



## **SPARKS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –MINISTRY ACHIEVEMENTS in 2023**

### **RIP Medical Debt**

In partnership with Reno First and St. Paul United Methodist Church, we resolved over \$2,000,000 in medical debt for 1,230 Nevada families

### **Food Pantry**

30 volunteers helped provide over 75 tons of food to families over the year. Each week more than 90 families were able to gain food to support their needs both at the pantry and through home delivery

### **Outreach**

Through contributions to the Giving Tree, Greenbrae, Robert Mitchell and Florence Drake Elementary schools each received \$650 in gift cards to help underprivileged families have Christmas

The congregation also provided funds for the Outreach Team to support facility improvements at each of the schools

Christmas in July donations provided \$500 to each of the elementary schools for needed school supplies in support of teachers

### **Pumpkin Patch**

32 volunteers staffed the Pumpkin Patch this year, selling 1,557 pumpkins for \$12,388, netting \$4,118 towards the Community Café. The Pumpkin Farm awarded the SUMC patch as the Top Selling organization in the State of Nevada

### **Community Café**

With the money earned through the Pumpkin Patch, the 10 Community Cafe volunteers served 667 people in our community with 10 monthly dinners

### **CROP Walk**

Sponsored through the Church World Service, this year's CROP Walk made \$15,933 towards fighting hunger, "One Step At a Time". Of that, our congregation provided almost a third at \$5,056

### **Nursing Home Help**

The United Women of Faith, in cooperation with the children's' Sunday School Class, provided candy and support so that the children could provide candy to the residents of the Rosewood Convalescent Center. The children walked the halls of Rosewood 4 times this year handing out candy and bringing cheer to the residents. The most recent Christmas visit provided candy to 92 residents

### **Prayer Ministry**

There are 101 volunteers associated with the church Prayer Ministry, providing daily prayers for people of our church, our community and nationally

### **All In The Family**

The All In The Family committee supported movies this year for the children attending the Community Café. Their volunteers also coordinated activities for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Barbeque, Halloween's Safe Trunk or Treat and the annual Easter Egg Hunt

### **Human Needs**

In support of the needy in our community, the 6 volunteers of Human Needs used the congregational donations to provide over \$4,000 in assistance to those with the risk of having their utilities shut down. Another \$2,000 was provided for temporary living arrangements to get people off the street. Through our Food Pantry, another 50 individuals were helped by providing community assistance information for medical care, obtaining ID's, housing assistance, and additional food resources

### **Christmas Shoe Box Ministry**

For the second year the congregation provided gifts for children throughout the nation and world. 61 shoe boxes were filled this year as part of Operation Christmas Child

### **Project 150**

In cooperation with the Sunday Reflections Small Group, the church provided two pick-up trucks full of food and toiletries in support of Project 150. This non-profit provides clothing, food, toiletries and assistance to homeless and underprivileged high school students in the Reno/Sparks area

### **Paint The Church**

To help support the repaint of the church, the Sunday Reflections Small Group provided a meal for the congregation to gain project donations. Over \$4,400 was raised by the congregation to kick start the project

### **Prayer Quilt Ministry**

This past year six volunteers created 32 Prayer Quilts to help those going through medical problems and let them know the church and God are with them

### **United Methodist Men's Group**

The Men's breakfast group contributed \$400 to assist Pack 43 Cub Scouts with required registration fees. The group also paid \$200 to the local Boy Scouts of America annual fund raiser

### **SUMC Visitation Team**

Nine volunteers coordinated monthly visits with seven church members who are home bound and unable to physically attend church