



ROUND ROCK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR CAMPAIGN



On November 12, 2022, the RRPC Mission Committee distributed a \$25 check to every family in worship—35 in all. Each family or individual was asked to use their “seed money” to love their neighbors and share with the congregation how their money had been used.

We’re delighted to announce that the communities surrounding Round Rock have been deeply loved by our congregation!

The following pages include reports of donations to local organizations or individuals who care for God’s beloved, whether two-legged or four-legged! Many members added to their seed money with their own, to increase the impact of their gift. Some shared stories about what the recipient means to them or why the recipient was chosen.

We hope you enjoy learning about these Round Rock neighbors and ask that you remember each of them in your prayers. To find out more about one of the recipient organizations or individuals, please ask the donor for more information. The following reports are organized by community need categories.

Many thanks to all RRPC members and friends who took up this challenge to “Love Your Neighbor!”

Animal Companions

Kathy Denny	<u>Canine Companions</u>	I sent my \$25. "Love Your Neighbor" mission money to CANINE COMPANIONS. Founded in 1975, Canine Companions is leading the service dog industry so their clients and their dogs can live with greater independence. They provide service dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice and educational settings. The dogs and all follow-up services are provided at no cost to their clients. The South Central Training Center is located in Irving, TX, and serves Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas.
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Susan & Wes Barnes	<u>The Dog Alliance</u>	While waiting in an ICU room this week, we were visited by Oscar Blues, a Goldendoodle therapy dog with The Dog Alliance. As one of its programs, the organization also provides life changing service dogs for veterans and first responders who were disabled in the line of duty. The organization is approved by Indeed as qualified to receive matching funds from the company. To the Love Thy Neighbor funds, two family members gave matching donations of \$25 each, which were then matched by Indeed for a total donation of \$150.
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Children's Needs

Danae Clark	<u>Presbyterian Children's Home & Services</u>	PCHAS offers a variety of residential- and community-based programs across three states that benefit children, along with initiatives to empower churches to support foster care families.
Ian Richmond	<u>VFW Post 8787 "Capital City Post" Christmas Drive for needy families</u>	The Post, of which I am Post Adjutant, and our Auxiliary have an agreement with Cooke Elementary School to give financial aid and Christmas presents to 10 needy families from the

		<p>school. We receive the request for the school, with hopefully some information about presents for the children, but even if not, we accommodate based on age and gender.</p>
Ken & Sonja Johnson	<u>RRISD Clothes Closet</u>	<p>We contributed our mission gift to the RRISD Clothes Closet for the purchase of socks and underwear for kids that need them. This gift was a learning experience for me (Ken), as when I tried to give the volunteers cash, they had a difficult time figuring out how to accept the gift! It reminded me how quickly we are becoming a cashless society.</p>
Jean Bishop	<u>Pfood Pfairness</u>	<p>I donated my \$25 to this organization to make sure students (in Pflugerville) get a hot lunch.</p>
Mary Lee Reid	<u>Children of the King</u>	<p>This organization has truly touched my heart. After my father died two months before I was born, my siblings and I (ages newborn, 2, 4, 6, and 8 years old) were raised by a single mother. She worked hard every day, but we were never hungry and always knew we were loved and blessed to live in a Christian home.</p> <p>I learned that Children of the King is a Christian ministry for children that just need a friend or are from single parent homes. In a family group setting on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights, children enjoy a hot meal, have play time, learn life skills, and listen to Bible stories. They often have Saturday adventures, and in the summer, there are camps available to them.</p> <p>I have given the \$25 from our Mission Committee, along with another \$25 from me to this ministry. The money was delivered to the President of the organization. In my opinion, I could not have found a better place for the money. I have lived that life and know these children are certainly blessed.</p>

Craig Gholston	Cedar Valley PTA	<p>I paid our PTA for two Thanksgiving pies for teachers at our middle school, Cedar Valley, at \$12.50 each. Teachers help our twins in 7th grade, and education helps our community. Separately, I bought a few children's books and Hot Wheels and donated them to the Blue Santa program at the Round Rock Police Station.</p>
Wassim Nassif	RRPC Angel Tree (benefitting PCHAS)	<p>When I received the Love Your Neighbor envelope with the \$25 in it, I was hoping to go buy some turkey, bread, and more to make sandwiches to give to the "houseless" around the 620/183 area. On Wednesday before Thanksgiving I got the components needed, plus some nice paper plates and on Thanksgiving Thursday headed to the 620/183 intersection. To my surprise, there were no "houseless" folks there. Oops! I went back home and decided it might be a good thing they had found a way to celebrate Thanksgiving! But I still needed a way to spend the funds in a meaningful way.</p> <p>The next Sunday at church I looked at the two remaining angels left on the Angel Tree and chose a 12-year old girl! What did I know about what a 12-year-old girl wants? I researched the items wanted and found that Walmart carries them. I was excited that I would be able to fulfill a 12-year-old girl's wish. At Walmart, I talked to some girls who were shopping there and asked what they would want. I purchased the items they suggested. I did have to add to the \$25, but at times love is worth spending more!</p> <p>I hope the young lady likes what I picked for her.</p>
<div>Community Welfare</div>		
Paul Jergins	Salvation Army	<p>I give to the Salvation Army every year during the Christmas season. This year I added the Love Thy Neighbor money to my personal donation. Hoping it helps people in need.</p>

