

THE AGAPE` CENTER NEWSLETTER

Agape Christian Children's Community Center
4605 Fleming Rd., PO Box 155, Horntown, VA 23395

A Mission of the Eastern Shore District of the United Methodist Church
Virginia Conference Advance Special #920

Doris Cropper, Director 757-824-0072

NOVEMBER 2018

Barbara Mason, Editor 757-336-6436



AGAPE HAS A FULL HOUSE

The 2018/2019 school year has Agape bursting at the seams! Right now, we have 19 little ones. Nine are three years old and ten are four years old! If you have ever tried to get a three year old to concentrate, you have an idea what our staff is facing with nine! We are blessed to have a wonderful staff who lovingly works with all the children. It seems that our director, Ms. Doris Cropper always has several children trying to get that special spot right next to her.

Can you find all 19 in the picture?



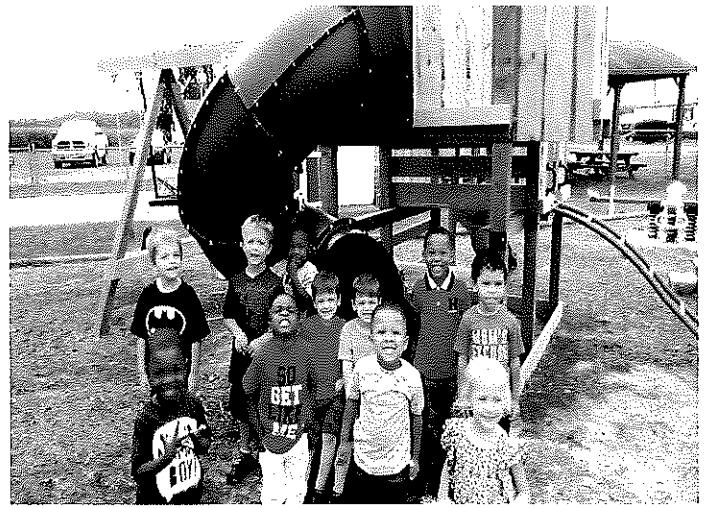
WE DID IT

Once again, we were able to offer a six week summer program with no cost to the families. Thanks to the VA Conference UM Women's Jean Frances Craig/Agnes C. Burr Mission Fund, who gave us a grant for \$3,500 along with South Hill UMC's Upper Room Ministry and our faithful supporters, we were able to offer an eight week Summer Program. Our salary expenses were \$10,667 and we raised \$10,343. Thank you for helping to provide a safe place for the children in the heat of summer.

Children ranged in age from 3 to 9. Our program was from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm and offered crafts, recreation, Vacation Bible School activities, 2 meals & 2 snacks. Programs were geared to age levels.

Accomack County Parks and Recreation provided lunches for six weeks. This was a blessing!

We welcomed Ms. Shy'Asia Blake and Ms. Dora Spady to our staff for the summer as part-time teacher aides. They were a big help!



STAFF NEWS

We said good-bye to Ms. Jaclyn Brown, who left us in August. We wish her blessings as she moves on from Agape.

We welcome Ms. Dora Spady to our staff. She was with us this summer and is now working with our after-school program. We are happy she has joined our staff.

We are also looking for a teacher and a teacher's aide since our enrollment keeps growing.



**JUST A NOTE FROM
MS. DORIS CROPPER,
DIRECTOR**

Each year, I anxiously await the children who walk through the doors of Agape, knowing or wondering, "Will these children be different than the children we had last year?" As God would have it, all children remain the same, with different faces and same personality. They all expect the same hugs, pats, kisses, tie my shoes and "I need to go potty." That is life. Children can never receive too much love or affection from me. They are, as I always say, "my babies." At Agape I try to follow the example of Jesus when He said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for the kingdom belongs to such as these." Many times as adults, I think, "Would it not be nice to be a child again? No pressures from the world, just having someone to take care of us." Is not that what our Heavenly Father does each day?



**HEARD IN THE
CLASSROOM**

- On a daily basis, the children go down for naps around 12:00 until 2:00. On this particular day, there appeared to be quite a bit of talking. Ms. Doris went to the door and asked, "Who is doing all this talking?" Everybody pointed to little Edgar. Ms. Doris said, "Edgar, don't you know you are not to be talking? Why are you not asleep? You're keeping everybody else awake." He looked at Ms. Doris and smiled and said, "Ms. Doris, I love you." (Needless to say, Ms. Doris felt really bad about scolding him.)
- We have found that each child this year has a problem with their shoe laces or Velcro fasteners. ALL day long, the shoes become untied, but no one is untying them. Is it possible that we have an "invisible person" unlacing shoes at the Center? The children say they didn't do it! We are trying to figure out who is doing this thing that keeps the staff tying shoes each day.
- Little Edgar, the smallest child in the Center (who the mother says was born prematurely) has such an old soul. Many times we think he's been here before and is always getting into trouble. He was so mischievous one day that the teacher said to him "Edgar, I may have to sit you in the hallway." Edgar left the classroom, went into the kitchen, moved a chair from the table, put it into the corner, got into the chair, and sat and talked with Ms. Robbin about how to fix lunch. (You've got to meet this child)
- During prayer time each morning, the children stand and offer their prayers to God. They pray for many things, from Mommy & Dad to their toys and pets. They began naming their friends, but left some kid's names out. After prayer that morning, Ms. Doris explained that it was not nice to name some children and not all, that in the future say, "and all my friends." The next time little Miliya prayed, she finished praying for Mommy and Dad, opened one eye and looked at Ms. Doris and started naming her special friends!

THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME SHARE THE STORY OF AGAPE

It was wonderful visiting with Francis Asbury UMW and Haygood UMW, both from Virginia Beach. My car was filled with supplies each time I left! It is a blessing to meet our supporters and share the story of Agape. I would be happy to visit UMW's, organizations and churches.

Please contact me: **Barbara Mason- home 757-336-6436 cell 757-894-3208**
barmason26@yahoo.com



**DO YOUR
HOLIDAY
SHOPPING AND
HELP AGAPE**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

The unique charity link for Agape is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1943499> Once you designate Agape or use the link, all your purchases will count. Agape will receive 0.5% of eligible purchases. It's a simple way of helping Agape.



CHALLENGES FOR THE KITCHEN STAFF

Ms. Robbin says serving breakfast and lunch is like McDonalds or Burger King. These children believe in having it their way. The staff has to walk through and ask, "Do you want bread? Do you want cheese? Do you want egg?" Like customers do, the answer comes back, "Where is my bread? I need more egg. I didn't get my juice!"

When objections arose over chicken patties, Ms. Robbin simply cut them up in squares and told the children they were a new version of chicken nuggets. They ate it all and asked for more.

When Tater' Tots appeared, no one wanted them until Ms. Robbin told them they were circle French Fries, then they disappeared off plates.

Trying tomato soup for the first time was a challenge. The answer was to convince them to dip their grilled cheese into "catsup sauce!"



All who give through the Virginia Conference Advance Special!

Market Street UMC for food and visits
Ocean View UMC for food and paper products
Richmond District UMW for a visit, food and school supplies
Barbra Stelik for school supplies and visit
Wanda Balance/Calvary UMC for food, cleaning supplies, and crafts
Janice Purnell for crocheting blankets for naptime
Kilmarnock UMC for food, supplies and a visit
Williamsburg UMC for the personalized Christmas Stockings they bring each year
All the United Methodist Women Units who support us so faithfully

Youthworks Mission Team who came a few days for several weeks and visited with the children and did work on the property.

Harvest of Hope also worked with the children and worked on the property for a day.

Wesley Chapel UMC who replaced all the mulch, repaired equipment and led the children in VBS.



NEW CHURCH VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE COMPANY VISITS

The children learned about the equipment used by the firefighters, got to aim the fire hose, tried on fire hats, and climbed into the fire truck. Thanks to the volunteer firefighters from New Church!

CORRECTION

Mrs. Mary Killmon and her daughter, Wanda, crocheted hats for the children. They are from the Evergreen/New Hope Charge.



Wesley Chapel UMC, South Chesterfield Mission Team repairs swings after replacing mulch in the playground



The children, staff, and Board wish you a Thanksgiving filled with love and blessings. We are so thankful for each of you and remember you on this special day with grateful hearts for your prayers and support.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO AGAPE

1-Give a donation to Agape in honor of a loved one, special friend, or those difficult to find a gift for. They will receive a card acknowledging your gift. **2-Designate** all or part of your church Christmas offering to go to Agape**3-Bring or send** gifts for the children (they may be the only ones they receive) Please contact Ms. Doris Cropper at the Center for ages, sizes, & requests. (757-824-0072) from 7:00 to 1:00

Praise the Lord that He has sent us all these little ones! This means lots more mouths to feed and lots more school supplies, cleaning supplies and office supplies. **We really need your help!**

We depend on food donations so that we can use our funds to pay scholarships and salaries. Food can be sent directly to the Agape Center through Amazon and other internet stores. Please use the full address of 4605 Fleming Road, PO Box 155, Horntown, VA 23395.

Canned fruits, vegetables, spaghettios, baked beans, applesauce, cereals (hot & cold), graham crackers, vanilla wafers, ravioli, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti & sauce, elbow macaroni & instant mashed potatoes are a few of the items we need. Disposable bowls, plates & utensils would also be a help. Clorox wipes, craft paper, materials and supplies, as well as hand sanitizer, liquid soap & deodorizer spray would be appreciated. There is also a need for toilet paper, paper towels, disposable gloves and Pine Sol.

Remember, the two meals the children receive at Agape may be the only nutritional meals they will have that day. They all look forward to their meals and many go for seconds.

**THANK YOU FOR PRAYERFULLY CONSIDERING
HOW YOU CAN HELP**

PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT AGAPE

With more mouths to feed and a larger staff, we need your support more than ever! Unfortunately, donations are down and expenses have increased.

Please make checks payable to **Agape CCC** and send to: Mrs. Barbara S. Mason, Treas.

PO Box 704

Chincoteague, VA 23336

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN!



**The children of Agape, staff, &
Board pray you receive abundant Christmas
blessings and have a happy and healthy New
Year!**

Return Service Requested

PRSR7 STD
Non-profit Organization
United States Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5
Parksley, VA 23421

The Agape Christian Children's Community Center
A Ministry of the Eastern Shore District of the United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 317
Parksley, VA 23421