

Together in Service
2013 Mission Project Report Form for Presbyterian Women in the
Presbytery of the Peaks

Church: Bluemont/Mayberry Presbyterian Churches Cluster 12

Church Address: PO Box 624, 1127 Mayberry Church Road, Meadows of Dan, VA
24120

Contact Person: Denny Jennings

Together in Service Globally

Baby blankets Baby gowns Baby caps
 Sheets Thermal Blankets Financial Support

Hearts for Heaven, Inc. ministry in Guatemala – We provide monthly financial support to sponsor a child in the feeding program of this ministry. It is led by the daughter and son-in-law of one of our church families.

Together in Service in the USA

Presbytery/Synod

This year Mayberry Presbyterian Church has become a covenant church with the Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands. We have visited the site and seek more ways to become involved with the young people there. Our church’s contributions support the work of the center. One of our members is on the Board of Directors for the home.

Another Presbytery service project has been the Presbyterian Women’s Presbytery-wide Mission Project in support of women’s shelters across the presbytery. Our PW contributed items during our cluster gathering and participated in filling personal care bags for clients in these centers.

Local/Community Support:

Chemo Caps – This year we continued our project of making caps for chemo-therapy patients who are having “no-hair” days. The hats were bright and cheerful as well as functional for both men and women who were undergoing chemo-therapy. Since January 2013 we have contributed 51 hats made by our members. These were

donated to the oncology center in Mt. Airy, serving patients from our area and our church.

The Legacy Center – This agency provides resources and educational services to pregnant girls and new mothers in a tri-county area. Our PW circle collected and donated maternity clothes, crib sets, baby clothes, and nursery items. At Christmas and in June we hosted baby showers during our PW meeting to gather donations for the center. We also made monetary donations to the center.

Operation Shoebox

Operation Shoebox is a national organization to provide care packages and support for our American troops on active duty overseas. We found that they are in need of the small toiletry items we have been collecting, so these are now sent to an active group in Florida to combine with other items for Christmas stockings and care packages for the troops. During 2013 we mailed three large boxes of donations to Operation Shoebox.

Patrick Backpacks – During 2013 our churches and our PW circle supported the Patrick Backpacks program which provides nonperishable food for weekends for children of Meadows of Dan Elementary School. Our PW group and our churches provided financial support for the backpack program, and one of our members is a coordinator for the program.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Our members knit or crocheted prayer shawls and lap robes for those who were ill, in need of comfort, grieving, or in need of a physical reminder of God's love and our prayers. We made and distributed fourteen shawls or lap robes to church members and family. Completed knitted items are offered at each Presbyterian Women's meeting and passed through loving hands for prayers and blessings before they are presented to recipients. We know that this outreach makes a difference in the lives of the recipients, who tell us of the blessings the shawls have made. We, too, feel blessed for having the opportunity to share this tangible form of love with those who are needful as we feel the love of this shared ministry with each gift.

Local Community Outreach: Mayberry Presbyterian Church has chosen to identify and focus on local needs through community outreach. We are in the process of building a Community Outreach Center which will house church and community activities of service. Our Community Outreach Committee has identified two major areas of need in our area: drug use and trafficking and mentoring our elementary school children. We have ongoing monthly meetings with the sheriff and school principal to learn about the needs of our community with hopes of establishing programs when our building is completed in 2014.

Additionally, Mayberry Presbyterian Church supported the local food bank by gathering donations and transporting them to the distribution center. Jim and Ellen Saunders were instrumental in this effort during 2013, going weekly to food stores to collect items and pursuing a \$1000 grant from Walmart to purchase food for the needy.

The PW Story Project

Last year, one of our members mentioned that we, as Presbyterian Women of Bluemont and Mayberry Presbyterian Churches, know each other as we come together here, but few of us know the stories and experiences that add richness and strength to each woman. We began a story project, asking each woman to submit a one-page autobiography. These stories were collected and shared among our members. They have been copied into a binder and, as new women join our circle, we ask that they submit their stories, too. This is to be an ongoing project, continually shared, as we strengthen our bonds to each other in our faith journeys.