Joe & Zora Schultz	<u>Drive a Senior NW</u>	We donated the \$25 to Drive a Senior Northwest and \$50 to Mobile Loaves and Fishes.
Jackie & BJ Stremple	<u>Trinity Place Apartments</u>	We pooled our money to donate \$50 to Trinity Place Apartment residents, to ensure they have a good spread for the holidays!
Theresa & Tom Jones		
<i>Food Insecurity</i>		
Amy & Curtiss Brown	<u>Central Texas Food Bank</u>	We matched the \$25 and donated \$52 to the Central Texas Food Bank. Thanks for this cool opportunity.
Rick & Linda Seifert	<u>Mobile Loaves & Fishes</u>	We matched the \$25 from the mission committee and made a donation to Mobile Loaves & Fishes. We were inspired by a visit to the Community First Village of Lights where we met a resident. The resident was sitting in her wheelchair with her dog, Angel. She wore a headband lighted with Christmas bulbs and had a contented look on her face as she observed the festivities around her. I spoke to her, complemented her on her holiday attire, and said hello to her dog. She spoke proudly about her community as she pointed out various parts of the village and how the community supported one another. Our small donation will help to not only feed those who are experiencing homelessness, but also enable those who have lost a sense of community to find a new home and community that will be a sustainable solution to keeping them sheltered and give them a sense of purpose.
Kathryn Hoyt & Steve Moreland	<u>Central Texas Food Bank</u>	Feeding people has always been a passion for me personally, especially from an Italian family where feeding people is one of the top ways to show love. With food insecurity in Central Texas rising and inflation at an all time high, we donated the \$25 to the Central Texas Food Bank

		to help our neighbors be fed during the holiday season.
Lauren Lytwak	<u>Meals on Wheels, Central Texas</u>	<p>I donated my \$25 to Meals on Wheels Central Texas. In addition to the Love Your Neighbor \$25, I also donated \$25 of my own money and applied this \$50 donation to my company's matching program. A total of \$100 will be donated to Meals on Wheels Central Texas.</p> <p>Meals on Wheels is very near and dear to my heart. My grandparents, Ed and Olga Lytwak, volunteered for many years delivering meals to homebound seniors in the suburbs of Pittsburgh through Meals on Wheels. At that time, they were often delivering meals to seniors younger than they were.</p> <p>Before we put my grandmother in an assisted living home for Alzheimer's and dementia, she was living alone, after my grandfather passed away in 2018. It became clear to our family that my grandmother's dementia had gotten much worse. She would forget to eat meals and meals she did make were often burned as she forgot she was cooking something in the kitchen. Our family then applied to Meals on Wheels for my grandmother to ensure she had a meal every day. The meals were nutritious, well made, and delivered by a wonderful team of volunteers who would often leave my grandmother thoughtful notes with her meal. Our family is forever grateful for what Meals on Wheels provided for our grandmother.</p>
Anonymous	<u>Mobile Loaves & Fishes</u>	We added to the \$25 and donated to Mobile Loaves.
<i>Health</i>		
Amanda Richmond	<u>Leukemia and Lymphoma Society</u>	I actually quadrupled my \$25 and donated \$100 to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. My

		father died of non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, so this is an organization near and dear to my heart. In loving memory of Stanton Bishop.
Anne Jones	Patient	I had a patient who had no family and limited income. He had no soap, laundry detergent or toilet paper. I bought those items with the \$25. He has food but he needs our prayers.
<i>Houseless Neighbors</i>		
Jan & Tim Airhart	<u>Community First Village</u>	We chose to use our Love Your Neighbor campaign money toward the purchase of a Homemaking Bundle for Community First Village. Our congregation has a long association with Mobile Loaves and Fishes, which operates CFV, and we're impressed with the good work they do among individuals struggling with chronic homelessness. At Community First Village, each new resident is gifted basic household goods to get them started in their new home. We chose to purchase a homemaking bundle of cleaning supplies, with basic items such as broom, dust pan, mop, sponges, paper towels, a bucket, laundry basket, and various household cleansers. The staff, volunteers, and residents we interacted with when we delivered supplies were friendly and upbeat, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
Karen & Travis Black	Homeless Individuals— Wells Branch	Travis and I routinely see homeless people in the Wells Branch area, and in Austin when Travis goes to see a doctor. We used the church's money and some of ours to make up bags of warm socks and food to hand out.
Mary Frye	<u>Community First Village</u>	I sent my reverse offering to Community First Village. What they do gives a home, dignity, and hope to people who otherwise have no place to live. What a blessing to be able to assist them in a small way!

