

# JupiterFIRST Church Annual Mission Report for 2017

## STUDENT MINISTRY MISSIONS

### ***YEAR-LONG PROMISE***

In early 2016, our youth group decided as a church family to sponsor a child in need. Through an organization called Gospel for Asia, they were able to adopt a child, through their program, called Bridge of Hope. This program gives more than 75,000 needy children a daily meal and regular medical checkups for their physical health and development. It also helps the children with their education, so they can one day get a good job and become self-sufficient and care for their families. Beyond this, Bridge of Hope provides the children with opportunities to pursue and even excel in their God-given skills and interests. Our youth group performs efforts throughout the year to build their own Mission fund. From that fund they support a child named Hamid, who writes to them as they support his future. This has given our students a connection to a child less fortunate than them and widens their scope of awareness of poverty.

### ***MISSION TRIPS SUMMER 2017***

#### **Mission Trip to Haiti at Be Like Brit Orphanage**



From January 21st-28<sup>th</sup>, a team of staff members, adults, and young adults travelled to Grand Goave, Haiti with the Be Like Brit Foundation. The orphanage was built after the 2010 earthquake that struck the country, killing 300,000 people including a team of Lynn University students and professor. The orphanage is named after one of these students, Britney Gengel. Our team from JupiterFIRST spent 5 days in Haiti. They built two houses and interacted with the children of the orphanage.

#### **Los Angeles Missions Trip to Union Rescue Mission**

The Union Rescue Mission is a non-profit homeless shelter in Los Angeles on Skid Row. The organization serves the local community by providing 3 meals a day to people in need. In addition to providing overnight housing resources and medical attention, the organization runs recovery programs to rehabilitate those facing homelessness.

This summer, from June 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 31 upperclassmen students and chaperones worked at the shelter, and later on July 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, a second team of 23 our underclassmen students and chaperones volunteered as well.

# JupiterFIRST Church Annual Mission Report for 2017

## ***VOLUNTEERING***

### **Real Life Children's Ranch**

The Real Life Children's Ranch is an important part of the outreach of JupiterFIRST, especially in our Student Program. The facility provides a foster home for 40 children and families in Okeechobee. Many of the children are recipients of our Secret Shepherd program gifts. This year, JupiterFIRST made several trips to RLCR, each with a purpose and a lot of love.

### **Real Life Children's Ranch – Spring Trip**

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 20 members of the JupiterFIRST Youth Group travelled to Okeechobee to the Real Life Children's Ranch, a group foster home that provides housing and stable life for local children in need. While there, our team completed multiple construction projects including removing a ½ mile long fence. Additionally, the team hosted a BBQ lunch for the staff, families, and children at the facility.

### **Real Life Children's Ranch – Mission Trip**

From July 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, a group of 24 students and adults hosted a mini mission trip at the Real Life Children's Ranch. The collaboration between Chloe Rits (JupiterFIRST Church), Alex Alexis (Generation Church), and Matt Uhlman (Lake Worth First Church) was a "one church" mentality effort to combine students from local churches. While there, the teams completed multiple construction projects for the Ranch, including palm tree removal, landscaping, concrete work, donation center organization and more. Additionally, students participated in nightly Bible studies and morning devotions.



### **Real Life Children's Ranch – Fall Trip**

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12 members of JupiterFIRST Church travelled to Okeechobee to the Real Life Children's Ranch, a group foster home that provides housing and stable life for local children in need. While there, our team completed multiple construction projects including landscaping and concrete work. Additionally, the team hosted a BBQ lunch for the staff, families, and children at the facility.

### **Vacation Bible School**

On the week of June 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, more than 25 of our middle school and high school students volunteered for the Children's Ministry's annual Vacation Bible School. By doing so, our teens provided their services as volunteers and role models to the younger children in our community, as spiritual leaders and program coordinators.

# JupiterFIRST Church Annual Mission Report for 2017

## Rummage Sale

On the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, over 100 volunteers of adults and teenagers volunteered at our largest annual fundraiser for our youth mission team. Volunteers logged over 1,000 hours for this year's fundraiser for the summer youth mission trip. This year was the 11<sup>th</sup> annual sale, raised over \$21,000 – beating the record for most sales ever for the event. This provided opportunity for our students to travel to Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles to serve the homeless population of Skid Row.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MISSIONS

Our Children's Ministry brought outreach efforts into every aspect of the ministry attempting to help our Children appreciate the value of giving back.

### *Kingdom Caravan Agape Station*

Cros Ministries Knapsack Program – Children bagged Beans and Rice for the Nutrition in a Knapsack program.



Teacher Agape – Children made “Post-it Note” agape for their teachers.



