

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. Since 1994, over 1,000 students have attended our afterschool programs, received mentoring, and participated in our small groups or relational education classes.

Our Mission: By 2027, to inspire another 100 youth to succeed through small groups, afterschool programs, 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**
- **Never Just Act Out**
- **Should Be Prayed For**
- **Have Great Futures**
- **Need Acceptance**
- **Will Know That God Loves Them**
- **Need Cheerleaders & Coaches**
- **Learn To Think**

THE RIVER

The River serves women and children in our community through a variety of services and the practice of radical hospitality. Core services help women meet basic needs, and support services move them towards self-sufficiency. Since 2004, The River has served thousands of women & children in need by providing a safe place, laundry and shower services, feminine hygiene assistance, mail and telephone support, resource referrals, free haircuts, pet therapy, a diaper subsidy program providing over 5,000 diapers a month, a creativity space and writing center, daily devotions, Intentional giving distribution days, Little Free Library, snacks and beverages, monthly BINGO, special events, and a supportive, non-judgmental, and welcoming space for ALL women. Our motto is “sharing loads of God's love.”

HOLSTON PRESBYTERY CAMP

Lead, Learn, Love & Laugh at Holston Camp

Greetings from your camp, Holston Camp & Retreat Center! During our summer season we see children from all over come to the beautiful mountains of western NC to learn to love creation, themselves, and Christ more deeply. We recognize the cost of just about everything these days continues to rise. Part of our mission is to make sure any child that wants to come to camp has that opportunity, regardless of financial ability. It is for that reason that in 2023 a scholarship fund was created for any child within the bounds of Holston Presbytery.

This year at the Alternative Gift Fair, you will have the opportunity to contribute to this fund. It is individuals like you who help make camp a possibility. Thank you in advance for your love of Holston and for helping to send a child to camp this summer. Please stop by to see our display and visit with Madeline Horne, Holston Camp & Retreat Center's Program Director.

(844) HOLSTON www.holstoncenter.org.

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**
- **Summer Food Service Program**
- **Fresh Produce Distribution**
- **Mobile Food Pantry**
- **Senior Grocery Program**
- **Breakfast After the Bell**

2023

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 12, 2023



WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT ANYWAY?

Covenant is sponsoring its 30th 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 seven mission organizations: UKirk ETSU, BABMOC, Holston Presbytery Camp, Rise Up! For Kids, Second Harvest Food Bank, The River, and For the Future of Guangaje Ecuador. 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.

UKIRK ETSU

UKirk ETSU is the Presbyterian Campus Ministry at ETSU and a Ministry of Holston Presbytery. UKirk, or “University Church,” is a worshipping community for college students of all faiths to gather in community, to follow Jesus, to share their struggles and their doubts, to serve and lift up one another, to strive for justice and inclusion, to live in awe and wonder, and to experience God. We gather on Monday nights throughout the semester for Dinner and Worship, as well as other times throughout the week to nurture the spiritual life of students.

Our Mission: The mission of UKirk ETSU is to provide a place to belong, for all people to learn about the love and grace of Jesus Christ, to experience a loving community and meaningful worship, and to find a safe space to consider the hard questions about faith.

Our Vision: Our vision is to grow a vibrant, inclusive community of students that share the love and grace of Jesus in the community and the world. We do this:

- by introducing students to the person, values, and life purpose of Jesus Christ;
- by providing meaningful opportunities to grow in faith and love that inspires the courage, confidence, and wisdom to serve Christ by serving those in need in the world;
- through engaging the Bible and having meaningful worship services and discussions;
- through the development of personal relationships that exhibit Christian values;
- by offering a Campus House marked by hospitality, comfort, and safety; and
- through activities in which students enact Christian ways of living and relating.

Our Core Values: UKirk ETSU is guided by our commitment to being Connectional, Inclusive, and embodying Love.

FOR THE FUTURE OF GUANGAJE, ECUADOR

Para El Futuro de Guangaje, Ecuador AKA For the Future of Guangaje, Ecuador (FFGE) is a non-profit organization founded by Dave and Julie Wood in 2018 as an outgrowth of the clinical work they have done for over 20 years in the region. Guangaje is a parish in the Cotopaxi Province, high in the mountains south of Quito, home to approximately 7,000 indigenous Quichua people. It is also one of the poorest areas in Ecuador.

This arid, high-altitude region gained its first high school in 2012, and since 2015 has had graduates prepared for further study. FFGE provides college scholarships for those students who qualify. This year we had our first 4 college graduates! Currently, 18 students are enrolled, and we hope to add 4 more recipients in the coming year.

The students, families, and the Guangaje community have tangible HOPE from this higher education to provide escape from the subsistence farming and grinding poverty they’ve inherited, and for these bright young people to establish themselves with rewarding and fruitful careers.

Our Mission is to support the optimal development of the youth in Guangaje and create future leaders, while honoring the culture and history of the Quichua people through:

1. Scholarships for youth attending university or vocational institutions.
2. Support for youth engagement in sports, art, music, and community service.

For more information, call Dave or Julie Wood at 904 891-1922 or email us at woodfamily5@bellsouth.net.

Website: www.forthefuturege.com

BEAR ANOTHER’S BURDENS 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 have 160 students grades K thru 6th grade attending our school in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. We do not require *any* fees from our children and their parents.

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. We opened our school in 2017.

Our campus at the school has a deep water well providing the school and surrounding community with water that is World Health Organization-certified safe for drinking. In the past year we helped rebuild a pedestrian bridge in our community over a creek that allows our students to come to school during the rainy season.

Our current challenges including repairing and expanding our solar battery power system that allows us to pump water and light the school when the Liberian power grid is down.

It costs \$15 per month to educate one student at our school. Your donations make it possible for these children to go to school!

“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