



tree of life
MINISTRIES



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Welcome Message

Tree of Life has encountered many seasons along a 16-year journey.

2023 WAS NO EXCEPTION:

- Across all 5 Branches, the season resulted in 32,000 impacts for those in need – our highest ever.
- A new financial season emerged as our gracious donors exceeded \$2m in giving for the first time in our history.
- Our Housing Ministry entered a new season with the number of homes increasing from 5 to 12. Because of this, women, children, families, and the special needs community will be offered an affordable place to call home.
- Our Gospel Enterprises embraced a season of change, adding a second *Clothing Closet* store and relocating *SimplyBe Coffee* to new space in Leesburg.
- A new season has begun in our western Loudoun region with the relocation of our center to a new Main Street premises in Purcellville.
- A leadership season concluded and a new one began following a seamless CEO transition from myself to Susannah Lee.

Yet, above all else, during a season of change, our approach has remained unchanged as we share the love of Jesus Christ in our **Purpose**, place Jesus Christ foremost in our **Values** and seek to bring Jesus Christ glory in our **Vision**.

To all who have contributed time, talent, or treasure during this season, thank you abundantly. May you know the abiding presence of God as a new season unfolds.

Blessings in Him,

Paul Smith

Founder, Tree of Life Ministries

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity...

Ecclesiastes 3.





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Our two Gospel Enterprises continue to grow and make a profound impact in Loudoun. The addition of a second Clothing Closet in Leesburg and the relocation of SimplyBe to downtown Leesburg has allowed us to reach out to a wider community. The Clothing Closet's second location has made access to clothing far easier for those in



- **370** individuals/families received free clothing in 2023. **850** since we opened our first store in June 2020.
- Employed **9** individuals, including **1** who has a disability.
- Provided work transition training for **10** students.

GOSPEL ENTERPRISES

eastern Loudoun, as well as providing greater availability of clothing and appointments, while the first location in Purcellville continues to thrive. The new SimplyBe location has boosted visibility, support, and sales to help us maintain our commitment to providing work for individuals with special needs. Here are a few highlights from the year:



- **30** individuals with disabilities provided with work experience through employment and internships.
- **26** SimplyBe events that offer fellowship, support, advice, and fellowship to individuals with special needs and their families.



MINISTRIES

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

FOOD PANTRY

THANKSGIVING TOGETHER

13,835
FOOD IMPACTS

370,000 lbs.
Of food donated to TOL

5403
People delivered up to
3 weeks of groceries

8207
Served at our weekly
Community Dinner meals

376
Additional first-time deliveries

BRANCH FOOD



“During one of our Fill the Truck food drive events at a local grocery store, a young woman took a bag and a list. She returned with an overflowing shopping bag and began to tear up and became emotional. A year earlier she had been homeless and without food. Tree of Life had helped her with groceries. She was thankful and grateful to donate food.”

Larry, Eastern Loudoun



“When speaking to partners each week, some regard their monthly pantry orders as a purely transactional conversation whilst other partners really want to share about their lives and challenges. What gives me the most joy is when I am able to develop relationships with people who initially were not interested in talking about their lives, but through our monthly conversations, have opened up slowly to share both their plight and their joy. Being able to lend encouragement and companionship has been an incredibly rewarding experience.”

Susanne, Western Loudoun

**“I CAME THAT THEY
MAY HAVE LIFE AND
HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY”**

- John 10:10



MINISTRIES

ENGLISH CLASSES

FINANCIAL COACHING

TUTORING

WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS

WORK HEARTILY

ADVOCACY

1150

TRAINING IMPACTS

150

Students attended
our English Classes

48

Children served through
our Tutoring program

44

Individuals with special
needs found job placement

BRANCH LIFESKILLS

“

“Our Work Heartily ministry places individuals with special needs in employment opportunities. The mother of one such young man, recently shared with us about her experience with Tree of Life saying that here ‘they are seen, appreciated, loved, valued and nurtured and they can be themselves with each other and blossom in an environment where they are with people that they can see themselves in. I can’t ever adequately thank TOL and all of the people associated with it for all that they’ve done.’”

Mary, Western Loudoun

”

“I wanted to send a quick note to tell you that I really am grateful that you came to our meeting today and for your support. I think that you have a beautifully diplomatic way of going about your work. My words don’t really describe how appreciative I am but thank you and I look forward to working with you in the future.”

