

MIGRANT FARM WORKERS UPDATE

PEVA's Hunger Action Advocate Jessica Fitzgerald, Rev. Brian Haroff & Elder Jill Keifer of Royster Memorial PC, Raymond Rodrigues of First Portsmouth PC and David McKercher of Saint Andrews PC packed three vehicles Wednesday August 15th and delivered needed items to the East Coast Migrant Head Start Center in Cheriton VA. The staff of the Parksley center meet them there to transfer need items going to Parksley in the center's vehicles.



Jessica had lots of help this year Brain Haroff, Jill Keifer, Madelyn Sawyer, Will Sawyer and Gayle Donovan of Royster PC assisted in setting up the donations and need items in an organized manner. They also were able to take a tour of the head start center and learn about how they service those families that use the center, the exciting part of the tour was when Gayle Donovan read to the children. Shortly after the Royster Memorial PC group left, Terri Plotner, JoAnn Eschelmann, J.T. Eschelmann, Rev. Bill Moore, and Katherine Moore of Naomie Makemie PC arrived to help hand out donations as the parents arrived. The two Head Start centers on the Eastern Shore not only provide services for the migrant farm workers families, they also provided services for the seasonal agriculture labor works (production and harvesting of tree crops, field corps, nursery crops, eggs and poultry, fish or other seafood, trees, and the care of farm animals) on the Eastern Shore. Jessica stayed and attended the parent meeting spoke a few words and enjoyed the fellowship that evening. **Together we have touched the lives of 90 families that use the Parksley Center and Chertion Center.** Please visit [PEVA's Face Book Page for more pictures](#)



Items collected and or purchased with donated funds by PEVA Churches and individuals: 21 \$15 gift cards (for children going to kindergarten), 21 drawstring school bags with simple school supplies, 10 \$10 Walmart gift cards, 120 health * hygiene kits, 62 shower on the go kits, 90 food kits, 21 baby kits, 70 children's books, 40 hats, 101 pairs of socks, 40 bandanas, over 1080 disposable diapers, baby wipes, various travel size hygiene products, and 14 trash bags of various men, women, children and infant clothing.

On August 22nd Jessica realized that there were still some funds in the Migrant Farm Workers account. She reached out to the Family Community Partnership Health Specialist and asked if there was a need. It just so happens that the Family Community Partnership Health Specialist was in the middle of reaching out to local individuals on the Eastern Shore to see if anyone could help this one particular

migrant family. One of the children was just diagnosed with cancer and had to have surgery and begin chemo. Mom had to stop working in the fields to care for her son. She has been to the Eastern Shore foodbank already and was trying to get other assistance for the remaining time this family was on the shore. This family would be traveling to Florida to be near family as soon as the doctors at CHKD can arrange for the continuity of care with doctors in Florida. The Head Start center staff was assisting with transportation for the appointments and treatment at CHKD. Living the life of a migrant worker has its own challenges let along dealing with and caring for a child with cancer. The Hunger Committee was able to assist this family with a visa gift card in the amount of \$250 dollars. **This was defiantly the Holy Spirit at work!**

A special "thank you" to all that have donated (*funds, items & time*) to this ministry! What a blessing. Please consider adding the Migrant Ministry to your outreach projects. **You can start collecting CANVAS REUSABLE BAGS, TRAVEL SIZE TOILETRIES, CHILDREN'S BOOKS, CHILDREN'S CLOTHING** (spring - fall only), **ADULT JEANS & T-SHIRTS for next season NOW!** Please remember the migrant farm workers and seasonal agriculture worker in your prayers.