



# TREE OF LIFE

MINISTRIES — JOHN 10:10

Spring/Summer Newsletter 2016

tolministries.org

## Director's Message

Dell Nunaley

It is a pleasure to use this space to say hello, to the Tree of Life community, our partners, volunteers, community sponsors and donors. My wife, Sophiann and I have been blessed in so many ways by the Purcellville community over the past 22 years, raising three sons with the help of our excellent local schools and the Christian family as experienced by our local parish church, St. Peter's. It is with no small amount of joy and expectation that this opportunity has been accepted as our next service to this community which has meant so much to our good life.

Nunaley Family After a career in the US Army and also many wonderful years as a corporate Human Resources executive, it's exciting to work daily in the same community that I live and worship. It's inspiring to contemplate the local connections with sponsoring churches and local business leaders that will enrich my life as we connect on goals and outcomes that Tree of Life will bring to Purcellville and western Loudoun county on behalf of those in need, and with the full support of those who are positioned and willing to help us address that need.



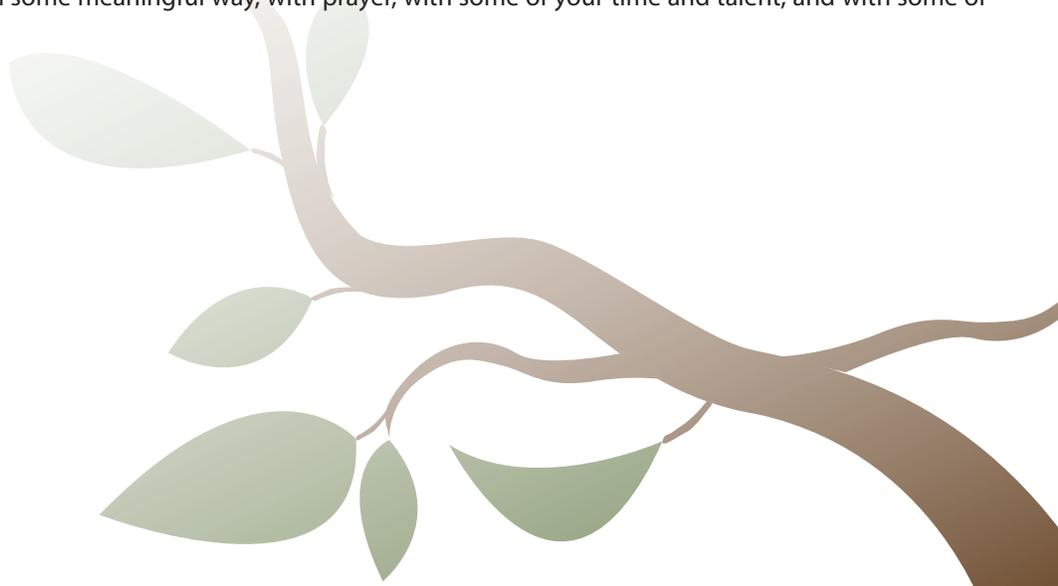
Speaking to some of those goals and outcomes, I want to briefly share a couple of goals that will further enable our organization in 2016. First, a goal to address the lifeblood of our organization, our many and enthusiastic volunteers who we depend upon daily. This year will see the launch of the Tree of Life Training Academy by which we will offer each volunteer the opportunity to become a Certified TOL Volunteer. This award will be realized when each volunteer completes approximately three hours of skills training involving basic TOL processes, procedures, and supporting tools, demonstrating their mastery of Core Values and their application, and gaining the capability of sharing their transforming faith with our partners. TOL leaders will also gain skills in basic leadership techniques and procedures critical to supporting our mission and vision. Second, we are launching an initiative to invite selected partners to join together in small groups that meet more regularly with us to help them significantly improve their life circumstances by engaging in life skill classes and a spiritual development course called Christianity Explored. It is one way to "hand up" to our partners to help them realize untapped potential and restore basic dignity as a child of God.

Perhaps you can catch some of my excitement! It's a wonderful place to work alongside some outstanding people with love and purpose in their hearts. It's a humbling and fulfilling opportunity to realize the affect of putting Jesus Christ as foremost in our community. It's a joy to see the eyes of those who experience hope through the efforts of our many volunteers. As we go forward, I hope to meet many of you who read this, and invite you to join us in some meaningful way, with prayer, with some of your time and talent, and with some of the treasure that God has given to us.

In Christ,

*Dell Nunaley*

Director, Tree of Life, Purcellville Region





## Tree of Life Academy

### *Dear Volunteers at Tree of Life.*

I'm happy to announce that we're ready to begin our Training Academy for TOL volunteers both newly signed on as well as those who have been with us for some time. We value the love and care which you so wonderfully exhibit for our partner base, and we want to invest in your capability and desire to work together as a team. To that end we have developed three training classes which will equip you with the skills and knowledge we want all our volunteers to have as you work in your individual role. Final completion will result in a Certified TOL Volunteer award.

