



2020 #LoveChattanooga Overview

August 2020

Hardy Elementary

- To ensure the safety of their students this year, teachers needed to provide individual school supply items and recess items per student. These were items that the teachers were going to have to purchase themselves, but because of your generosity we were able to get every item requested! This ensured that the students will have everything they need to succeed at the start of this school year and teachers didn't have to pay for these items out of their pocket.

Urban League, "Shoes 4 School"

- We were able to financially support this organization's event, Shoes 4 School which donates and distributes new backpacks filled with school supplies and new shoes to students who are most in need all across the Chattanooga area. Through this event, thousands of school supplies were given as well as 600 pairs of new shoes.

Family Promise

- Over the summer the staff let us know that most of the toys for the children at the Day Center were broken or had missing pieces. The Day Center is a safe place for families to come during the day to rest, have a meal, do homework, play, etc. while they are in the process of transitioning from homelessness to stable housing. Because of your generosity, we were able to get them every item on the list from baby dolls, to board games, to toddler toys, and even some stringed lights to make the day center more warm and welcoming.

Chambliss Center, Transitional Living Program

- The Chambliss Center for Children's Transitional Living Program provides stable housing and careful case management for young adults who have aged out of traditional foster care at age 18 and have chosen to participate in Extension of Foster Care (EFC) services in the state of Tennessee. They currently have 17 single-occupancy apartments, each fully furnished with a washer/dryer, utilities, and internet.
- They recently opened 6 new units, and we were able to provide the remainder of essential household items needed for these new apartments. We were also able to help with transportation costs through CARTA bus passes and Uber gift cards to help them get safely to school, jobs, the grocery store, etc.
- They also let us know that the 6 students that would be moving into these apartments were all starting school this fall. Due to Covid, their schools were beginning the semester

virtually, and they each needed their own laptop, which these students did not have. We were able to supply each student with a brand new laptop so that they can begin their first semester of college confidently and with the tools necessary for success.

September 2020

Hardy Elementary

- As you can imagine this has been a hard year for the staff at Hardy Elementary- the inner city school that we have partnered with for the last 7 years. And so we have been very intentional with showering the teachers and staff with love and appreciation. One way that we have found to do that- that they love- is to bring them yummy food at school. So this month we have taken the full staff CFA breakfast, Crumbl cookies, and Maple Street biscuits to spread love and encouragement to them!
- We were also able to meet needs within specific classrooms for teachers as well as providing 75 new uniforms for kids who needed them this year.
- Here's just one of the encouraging notes that the principal of Hardy sent us: "I just wanted to take a moment to let you know how blessed we are to have your support here at Hardy. There are so many times that the day gets away from me with everything going on. I don't take the time to just stop and look around to see how many people surround our school, teachers, and students with love from your church. You all are truly a wonderful blessing. I could never express enough how much I appreciate your thoughtfulness and genuine love for us. I know it's not enough but THANK YOU for everything."

Metropolitan Ministries

- MetMin continues to do amazing work to prevent homelessness and help those most in need in our community. In addition to that, they have been working diligently to finish renovations on their new building, and are hoping to be moved in and fully operational by the end of this year. This month we were able to help with their amazon wish list for needed items. From white boards to dish soap to masks & hand sanitizer, every item and dollar helps get them one step closer to greatly increasing their reach and impact in the Chattanooga area.
- A thank you from Becky Whelchel, the Executive Director at MetMin: "Y'all just keep blowing me away and I love it so much for the people we serve. Wish I could hug each and every Rockpointer!"

The Salvation Army of Chattanooga

- We had a street ministry day where we took a small team of RP volunteers and packaged beat the heat care packages, BBQ sandwich meals, and water to give to the homeless downtown Chattanooga. We were able to walk the streets of some of our city's most heavily populated homeless communities and serve over 100 people.
- One of the directors that coordinated the event shared: "Thank you for loving Chattanooga in this way. By meeting people right where they are at, you show value and

worth to them. To learn their names, to show them they matter- that shows them the love of Jesus.”

October 2020

Hardy Elementary

- We met specific classroom and school wide needs at Hardy Elementary, the inner city school we partner with.
- We were to love and support the teachers and staff through Starbucks gift cards and we did Chick-Fil-A breakfast for the full staff at the end of the month.

Metropolitan Ministries

- We helped MetMin get the final items off of their Amazon wish list before moving into their new building! We were able to give 7 new file cabinets for their office needs and case management for the guests they serve.
- The director of MetMin, Becky Whelchel, recently shared with us that they will be moving to their new building, the "Impact Hub", NEXT WEEK! They will be able to assist those in need soon after. We are so excited for them and can't wait to share more!

