

Faith Promise 2024 Annual Report

This reports highlight a 2023 wonderful year of mission at Tucker First. Your donations and faithfulness to Faith Promise ensure we can represent the love of Christ through our various mission areas.

10 Years of ESOL at Tucker First!

For the 2023-2024 school year, the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) ministry offered

6 classes - 2 Beginners | 1 Advanced Beginner | 2 Intermediate
1 Advanced

The staff includes

8 teachers | 4 permanent classroom aides | 4-5 childcare workers
3 administrators | 4 testers

The program had 511 attendances from September to November 2023 and 605 attendances from January to May 2024.

For the 2023-2024 school year, the students were from 19 countries, including Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Uruguay, Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Vietnam, and Taiwan.

It has been an immense blessing to get to know these sweet families and to have them as part of our church. We serve a real need in the community. Many students have circumstances that do not allow them to come every week or stay with us for more than a year or so. Still, when they move on, we know that they are better equipped for life in the USA than when they first came, and they are grateful to have had the opportunity to learn with us.
Leigh Andersen

Great Day of Service 2023 Recap

- 143 Volunteers (an increase from 2022)
- 150 Fire hydrants painted
- 33 Cars washed for free in the Tucker First parking lot
- 63 Greeting cards created and delivered to the Atria residents and many toiletry kits for DeKalb Police to distribute to the unsheltered.

Volunteers were sent to the following organizations and locations around Tucker.

Friends of Disabled Adults & Children Too
NETWorks Clothes Closet
Dabney-Shumate Cemetary - clean-up
Longleaf Hospice - no-sew blankets
Atria Park of Tucker - entertained residents

Cold Weather Shelter Ministry Finishes Its Sixth Year

The Shelter was open for 10 nights between November 2024 and January 2024 and served 117 guests. The lowest number of guests was 7, and the greatest number was 17. When the Shelter was open, it took 35 volunteers (many volunteering on multiple nights). Also, each night the Shelter was open, 1 to 2 families with children were generally housed at the Knights Inn at the Shelter's expense.

Because of the opening of other shelters in Dekalb County for the first time this winter, transportation was also provided as needed by some of our Shelter volunteers for some guests to Chamblee Senior Center (where Dekalb County provided further transportation) on nights that our Shelter was not open because the temperature did not meet our criteria.

Did You Know - the Cold Weather Shelter has been fully funded by non-church members' donations from the Tucker community since 2021 and did not draw down any Faith Promise funds in 2023. However, funds are set aside in the Faith Promise budget each year and are available if needed.



Tucker Mission Garden Wow!

*Did you know that the Tucker Mission Garden is the **seventh-largest** food donor to NETWorks Community Outreach?*

363 lbs | 2022
950 lbs | 2023

950 pounds of vegetables were donated. to the NETWorks Ministries food pantry in 2023!

The Tucker Mission Garden's hydroponic greenhouse and garden are growing more than ever! Tomatoes, beans, peas, squash, collards, cabbage, onions, strawberries, garlic, and much more! Thanks to many enthusiastic gardeners in the congregation, we held six workdays during the year to plant, weed, harvest, and then repeat.

Dozens of young and old folks help Farmer Neil with garden tasks. The Mission Garden team held their second annual veggie plant sale in March and raised \$1,100 to fund the garden and greenhouse all year!

Let's keep growing together!

A Great Partner, Wellroot Family Services

In 2023, our Children First Ministry partnered with Wellroot on the following programs.

18 Easter Baskets

Provided 18 Easter baskets that were distributed to foster children throughout the Atlanta Metro area. Each basket contained a faith-based or devotional book, a chocolate bunny, a toy, and a summer hat or sunglasses.

Summer Lunches & Learning Program

Provided lunches for one week for 7 families with 14 children in the Family Housing Program.

120 Books Donated

Tucker First donated approximately 120 books to distribute to children of all ages in Wellroot's various programs throughout the Atlanta Metro area.

Foster Parent Training Session

Tucker First members assisted with childcare during a November Foster Parent Training Session.

19 Gifts for Wellroot Family Christmas

Provided 19 gifts for the secret shopping experience for Wellroot foster parents and caregivers. They could personally select gifts that were wrapped and ready for Christmas morning.

Backpack Buddies of Metro Atlanta

Our Children First Ministry partnered with Backpack Buddies of Metro Atlanta in February 2023. The program provides non-perishable food items for weekend meals to food-insecure children at Brockett Elementary.

Every Friday in the school year, Tucker First volunteers pick up our food order at the warehouse and bring it to our Activities Center where the food is unloaded and setup. Volunteers assemble 12-14 items in each of 50 bags, load the bags into a vehicle and deliver them to Brockett Elementary.