The Training Academy courses that we expect all volunteers to have completed are as follows:

**COURSE 1: TOL POLICIES, PROCEDURES & OPERATIONAL SUPPORT**

**COURSE 2: TOL CORE VALUES**

**COURSE 3: SHARING OUR FAITH**

Each course will be 45-50 minutes in length and will be offered every other month, on the 3rd Saturday of the month, starting in June. The attached schedule will give you the time and date each month that the courses are given, so that you can plan ahead to complete all three. At this time all courses are scheduled at the TOL facility in Purcellville. You have complete flexibility in deciding when you can be available to complete each course, some might decide to knock out all three on the same Saturday, others may want to spread the three courses out over three or more months. Also, you may complete each course in any order, each course stands alone and is not a prerequisite for another. The 2016 schedule will also be listed on our website at [www.tolministries.org](http://www.tolministries.org). By the end of this year we'll see how we did in getting all volunteers through the courses and then publish the schedule for 2017 for ongoing volunteer training.

I encourage you to take time now to look at the schedule, at your planning calendar, and map out the times which best fit your availability. We look forward to congratulating everyone as a Certified TOL Volunteer upon completion!

*Dell Nunaley*

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### 2016 SCHEDULE FOR TREE OF LIFE TRAINING ACADEMY

#### June 18, 2016

9-10 AM	TOL Policies, Procedures & Operational Support
10-11 AM	TOL Core Values
11- 12 PM	Sharing Our Faith

#### August 20, 2016

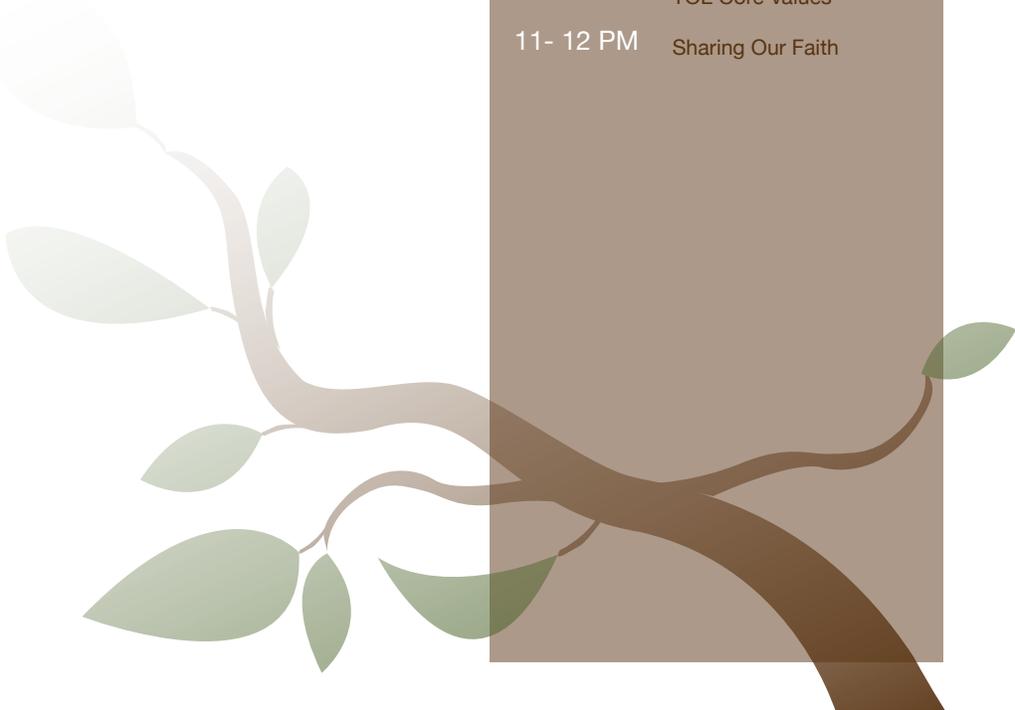
9-10 AM	TOL Policies, Procedures & Operational Support
10-11 AM	TOL Core Values
11- 12 PM	Sharing Our Faith

#### October 15, 2016

9-10 AM	TOL Policies, Procedures & Operational Support
10-11 AM	TOL Core Values
11- 12 PM	Sharing Our Faith

#### December 10, 2016

9-10 AM	TOL Policies, Procedures & Operational Support
10-11 AM	TOL Core Values
11- 12 PM	Sharing Our Faith



## Community Impact



### Lowers Risk Group Employees Donate 2 Tons of Food to Tree of Life

Over a short period of just two weeks, 19 teams of Lowers Risk Group employees stepped up to meet a heart-based challenge to collect donations for the Food Pantry at Tree of Life Ministries. The company competition among 300+ employees yielded a total of more than 2 tons of food for the pantry, 4,056 lbs. to be precise.

