The Hope Center worked with the United Way to host the “Healthy Grandfamilies” training and with the WVU Extension Service to host “Eating Smart, Being Active” nutrition classes. Both programs were to begin in October and end by Thanksgiving but, unfortunately, both were postponed due to a lack of registrants with plans to schedule this again in 2023.

In November, Hope in the Mountains signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Raleigh County Family Services Center (RCFSC). This MOU formalizes a working relationship with RCFSC to have access to the Hope Center in their mission to provide programs to help people in the community to live better lives. With the help of

volunteers, the staff of RCFSC will open the Hope Center a minimum of 3 days per week as a community center in addition to hosting programs during the day and evenings while HITM continues to search for a suitable Executive Director.

HITM has also partnered with a Community Outreach Coordinator through Community Connections, Inc. The purpose of this position is to bring agencies who provide resources together to fill service gaps and ensure services are being utilized across Raleigh County.

The calendar for 2023 is filling up. Beginning in January:

- The RCFSC and HITM will offer a play group and story time for non-school aged children and their parents and an after-school program for children on Wednesdays.
- Also planned are “Time Out for Me” classes for moms and dads on Monday evenings with volunteers providing childcare.
- Recovery meetings will be held in the Hope Center through the Raleigh County Prevention Coalition Alliance. The plan is to initially have two general recovery meetings per week, with the goal of having separate AA and NA meetings twice a week. We want to also offer an Al-Anon program. We will also have Narcan training and distribution to the community.
- Randall Isom, a Board member of Hope in the Mountains, will be offering a Dave Ramsey finance class in 2023 at no charge to participants.
- HITM is working with the WVU Extension Service in 2023 to offer programs designed to help individuals and families have a better life.
- The Spring Heights campground calendar to offer a DaySpring church camp from June 19-22, 2023.
- HITM is preparing to join the United Methodist churches in Raleigh County to have a county wide Vacation Bible School program.

Other programs and offerings are in the planning stages. Suggestions and volunteers are welcome!

During 2022, Board Members Rev. David Rumberg, Rev. Ellen File, Randall Isom and Gary Hartsog traveled to different groups and congregations of the United Methodist Church to share HITM’s dreams, visions and objectives. The web and Facebook pages, maintained by Bill Eades, have worked to keep the up-to-date calendar and vision available for all interested parties. Work by other Board Members and friends throughout the community have helped move this vision from the planning stages to the action in the community.

With much appreciation and thankfulness, and appreciation for the challenges of 2023, we are the Board of Directors of Hope in the Mountains, Inc. The Board of Hope in the Mountains, Inc., extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported our efforts at ministry through financial contributions or by donating their time as a volunteer.

Rev. David Rumberg, Chair
Rev. Ellen File
Rev. Betsy Evans
Rev. Chip Bennett
Col. Randal Isom, USA (ret)

Richie Tankersley
Paul Flanagan
Laura Fygetakes, Deacon, UMC
Gary Hartsog, PE & PS(SU), Secretary

January 23, 2023

For more information and up-to-date calendar, check us out on the web at
<https://hopeinthemountains.com/>

Or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HopeintheMountains/>