2/3/23 - 5/19/23 = 13 weeks x 50 bags = 650 bags
Children served - 650
Each bag provides 6 meals x 650 = 3,900 meals
Tucker First Volunteers - 17
Total Volunteer Hours - 105

Trinity House & Trinity Table

Tucker First faithfully supports Trinity House and Trinity Table in Downtown Atlanta.

Trinity House is a 36-bed transitional center for men who experience homelessness and addiction. Tucker First brings a meal to the T.E.A.M. dinner once a month.

Trinity Table Community Kitchen serves the unsheltered in Downtown Atlanta. They have switched to To-Go bags for meals. We provided 300 bags in 2023.

International Missions

Tucker First sponsors the following international missionaries and supports these world mission programs.

CMF International

Tyler & Shalynn Crawford | Germany

Global Ministries of the UMC

Florence Kaying | Mozambique
She is also sponsored by our Christian Women's Fellowship

Florence is a maternity and child health nurse practitioner at the Cambine Hospital/ Clinic in the Mozambique South Conference.

Katanga Methodist University

Provide scholarships for ministerial students in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Honduras Outreach International (HOI)

We sent a team of 8 to Honduras in November 2023 for a week of construction work, including building latrines, constructing large sinks, and pouring concrete floors. The team also hosted 80 HOI staff members for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Tucker Shower Ministry, Meeting a Need

Hearty meals, a hot shower, and a load of laundry for anyone who wants it every Sunday. Our neighbors in need depend on us for these basic needs that most of us take for granted. Last year, we served an average of 12 guests every Sunday, and this year, we are providing up to 20 guests with these basic needs. The ministry has 1 large ADA shower, 2 high-capacity washers, and 2 dryers.

Special UMC Annual Offerings

The list below are special annual offerings of the United Methodist Church (UMC) and the North Georgia Conference of the UMC. Your Faith Promise giving allows Tucker First to give to these special offerings. **An asterisk means the amount given to this ministry was increased in 2023 due to Faith Promise!**

Annual Conference Special Offering	\$500*
Housing & Homeless Council	\$850*
Human Relations Sunday	\$600*
Murphy-Harpst Sunday	\$500
Native American Sunday	\$600*
Peace with Justice Sunday	\$400
UMC Student Day	\$700*
UMCOR Sunday	\$2,500*
Wesley Woods	\$2,000*
World Communion Sunday	\$700*
Wellroot Family Services	\$2,500*

American Red Cross Blood Drives

2023 | 12 Blood Drives | 382 pints collected
2024 | 4 Blood Drives | 135 pints collected

ACTS 1:8



Your Faith Promise Giving

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
 Acts 1:8

JERUSALEM

American Red Cross Blood Drives
 Atria Park of Tucker
 Backpack Buddies of Metro Atlanta
 Brockett Elementary
 City of Tucker Parks & Recreation
 DeKalb County Fire Department
 Dekalb County Police Department
 Friends of Disabled Adults
 & Children Too (FODAC)
 Idlewood Elementary School
 Local Cancer Patients received 60 pillows
 Longleaf Hospice
 Salvation Army - over 20 years ringing bells!
 Tucker Middle School
 Wellroot Family Services

JUDEA

Appalachian Service Project (ASP)

SAMARIA

Cold Weather Refuge
 English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
 NETWorks Community Cooperative
 NETWorks Clothing Closet
 Trinity House & Trinity Table
 Tucker First Shower Ministry
 Tucker Mission Garden

ENDS OF THE EARTH

Honduras Outreach International (HOI)
 CMF International - Germany
 Tyler & Shane Crawford, Missionaries
 Katanga University in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
 Pastoral Scholarships
 Missionary in Mozambique
 Florence Kaying, Missionary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Housing & Homeless Council of the North Georgia Conference of the UMC
 Human Relations Sunday
 Native American Awareness Offering
 Peace with Justice Sunday
 UMC Student Day
 UMCOR Sunday
 Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering
 World Communion Sunday
 Wellroot Family Services

How Can You Help Now?

American Red Cross Blood Drive Thursday, May 23 | 2:00 - 7:30 pm

There are opportunities to help at the snack table and a computer check-in volunteer once a month (two hour shifts). Contact Evelyn Burkett at ehburkett@comcast.net for more information.

Sign up to give blood at <http://redcrossblood.org> and use site code **TUCK1UMC**.

Sign up to volunteer at <http://tinyurl.com/TFUMC-RedCross>

Appalachian Service Project (ASP)

We are putting together a team for this short term mission trip (three days). We hope to join Embury Hills UMC in October for the trip. To volunteer, contact Kay Entrekina at kayjohne@gmail.com.

Tucker First Shower Ministry, every Sunday - volunteers are needed to for this important weekly ministry. If you are interested, please contact Neil Duggan at neiljduggan@gmail.com.

Our **ESOL Ministry** is in need of volunteers to assist with testing new students beginning in August. Contact Leigh Andersen at lcandersen@bellsouth.net. if you are interested.