Elaine Dodd	<u>Community First Village</u>	I donated my \$25 reverse offering to the Community First Village of Mobile Loaves and Fishes. I believe that their mission to make a community for the homeless to be part of and support is very important in serving people and our larger community. "When you do for one of the least of these..." May the Lord bless our church and community.
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Incarcerated Individuals

Dave & Mary Lou Coughenour	<u>Inside Book Project & Black Pearl Bookstore</u>	We participated in the Mission Committee's Christmas in July project to provide books to people incarcerated in Texas prisons. When we delivered the 27 books that the congregation provided, Mary Lou and I were extremely impressed by their facility, and the range of materials they provided to the prisoners. All their work is done by volunteers and funded only by donations. It occurred to us that buying additional books, this time from a minority owned bookstore, could help a local business. We found and visited Black Pearl Books and were warmly welcomed by the owners and staff. When we explained what we were planning to do with the books, they insisted we choose some additional titles, at no charge to add to our purchases. With our own contribution on top of the LYN funds, and the free books, we were able to take nearly \$100 worth of books to the Inside Book Project.
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Linda Hammel	<u>Prison Fellowship</u>	About 8 years ago, when I was a very new member of RRPC, I saw the group called Band of Brothers was reading a book called <i>Outrageous Justice</i> about the failings of the criminal justice system and the Prison Fellowship. I volunteered at the Indiana Women's Prison for many years and was interested in reading this book, so I signed up to join the study. I'm not sure why I didn't realize that a Band of BROTHERS did not
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include women. A member of the group explained Band of BROTHERS to me and graciously volunteered to discuss the book with me if I still wanted to read it. I did read it, and I have been donating to the Prison Fellowship ever since.

Prison Fellowship is the largest Christian nonprofit serving prisoners, former prisoners and their families, while advocating for criminal justice reform. I gave my \$25 to the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree, which provides gifts to the children of an incarcerated parent, along with a note from them.

International Programs

**Margaret
Griffin**

[Heifer International](#)

I gave bees, a hive, a bee box & beekeeper training to a small farm farmer, through Heifer International! This will aid the farmer in increasing production and produce honey that he/she can sell!

Dianna Howell

[Mountain Seed
Foundation](#)

After much thought and prayer, I discovered the Mountain Seed Foundation and gave my \$25 along with my own money to this organization.

The Mountain Seed Foundation provides mental health support to children and their families caught in the war zones of Europe, primarily in Ukraine. It was founded by Nathan Schmidt, a U.S. Marine who served in war-torn countries for many years. The non-profit was inspired by Matthew 17: 21. Through Nathan's own experience with PTSD and the impacts on his family, he grew to recognize the importance of mental health support. He experienced healing in nature, most notably in mountaineering. It took faith and mountains to finally get Nathan to a place of hope and the ability to heal. He shares that his faith, the mountains, and listening, allowed him to understand this calling—the

		<p>calling to help others find peace and hope for the most vulnerable and the innocent victims of conflict: the children and their families.</p> <p>The program has a Healing Base Camp in Austria where Ukrainian participants learn to build resilience through mountaineering. Climbing tall mountains challenges them physically and mentally, while therapists give the families personalized one-on-one sessions to help give them healthy coping skills.</p> <p>I can't do much to help those facing war, but at least I know my donation is helping others to heal from the tragedies they have faced.</p>
Dick Foster	<u>Samaritan's Purse</u>	<p>I added a little cash and made a donation to Samaritan's Purse to be used to plant a grove of fruit trees in Southern Sudan or Uganda. I'm a strong believer in the adage to "give a man a fish, feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime." This grove of trees will provide family income, food for a starving population, remove carbon dioxide from the air, and give off oxygen for generations.</p>
Anonymous	<u>Doctors Without Borders</u>	<p>I donated (plus a matching gift) to Doctors Without Borders for medical personnel caring for the injured and babies in Gaza.</p>

The RRPC Mission Committee is grateful to everyone who participated in the Love Your Neighbor campaign. We've been inspired by your stories and look forward to repeating this project in the future!



Round Rock Presbyterian Church