Parent of Student Receiving Advocacy

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- John 10:10



MINISTRIES

CLOTHING

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

MENTORING

WORKING HANDS

1891
SHELTER IMPACTS

974
Received free clothing from
The Clothing Closet and our
Giveaway event

82
Adults and children housed in
transitional housing since 2011

35,570 lbs.
Of clothing donated

1100
Backpacks with school supplies
distributed

BRANCH SHELTER

*"I CAME THAT THEY
MAY HAVE LIFE AND
HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY"*

- John 10:10



"That Monday [that you offered me housing] changed my life because I found a safe place, full of peace, affection, and solidarity where I could start my new life. I can tell you with complete certainty that my life is taking a course that without you and God's blessing would not be possible. As a mother I am happy. My daughter has come to visit me and I see her happy face when she says: 'I'll come to your house, mom. Feeling the smell of your food and seeing yourself happy is the best thing in the world'."

Transitional Housing Resident



"This year we were able to provide housing for individuals with special needs for the very first time. After working out the details and finalizing the plan, families were truly overwhelmed by this offer and opportunity for their adult sons. At one of the first planning meetings, they shared that they were eager to move in and already making plans for the new space. The mother of one of the young men, who is a special education teacher, said, 'This is what I prepare my families for, my students for. This is so wonderful. Thank you'."

Susannah, Western Loudoun



MINISTRIES

DENTAL CLINICS

HEALTH EDUCATION & SUPPLIES

MEDICAL VOUCHERS

410
HEALTH IMPACTS

403
Received Health Education
and Supplies

31
Received free dental care

BRANCH HEALTHCARE



“Tree of Life provided a dental voucher to a local woman in a lot of pain. There were not any dentists available immediately, and our Partner Care Coordinator called around until she found a dentist who could take the patient and accept a Tree of Life dental voucher. The partner replied, ‘I am very thankful for Tree of Life and the dentist who provided these urgent services for me. I praise the Lord for all of you!’”

Wayne, Western Loudoun



“A couple that regularly attends our community dinners for fellowship, let our volunteer know that they had a gently used wheelchair that they wanted to donate to Tree of Life, rather than to sell or donate to an organization that might sell it. As God’s perfect timing would have it, we learned of a need shortly after that – a single woman without family in the area experiencing a variety of health issues. She shared with us during her intake that she was in need of a wheelchair. Our volunteers were able to receive and deliver the wheelchair directly to the woman in need, which has helped enable her independence and she even attended our Christmas for Others event!”

Deb, Eastern Loudoun

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MINISTRIES

- CHRISTMAS FOR OTHERS
- DAY BREAK
- RELIEF FUND
- STILL WATERS

3953
RELIEF IMPACTS

628
Impacted financially by Relief Fund totaling over \$122K

466
Blessed through Christmas for Others

152
Still Waters events (special needs)

57
Day Break events (senior adults)

BRANCH

RELIEF



“I went to a Christmas dinner last night with a ministry group that I’m very close with and very fond of them. I had a wonderful time. There was entertainment with a puppet show and a play with a Christmas theme... which depicted Jesus’s birth. It was wonderful just hearing people acting it out. The food was great and me and my son received gifts from them and one of the gifts had a handwritten card about Christmas from a school student which was nice. I felt very much fortunate to have these people in my life. I know that I’m not alone with God always with me. I felt very good about myself and positive for my future.”

Partner, Eastern Loudoun



“Rick has a debilitating disease which has taken away the use of his fingers and legs. We went to visit and found that he was crawling up and down his stairs in order to go to doctor’s appointments three times per week. He lived on one level and rarely left the house, except to go to appointments; it was extremely painful every time he left the house. Tree of Life committed to buying him a chairlift for his stairs, and contracted with a local company to build him a custom chairlift, as his stairs were narrow and winding. Within 3 months, he had his new chairlift, and now has ability to go up and down the stairs whenever he wants, greatly improving his quality of life.”

Jennifer, Eastern Loudoun

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SPIRITUAL CARE

“SPIRITUAL CARE is integral to our purpose. Our response to practical needs is only the first step in helping partners find abundant life in Christ”



The Prayer & Care Team assisted in **1,332** prayer requests and made an impact in the Kingdom by listening and praying with people in need. In many cases, these conversations included many call-backs to check in on partners.

