

## Mission

### KirkWood Mission Outreach Team

#### *York County 2018 Outstanding Volunteer (Group)*

For many years, KirkWood has had a wonderful service and financial relationship with the York-Poquoson Department of Social Services. On Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, Jen Carter (Mission Committee Co-Chair), Jerry Deaton, Mike Fore, and Bill Gilbert represented the KirkWood Mission Outreach Team at the monthly York County Board of Supervisors meeting. During the meeting, Mr. Thomas Shepperd, Board Chairman, presented the *York County 2018 Outstanding Volunteer (Group)* award to the KirkWood Mission Outreach Team. This team regularly picks-up and delivers furniture and other items donated to Social Services clients who have few other resources. The team also performs periodic lawn clean-up service for elderly clients. Arba Williamson (Mission Committee Co-Chair) coordinates the team's services with Ms. Laura Skeith, Community Resource Coordinator for York-Poquoson Social Services. In 2018, the team included Rob Ball, Tom Briggs, Skip Cole, Roger Crone, Jerry Deaton, Mike Fore, Bill Gilbert, Lew and Mary Goodman, Tom and Cindy Heldreth, Bruce and Jan Knight, Kirk Reno, Murry Ritter, and Cindy Williamson.

In her introductory remarks to the York County Board, Laura said:

“As you may be aware, the KirkWood Presbyterian Church provides many teams with specialized abilities to meet community service needs. However, I consider their Outreach Mission Team to be the Special Forces of the volunteer groups I can call on for assistance. Here are just a few examples of their agile and quick response under pressure.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, while they were still dealing with their own storm damages and clean-up, the KirkWood Presbyterian Church Outreach Mission Team coalesced on incredibly short notice to help pack and store the household belongings of a disabled adult, as a tree had collapsed her roof during the storm. Without the means or ability to manage this Herculean effort on her own, she would otherwise have had to leave everything behind and literally start over. This is but one example of the team's greater than

135 hours of selfless service provided to York-Poquoson Department of Social Services and the clients we served in calendar year 2018.

No matter how cold, how hot and humid, or how many flights of narrow stairs, “We can do it” was always their up-beat attitude. Further, with many working team members, they would happily and regularly be on site by 6:30 AM to complete a furniture move before beginning their regular workday.

The Outreach Mission Team’s impact is greater than these mere words can adequately express. They are a ray of sunshine for individuals and families who’ve long been swallowed by storm clouds.

As Psalms 145, verses 4 and 5, so eloquently express, “Your friends make known, O Lord, the glorious splendor of your kingdom.”

This team’s long-standing history of generously supporting the clients of York-Poquoson Department of Social Services and beyond this department, their support of the York County community is an effort to be celebrated.”

The Mission Committee thanks our 2018 Mission Outreach Team for its dedicated service.

If you can help with this important mission area of KirkWood’s life, please contact Arba Williamson at [awillia114@aol.com](mailto:awillia114@aol.com) or 867-9289.