



Highlands Regional Ministry Center

Quarterly Report (Jan-April, 2021)

2021 has been a very busy and productive year so far. The building renovations are nearly complete, which means we can soon begin renting out the sanctuary space and fellowship hall area for weddings, training events, and meetings. We also welcomed our newest user group, the Gainesville Master Chorale, which meets on Monday evenings in the sanctuary.

Our existing user groups continue to provide an ever-flowing stream of healing, hope, and encouragement locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Days for Girls continues to produce about 200 kits per month to be disbursed locally, nationally, and internationally. They produced a total of 7000 masks. They collected “Panties for Chad” (the country in Africa) which resulted in 21,000 kits being sent to girls in Chad. They held their first sewathon in over a year at which their volunteers produced 480 hygiene kits, which surpassed their previous record of 200 kits in a day.

Enduring Faith continues to celebrate worship virtually and is eagerly anticipating the completion of the sanctuary renovations. They continue to be good stewards of the property and provide lawn care services and cleaning services on a regular basis.

Gainesville Community Counseling Center welcomed three new clinical staff members who focus on specific client bases: Spanish speaking clients, LGBTQIA+ clients, and children between the ages of 4-12. They have contracted with Peaceful Paths, the local domestic violence agency, to provide mental health services for their clients as well as EAP services for their staff. In addition to that, they contracted with Rural Women’s Health (Project Salud) to provide Spanish-language mental health services to their undocumented clients. Finally, they are now official members of the System of Care for the School Board of Alachua County and are a direct referral source for the school district. They welcomed two new corporate sponsors, General RV and

100 Black Men of Greater Florida, and are in conversations with a local bank to sponsor the Horticultural Therapy Garden and the Mobile Mental Health Clinic. So far this year, the GCCC has provided a total of 2,020 sessions to 490 unique clients, and project a total of 680 sessions for May.

Gainesville Master Chorale began holding their weekly rehearsals both in-person and virtually. They are the premier community chorus in Gainesville and when fully operational have over 150 singers. The director has offered to help with organizing some fundraising events for the HRMC once the pandemic has lifted.

Unspoken Treasure Society continues to provide support to transgender youth and adults throughout Georgia and Florida. They host weekly educational events on Facebook live as well as monthly support groups for youth and adults. They hosted a free HIV testing day in February and most recently celebrated National Women's Month.

UF Mobile Outreach Clinic continues to partner with the Gainesville Community Counseling Center to provide free medical care to the community. They are present on Tuesdays and Thursdays and see patients from 9am – 4:30pm, and have extended hours the first Tuesday of the month. In the first two months of the year they saw a total of 250 patients.

Alachua County Health Department and Project Salud hosted a Covid-19 Vaccination event for the Spanish speaking community and resulted in approximately 75 people receiving their initial vaccinations.

Human Rights Coalition of Alachua County is donating a commercial refrigerator to the HRMC to assist them with their upcoming food distribution, which will occur at HRMC as well as in other locations in the community.

The HRMC Ministry Committee has reached out to the local neighborhood to develop a plan to use the vacant lots on the property to create a community garden with a majority of the fruits and vegetables being donated to those in need. The Nesmith family who own the property adjacent to the vacant lots have graciously agreed to help coordinate meetings and to assist with developing a plan to present to the HRMC Ministry Committee.