Blessing of the Backpacks – This effort resulted in backpacks and luggage tags to all children for their backpacks, as a back to school event.

- 100 backpacks to Jupiter Elementary School
- 8 backpacks to Real Life Children's Ranch
- 35 backpacks to The Lord's Place
- 2 backpacks to Joshua Cafe
- 50 backpacks to Guardian Ad Litem
- 105 backpacks to Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Total 295



Manna Bags: Children assembled 100 Manna Bags for the **homeless**. Food Pantry helped distribute them as well as select JFC members.



# JupiterFIRST Church Annual Mission Report for 2017

Six Agape gifts were created and assembled by the children for the Spring Emmaus and Girl's Chrysalis Agapes weekends – crowns, bracelets, gift boxes, goldfish, and more.

In addition, our children assembled goody bags and placemats for The Lewis Center as part of our support for the Help and Hope initiative. Children also sent college care packages and cards to one of our volunteers who started her first year of college, Miss Lily (Jurskis).

## ***NO LIMITS! Youth Group Missions***



Valentine's for our Soldiers – The children made and assembled Valentine's for the troops. NO LIMITS! Youth Group provided Valentines for the military serving our country. Three boxes of agapes were sent to our friend AO3 Kimberly Ross, (Aviation Ordnanceman Third Class (Naval rating)) serving on the USS Carl Vinson and her fellow sailors.

## ***Spark Kids! Youth Group Missions***



Valentine's for our Soldiers – The children made and assembled Valentine's for the troops. They were mailed overseas to Middle East.

## ***Vacation Bible School Missions***



This year the children put together over 200 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child - Samaritan's Purse – Parents of VBS participants donated the toys and essentials for the boxes. Each child made a card or wrote a letter to place inside their box.



## ***Coffee Break for Parents***



Coffee Break for parents at the Palm Beach Children's Hospital at St. Mary's. Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, volunteers bring coffee, donuts, snacks, water, etc. to parents so they can take "a break" from caring for their child while at the hospital.

# JupiterFIRST Church Annual Mission Report for 2017

## HELP AND HOPE



An outreach program, coined “Help & Hope” was formed in 2016. The Help & Hope program is an opportunity to partner with the Homeless Coalition and local restaurants to cater and serve the homeless population at the Lewis Center, located in West Palm Beach. The Lewis Center is a point of access for homeless individuals seeking assistance to restore a self-sufficient and productive lifestyle. In 2017 twice-a-month we send 6 volunteers to serve meals to 60-70 people at the center. Due to the overwhelming response by our volunteers and anonymous donors, we were able to serve two meals on the

second and third Thursday of each month. In 2017 we provided 1,680 meals. We also have volunteers who help with receiving, sorting and compiling entrance bags at the center, which provides necessities for those needing assistance. Finally, our congregation makes donations of various clothing and household items, which are given to the residents once they secure a job and a home.

## HURRICANE RELIEF

Jupiter was fortunate to avoid the devastation that can be caused by a hurricane, but we are aware of the destruction one can cause. For that reason, we react swiftly when our neighbors are impacted. In 2017, JupiterFIRST Church and its members provided hurricane relief in the form of supplies and cash donations (\$9,954) to both Prestonwood Baptist Church in Texas and to the residents of the Florida Keys.



## SUPPORT FOR OUR LOCAL VETERANS HOSPITAL

### *Inpatient Extended Stay Kit drive*

In time for November’s Veterans Day, the members of our church participated in a drive to provide Inpatient Extended Stay Kits for the Veteran’s Hospital in West Palm Beach. Members provided items for the kits, or made donations totaling \$675, allowing 100 kits to be assembled and delivered by one of our High School students Jay Leno IV.

# JupiterFIRST Church Annual Mission Report for 2017

## SECRET SHEPHERD

The Annual Secret Shepherd program allows our congregation to provide gifts to needy children throughout the local community. The 2017 Secret Shepherd program supported 10 agencies and even a few families from our church. This year we distributed a total of 475 gifts, including 122 bicycles and trikes. The program begins in September and ends two weeks before Christmas. Each year our volunteers coordinate with new and former agencies, gather gift request information for all the children (wish lists), and sign up children for congregation members. The last phase is receiving and distributing the gifts and bicycles. Over 55 church volunteers along with a team of coordinators helped make this year's Secret Shepherd program a success.



