

Rise Up! for Kids

Rise Up for Kids is dedicated to inspiring, influencing, and impacting kids to one day attain post high school training and education degrees through mentoring, after school, and relationship education programs. Since 1994, over 1,000 students have attended our afterschool programs. Others attended our small groups or relational education classes.

Our Mission: By 2027, to inspire another 100 youth to succeed through small groups, after school, and individual mentoring.

Our Vision: To inspire kids to be relationally successful and prepared for the future.

Our Core Values: We believe that youth who come to Rise Up...

- **BELONG HERE:** Everyone needs family and community to thrive.
- **NEVER JUST ACT OUT:** If they are walking outside the lines, we must ask “Why is this kid acting this way?” or, “What happened to you?”
- **SHOULD BE PRAYED FOR:** Regardless of whether one is inclined to pray or not, everyone should have someone who will, just for a moment, think heavenly thoughts of them.
- **HAVE GREAT FUTURES:** We are called to help them realize it.
- **NEED ACCEPTANCE:** Every youth’s story is different, but all need to be accepted and loved without judgement, which is different from approval.
- **WILL KNOW THAT GOD LOVES THEM:** We are a traditional Christ-based program, but emphasize that not everyone will think, act, or believe as we do. However, all children should believe they are loved by us.
- **NEED CHEERLEADERS & COACHES:** The need to be taught life skills (coaches) and told they have what it takes and are unique and divinely made (cheerleaders).
- **LEARN TO THINK:** Youth need to be tender-hearted but tough-minded, and be able to think truthfully in a world that sends so many messages of “you’re not enough,” and “think only of yourself”.

The River

The River provides women in poverty a safe place to meet, basic needs on a daily basis, and additional support programs that educate and empower women for independent living. Since 2004, The River has served thousands of women & children in need. Many are without support networks and are at severe risk of falling between the cracks into greater poverty, homelessness, and desperation. But we believe every woman has gifts and strengths she can build on to be successful, and sometimes all that is needed is a friend to help. Through non-judgmental support, respect, and love, The River brings hope to the women it serves and is a catalyst to transform the lives of women in East Tennessee.

Core services that meet basic needs include a safe haven during the day, laundry services, showers & hygiene assistance including feminine hygiene products, snacks & beverages, phone & mail support, community resource referrals, and a supportive and encouraging presence that often is missing in their lives.

Support programs that focus on independent living and are responsive to the needs of the women include daily devotions, free hair-cut days, pet therapy, a creativity space, job search assistance, weekly educational & life skills classes, special events and life celebrations, the Changing Lives From The Bottom Up diaper subsidy program, and a place where women can be a part of a positive community.

“How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”

1 John 3:17-18

Covenant Presbyterian Church
603 Sunset Drive
Johnson City, TN 37604

2021 ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR GIVING GUIDE



May we carry Christ’s light throughout the world surrounding our sisters and brothers with Love, Joy and Peace. May these and blessings of Christmas be yours.

NOVEMBER 21, 2021



WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT ANYWAY?

Covenant is sponsoring its 28th Alternative Gift Fair this year. We do this to provide an “alternative” to typical gift giving during the holiday season. It is a special opportunity to give to those in need. The enclosed information gives you a chance to think about worthy organizations and how we as a Christian community can become partners in the work of the Church. This year, the Local & World Wide Missions Committee has selected six mission organizations: BABMOC, Holston Presbytery Camp, Rise Up! For Kids, Second Harvest Food Bank, The River, and Tri-Cities LatinX. The Committee hopes that you will take this opportunity to use some of your gift-giving dollars in support of these ministries. It is an opportunity to enrich the lives of not only the loved ones you are giving the gift to, but also the lives of untold numbers of others. They will all appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness. The chance to give to these worthy ministry organizations will continue through the Advent season, so you will have ample time to participate.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast TN has led the effort to end hunger in our area since 1986 and serves the 8-county region composed of Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties. Since federal nutrition programs don't reach everyone in need, food banks help fill the gap. For every \$1 donated, Second Harvest Food Bank can provide up to \$8.69 worth of groceries.

