



Rehoboth Baptist Association

Appalachian Mountain Ministry, Pete Soots, Director

October 2022

This year has been a Blessing from on High for the Appalachian Mountain Ministry. God has allowed us to help all our Appalachian Mountain Ministry Partners, help the Disabled Veterans, and help many families that have found themselves in need of clothing, furniture, or household goods. Additionally, we have helped to meet the needs of the tornado and flood victims in Kentucky.

Our Coat Drive and Backpack projects were a giant success this year. This is in large part due to all the churches, people and local merchants in Houston and surrounding counties with donations. Because of them, we were able to reach both of our project goals.

The Christmas Backpack program took on a new look this year. First, we asked our ministry partners in Appalachia to tell us what items that have been included in the backpacks which were not needed and what items we have not included that are needed. Because of COVID their needs have changed. Secondly, and for the first time, we asked churches to collect funds to help us buy the required items. This allowed us to purchase items in bulk. By doing this, we were able to reduce the price of filling a backpack to just over half of what they cost last year. Now, no child will open a backpack that is overfilled or underfilled and each child who gets one of our backpacks will get the same quantity of each item as every other child in their age group and gender.

This program was made successful because many Rehoboth Baptist Association churches collected money to purchase the items needed to fill 1,754 Christmas backpacks. Also, many churches helped to prepack items (like soap, washcloths, and combs in a zipper bag) so that packing the backpacks was easier. Volunteers worked like they were on an assembly line placing each required item in the backpacks. The bags will be delivered to our ministry partners prior to Thanksgiving, ready to distribute to the children before Christmas. The number of churches we have had help pack the backpacks has been amazing. We hope the ones that did not get to help this year will be able to help us in 2023. We want to give a giant **THANK YOU** to each church and individual who contributed to the success of this project. The children of Appalachia will receive a blessing because of your contribution of time and/or money.

Currently, our Coat Project is in full swing. We have already seen many new and gently used coats being delivered to the ministry warehouse. These, and all the other coats we receive before the end of December, will be delivered to help the adults, teens and children brave the harsh winter that is coming. We fully expect to exceed this year's goal of 1500 coats.

We have delivered three loads of furniture and household items to Buckhorn, Kentucky, an area that was ravaged by the flood which they experienced a couple of months ago. We have received many messages from the people there telling us how much they appreciated our help. On the first call with the manager of the ministry we are working with, he asked if we could send toys for the children who had lost everything. Within two days we were able to send a truck loaded with nothing but toys. They were so thankful to receive them. Now we are sending furniture, household goods, appliances, sewing machines and cloth to help them get back into their homes. Please pray for these people as many of them have lost everything.