## CANS FOR COMMUNION



The Cans for Communion project originated with the Sunday Morning Bible Study group nine years ago. Our congregants were very generous again this year donating over 356 boxes of food. Most of the boxes weigh over 25 pounds, so we estimate that we collected between four and one-half and five tons of food. Some of the food stays here at the church to be given to people in need identified by the church staff. The rest is taken to the Christians Reaching Out to Society (CROS) Food Pantry located in the Jupiter Neighborhood

Resource Center. The pantry is open 2 to 4 PM on Tuesdays and Fridays. We haven't received a client count for 2017 yet, but we know that 3,460 individuals were served at the Jupiter Food Pantry in 2016.

## NUTRITION IN A KNAPSACK

The Nutrition In a Knapsack (NIK) program is designed to address chronic hunger among elementary-age children in the public schools. It provides nutritious food to eligible children who might not have food over the weekend during the academic year. The NIK program is funded by private donations to CROS Ministries and a grant from the Quantum Foundation. We have a loyal group of 20 volunteers who pack, deliver, and distribute food to 145 students at Jupiter Elementary School. We participated in the program January thru May 2017. Unfortunately, the CROS NIK program, and all other Palm Beach County School District programs designed to address food insecurity issues in the schools, were put on hold September 2017. The school district Hunger Relief Collaboration Team is in the process of developing centralized procedures for all school food distribution programs in the county. We learned as of this writing that the program will resume in February and our team of volunteers stands ready to again fight hunger one child, one school at a time.

# JupiterFIRST Church Annual Mission Report for 2017

## EL SOL

El Sol is a community resource center that provides support, education, and social services to those in need, especially day laborers and their families. In 2017 the church donated \$7,724 to El Sol as part of our Interfaith Service at Thanksgiving. In addition, throughout the year volunteers support initiatives of El Sol. Through our Secret Shepherd program children at El Sol receive Christmas gifts each year. This is one of the many ways JupiterFIRST fulfills our call to take care of the least of these among us.

## PRAYER SHAWL

Our group of knitters and crocheters had such fun this year, our twelfth year, making a total of 236 prayer shawls, hats, scarves, teddy bears, baby blankets, and lap robes. While they continued making shawls for those in our congregation in need of comfort and for patients at Jupiter Medical Center, they began to focus more on outreach nationwide to those in need. The newest recipient is Camp Boggy Creek ([boggycreek.org](http://boggycreek.org)) in Eustis, Florida, where chronically ill children can go for a week or weekend of fun camp, supervised by a team of expert health care providers and others. The parents get a breather while the children have fun. Each child takes home a knitted lap robe and a hand-sewn teddy bear. This camp, founded by Paul Newman and others, was inspirational for our members, Susan and Craig Brown, who visited this fall to deliver lap robes for the children.

The Prayer Shawl Team works on making hats and scarves all year and sent boxes to churches in both Cleveland and San Francisco for distribution to the homeless in December. They also sent 30 hats to a church in Santa Rosa, California after the devastating wildfires destroyed 27 church members' homes.

This year they also all contributed to purchase a prepared Thanksgiving meal to help out a needy family who was unable to cook a fancy meal because of medical issues.

This group participated in Vacation Bible School, helping all the children to make yarn pom-poms and bracelets.

The friendships they have formed are priceless, and they welcome all new members to the Monday night (6:30-8) and Tuesday afternoon (2-3:30) meetings.

## MEALS MINISTRY

The Meals Ministry at JupiterFIRST Church provides occasional meals for members and friends of the congregation. When the need arises, members prepare and deliver a meal. Meals are supplied on a short-term emergency basis, as members experience hospitalization, health challenges, or even the arrival of a new baby. In 2017 this ministry team delivered meals to approximately 25 families.

# JupiterFIRST Church Annual Mission Report for 2017

## DAILY AND WEEKLY MISSION WORK

There isn't a day that goes by without our Prayer Chain members lifting up the cares and concerns of the congregation in prayer. Each week the trained volunteers in our Stephens Ministry reach out to the lonely and hurting. The Grief Group also meets to lend support and consolation to those who have lost a loved one and the Support Group for Caregivers of persons with Dementia provides bi-monthly opportunities for mutual support, practical information on care-giving challenges, and encouragement for self-care in an environment of love and grace.

Each week we open our doors to the fellowships of AA and Al Anon, which meet on Thursday night in our Center for Spiritual Renewal. With these 12-step groups we affirm to our community the principle of spiritual progress, not perfection.

## THE LEAST OF THESE

This year JupiterFIRST was able to provide help and hope for 40 families/individuals in need that came in looking for personal or family assistance because of unexpected hardship or misfortune. We maintain a Least of These Restricted Mission Fund for just this purpose. After a standard assessment and interview, we were able to render assistance in terms of food, fuel, utilities or housing. While we never give out cash, we can provide relief by working directly with vendors.