Lowers Food Donation Lowers Risk Group, comprised of three companies: Lowers & Associates, Proforma Screening Solutions, and Wholesale Screening Solutions, encouraged the 19 teams with promises of earning company service badges and a company pizza party if the teams met the goal of 3,500 items. Last year, the combined companies donated 3,000 items and this year, set out to break that record.

Lowers Risk Group also contributed generously to the Community Serve Day held by Tree of Life on April 30, which supported 525 people from the community with free clothes and furniture and included the renovation of the home of an 83 year old lady who lives alone.

Tree of Life Regional Director, Dell Nunaley, stated, "This is the fullest that I've seen the shelves of our Food Pantry at this time of year. We are tremendously thankful to the management and employees at Lowers Risk Group for their generosity and thoughtfulness."

## Reaching Out

### Volunteer Highlight: Barbara Chauncey

Barbara Chauncey is our highlighted volunteer for this quarter. Barbara is an exemplar of what showing the love of Jesus Christ looks like in action in our community. She leads our ministry of visitation to the elderly poor (shown in photo) and needy who are often homebound, and isolated. Barbara is especially gifted in showing love with her attentive visits that often reveal areas of need that we might additionally support



at Tree of Life. Our recent rehabilitation of an elderly woman's home during the Community Serve Day project is a good example of how Barbara reaches out with a loving visit, and with great compassion and observation relates the need to fix up a house that has become dilapidated over a number of years.

This ministry, called Crowns of Glory, is a relatively new ministry to TOL that expresses our desire to share the love of Jesus Christ to those seniors not currently served by a church community by providing practical, spiritual and social support. We identify their needs and match those with TOL ministries as well as outside agency services. Our volunteers visit once a week for one hour and build a relationship with support where needed.

Often it is the volunteer who is most blessed by the one being served. For example, Mr. G is a WWII paratrooper who loves to share some of his memorabilia and pictures. Miss B is a woman who loves visitors who will pray with her. Mrs. S has many challenges which result in several opportunities to minister to her. Barbara has a favorite saying which she uses in training her volunteers, "One thing is certain, the volunteer's time spent with these seniors is never dull!"

We are blessed to have a volunteer leader like Barbara who has such a great heart for her work and for her partners!



## Reaching Out Bonus

### Intern Highlights: Viking Capstone Project Lydia Martin and Michael Nunes

Michael Nunes This spring has brought Tree of Life two special volunteers, Lydia Martin and Michael Nunes, who are graduating seniors at Loudoun Valley High this month. Over three weeks from May 16 to June 6, Lydia and Michael have explored the various ministry areas of TOL by jumping in and performing either as a volunteer or acting as a partner in the case of receiving coaching in job searching. They are part of the Viking Capstone project of LCHS, the mission of which is to provide graduates of Loudoun Valley with meaningful experiences, self-fulfillment, and opportunities for post-secondary success through civic engagement and career exploration.

During their three week period with Tree of Life both Lydia and Michael have worked at least 80 hours in such activities as the food pantry, stocking shelves, weighing and packing food items for deliveries, taking in food donations, and actually delivering food to partners in need. They have worked as servers and greeters during our Thursday evening community kitchen dinners, and have helped our ESOL ministry leader on various tasks as partners learn to speak and read English. They have worked with special needs children during our Still Waters ministry on Monday nights. They have learned how a “hand up” to partners is made real by seeing a Partner Care review team in action, and sharing in a Partner Care dinner that offered selected partners a chance to join in a group function. They also have taken on and completed some special projects for TOL which enabled the food pantry to better understand periodic trends in inventory, and which allowed TOL to document the whole shop equipment for insurance purposes. The three weeks have flown by and culminated in a trip to Winchester to work with our once per month dinner service to the Winchester Salvation Army shelter.



In her own words Lydia expresses best the experience that she and Michael gained in this short time with us: “In April of last year, I began volunteering at Tree of Life. It gave me so much satisfaction to play with the special need students and help provide a respite for their parents. It was only a natural that Tree of Life was the first organization that came to mind when having to choose a senior project this year. The Bible says, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” As a volunteer at Tree of Life I certainly have found that to be true. As I plan to major in social work in college, this experience has proven to me I am making the right choose for my life’s work.”

Lydia Martin She adds the following: “The last three weeks of my capstone project was an amazing experience. Who knew I would be so happy to report to “work” instead of going to school? I love working with the staff and seeing what they do from day-to-day. Even though I am only volunteering, I still gained so much. I learned to work with others, and the life skills I obtained through their Workforce Connection Program will help me throughout my life’s journey. But most importantly I have learned what it means to live for Christ and be Christ-like. I do plan to continue volunteering when I am home from college and after college.”