Second Harvest collects and distributes food throughout our community using a variety of programs and services including:

- ◆ **Food for Kids Backpack Program:** supplies a bag of healthy food and snacks to children who are most at risk for hunger to take home from school every other weekend during the school year.
- ◆ **Summer Food Service Program:** serves meals to children who would not otherwise have enough to eat during the summer months.
- ◆ **Fresh Produce Distribution:** distributes fresh produce to individuals and families in low-income communities.
- ◆ **Mobile Food Pantry:** delivers food directly to people in areas where a food pantry or soup kitchen may not be available.
- ◆ **Senior Grocery Program:** provides food distribution to low-income seniors, increasing their access to food.
- ◆ **Breakfast After the Bell:** provides alternative breakfast models for schools to ensure children have a hunger free start to their day.

HOLSTON PRESBYTERY CAMP

Lead, Learn, Love & Laugh at Holston Camp

Every summer since 1952, Holston Camp has welcomed kids seeking a refuge from the seasonal heat and a sanctuary for spiritual, mental and physical growth into 150 acres of forest, lakes and streams nestled in the mountains of Banner Elk, NC. Ours is a tradition of small group camping. We furnish minds, bodies and souls with skills essential to both social and character development with an emphasis on

Christian values. Eight week-long sessions of overnight and day camps offer young people the opportunity to step away from the mundane, to unplug and embark on a spiritual journey where they may recognize a greater purpose for their lives.

We don't preach, we engage. We don't bully, we encourage. We don't discriminate, we include. We don't judge, we love. We are about being positive and optimistic as we rise to meet the challenges of the new day. We walk a path toward discovery & enlightenment as we embrace God's boundless gifts and share them with all people.

But for the other 10 months of the year, we are a multi-facility retreat center complete with lodging, dining hall, activities within a campus of wooded trails, crystal streams, and mountain vistas. We are available for small and large church groups, business retreats, family reunions, or other programs. Get your spiritual refreshment close to heaven; after all, it's YOUR camp.

(844) HOLSTON. www.holstoncenter.org.

Tri-Cities Latin X

TriCities LX was established as a Christian outreach for the local LatinX immigrant population in this region. Headed by Father Tim Holder of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and guided by the Biblical command to 'welcome the stranger' (Lev. 19:34), this consortium of local churches, schools, and organizations seek to help our LatinX neighbors experience love, hospitality, and dignity through various projects and events which strengthen the whole of our community together.

Recent events have included Covid Relief and School Preparedness for the LatinX Community - where we provided Walmart gift cards, Covid-19 vaccinations, and other supportive services before students started the new school year. We continue to meet regularly to brainstorm other ways to reach out to our LatinX neighbors, including home visits and offering spiritual support.

We appreciate Covenant's involvement with this work and ask everyone to continue to pray for our LatinX neighbors, that they would know that they are respected, loved, and a valuable part of this community.

BEAR ANOTHER'S BURDEN'S MINISTRY OF CHRIST

BABMOC School provides primary education free of charge to Liberian children whose parents can't afford to pay the fees for them to attend other existing schools.

We now have 148 students grades K thru 6th grade attending our school in Monrovia, Liberia. We also have developed a scholarship program which allows 18 of our graduated 6th graders to attend the 7th grade at nearby secondary schools. We are really excited that we can help them continue their education.

A native of Liberia, our founder, Isaac Mayon noted on a return visit home from America in 2009 that many children were not in school because their parents could not afford the fees, transportation, and supplies. A direct result of kids not being in school is that the literacy rate in Liberia is astoundingly low.

Bear Another's Burdens Ministry of Christ (BABMOC) built and opened a school that serves elementary-aged children on September 4, 2017. Our school is going strong and the hope is that this project will serve as a model for others in Liberia to join in the goal of providing totally free education to every child.

Our campus at the school also now has a deep water well providing the school and surrounding community with water that is WHO certified safe. This year, we expanded our solar powered battery system so that the water can be pumped consistently throughout the day and at night.

It costs \$15 per student per month to attend the BABMOC School. The amount to sponsor one child's education for one year is \$150.

Address:

BABMOC, c/o Treasurer

P.O. Box 3702

Johnson City, TN, 37602

Web address: www.babmoc.org

Like us on Facebook "Isaac's Dream for Liberian Kids"

BABMOC is a 501(c)(3) public charity.