The Salvation Army of Chattanooga

- We provided 500 backpacks to The Salvation Army so that they will be able to give out these bags to the homeless in our city as winter approaches. As we talked with the staff, they shared with us what an impact this will make in the homeless community this winter and how grateful they were knowing this need is taken care of. The backpacks will be filled with essential items such as hygiene items, hats, socks, etc.

First Things First

- The staff members at FTF have been working tirelessly to create resources and online content to help strengthen family dynamics, marriages, parenting, etc. in our city. They have helped thousands of people, not only in Chattanooga, but also nationwide through their increased online presence during this season. To love on and uplift the staff, we were able to give a gift basket to each staff member containing a few gift cards from local businesses, office essentials, and some stress relief items.

November 2020

Hardy Trees

- 81 Hardy Trees were adopted by RockPoint!! The teachers and staff at our inner city school partner, Hardy Elementary, were SO excited that we were able to partner with them again this year to give Christmas presents to families in need. Each "Hardy Tree" card represented a different child and their Christmas wish list. In what has been such a hard year for so many, to help these families in this way is spreading love, joy, and hope

right to them. And we could NOT have done this without the support of those of you who so graciously adopted a Hardy Tree this Christmas! Thank you!!!

Thanksgiving Meal Help

- We were able to help over 30 families from various partners, including First Things First, Family Promise, and Hardy Elementary with grocery store gift cards to provide them with a Thanksgiving meal. Talking with our partners, so many families have been impacted financially this year and to have the financial pressure lifted for Thanksgiving, to have some traditions and favorite dishes possible this year, in a year with so much change already, was such a blessing to those families.

Hardy Teacher Lounge

- At the beginning of the school year, the VP at Hardy sent us an email saying - "We would love to turn our teacher's lounge into a "CHILL" relaxation room. We would love to set it up like a "get away" place for teachers and staff to relax." And because of your generosity we were able to say "YES!!!!" to that request! We were able to get a couch, a rug, a coffee table, a farmhouse table and chairs, some wall art and lamps and pillows...etc. and our goal is to make it a safe haven for the staff in the midst of a busy day.

December 2020

Chambliss Center for Children

- This Christmas we partnered with the Chambliss Center for Children to help with some holiday needs they had. Each year they give little stockings to every child and youth in their program, which at this time is 70 children. We were able to donate all of the stocking stuffers, from play-doh to candies, to stickers and chapsticks, to help fill every child's stocking with something fun to open on Christmas!
- We adopted the wishlists of 5 young adults that are currently enrolled in the Transitional Living Program, to ensure that they would receive Christmas presents this year. The Transitional Living Program provides stable housing and careful case management for youth who have aged out of traditional foster care at age 18 and have chosen to participate in Extension of Foster Care (EFC) services in the state of Tennessee.
- We were also able to give a catered Christmas day meal to the 16 young adults in this program, delivered right to their door, so that they would have a fresh, homemade meal for Christmas day.

Over \$4,000 was given to individual families in need

- From emergency rent help to immediate needs being met, to helping provide Christmas presents under the tree where there would have been none otherwise, we CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH for your generosity that made all of this possible to help meet these individual needs!

- We were able to help a family keep their home this Christmas. Both parents lost their jobs recently due to Covid related layoffs and are struggling to make ends meet. We were able to get their power, heat and water turned back on and help them get caught up on rent payments so they wouldn't be evicted. We were able to help another family with 7 children keep their power and water on. We were able to help another family make their rent payment to avoid falling further behind. We were able to help several families struggling financially to be able to have Christmas gifts under the tree this year for their children. Because of your generosity, over \$4000 was given to meet individual and family needs. Thank you so much for making this possible and allowing us to say "Yes, we can help!" to those most in need.

MetMin

- First, we want to celebrate that MetMin is now in their new building!!! We are so excited for them and can't wait to share more pictures and videos of their new space.
- We donated \$1,000 to help meet immediate needs during the holiday season.
- We were able to love on the staff this Christmas with an Amazon gift card and some treats from Neidlov's Bakery as a small way to show our deep appreciation for all the amazing work they do in our city.

The Salvation Army

- The Salvation Army of Chattanooga is staffed with 50 individuals who work hard to help those most in need in our city. We are so grateful for them and all they do and this Christmas we were able to give each staff member an Amazon gift card to express our support and appreciation to them.

Hardy Elementary

- The teacher's lounge was officially all set up for the staff as they returned to school in January! A teacher sent us this message, *"I just stopped by the school to do some work and popped into the copy room! Oh my goodness! It's gorgeous! It's like a little cool retreat there! Thank you so much for that! It's amazing!"*
- We were able to supply the learning packs (crayons, folders, headphones, expo markers, and sheet protectors) for January for the 1st grade students. As they are returning back to virtual school due to Covid, these items were necessary for each child at home in order to complete their assignments.
- And finally we were able to give an Amazon gift card to every teacher and staff member this Christmas to show our appreciation for everything they have done and continue to do for the students at Hardy!