

Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church

Bringing the Power of Christ and the Support of the Church to the Least, the Lost and the Left Out
8220 Russell Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22309
703-360-1976

Annual Report to the Alexandria District **January 2006**

Significant Accomplishments of 2005

- Moved church into a structure renovated to meet our specific ministry needs.
- Completed a Capital Campaign with over \$1,050,000 pledged with \$980,000 already received.
- Spiritual Ministries are flourishing & attendance is rising at Worship Celebrations, Sunday School, Bible Studies, Covenant Disciple Group, & Noonday Prayer Services as trust grows.
- Community Ministries expanding with the needs of over 3000 served annually.
- The Route One Ministry Board (Our Board of supporting churches) has expanded with three newly activated committees on Strategic Planning, Resource Development, & Stewardship.
- Expansion of our Children's Ministry with an After-School Program & Girls Club because of the support of a local family foundation.

On-Going Ministry in 2005

- Food Ministry growing with 400 people from 160 families served weekly.
- 240 families representing 650 people received a Thanksgiving Turkey with all the trimmings to prepare a home cooked meal.
- Clothing closet receives over 5000 visits a year.
- Dozens assisted by Rising Hope towards their goal of a "New Life in Christ"; for example:
 - Tony (a Muslim convert to Christianity through Rising Hope) moved into a subsidized apartment after years of being homeless.
 - Carol returned to college & earned a 4.0 grade-point average because the power of Christ empowered her to overcome her homelessness that started with son's conviction of a serious felony & her subsequent mental health diagnosis.
 - Jay worked his way back from 20 years of addiction with 18 months of sobriety, a new job, a driver's license, a roof over his head, and new teeth.
- Several hundred volunteers helped nearly 1200 needy people celebrate the Joy of Christmas through our Christmas Angel Gift Project, Christmas Shoppe, Christmas Party, Thanksgiving Day Meal, Christmas Day Meal, & delivery of a Christmas ham or turkey with all the trimmings.

Challenges Ahead for 2006

- Managing increased responsibility, time, & expenses that come with owning a wonderful facility.
- Building a committed corps of members & supporting volunteers to carry out leadership roles.
- Meeting growing needs of the community as "gentrification" & "revitalization" of Route 1 push more families to the brink of homelessness or actual homelessness and displacement.
- Educating the community about the needs of the poor, the pressures faced by "gentrification," and creating a just community response to the predicament of the poor.
- Raising sufficient funds to replace expiring grants & to cover expanding ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Keary Kincannon