The Share Team visited **5** nursing homes and assisted living facilities on a regular basis, conducted regular Bible Studies for senior adults and also for adults with special needs, and conducted regular visits to the jail. **224** members enjoy daily words of inspiration on our *Hope for Today* Facebook page.

“ Kevin was an inmate I met while doing visits at the local jail. The first time I met him, he told me he was agnostic. I asked him if I could ask him a few questions and share some Scripture with him. By the time I had shared 45 minutes later, he was crying. I watched as the Holy Spirit took hold of his life. Kevin served out the rest of his sentence with joy in his heart, and relished the mentoring and Bible studies that we brought to him. After his release, he was able to get a good job and found a good church. His life was transformed through the power of Jesus Christ, and for that he is grateful. I was able to be a vessel God used during this transformation. ”

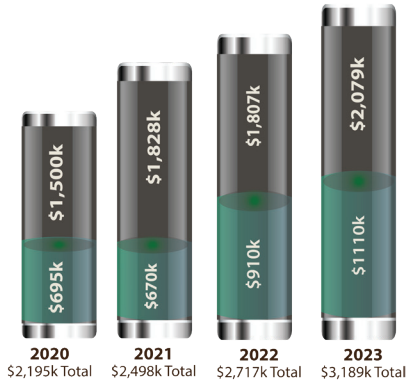
- **CHAPLAIN WAYNE**

*Sharing the Gospel - Chaplains on Staff - Bible Study
Mentoring - Prayer Follow Up - Nursing Home Visits
Jail Visits - Bibles (multiple languages)*

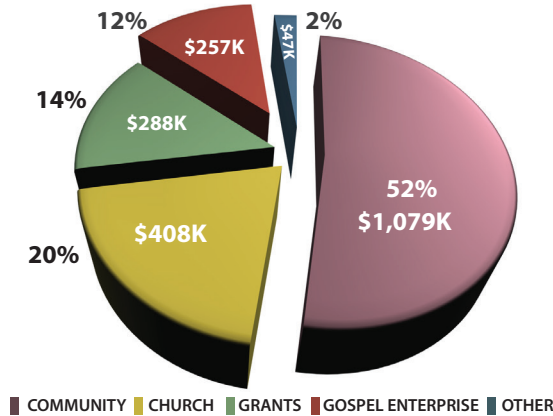


HOW WE RECEIVE FUNDS

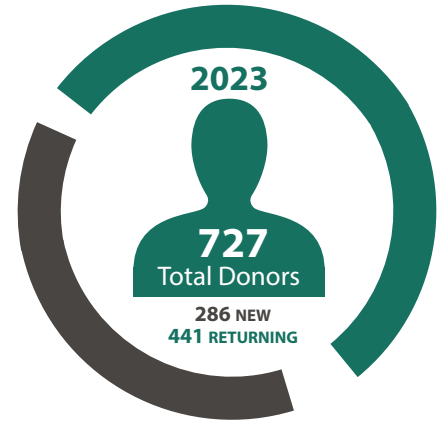
● IN-KIND ● CASH



CASH DONATION SOURCES

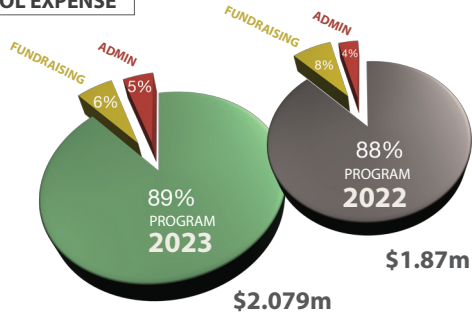


DONORS

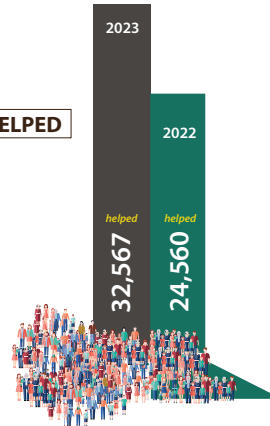


HOW WE SPEND FUNDS

TOL EXPENSE



NUMBERS HELPED



The financial information is preliminary and subject to revision following annual audit. Tree of Life undertakes a yearly audit and is affiliated with Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).



TREE OF LIFE MINISTRIES

Eastern Loudoun
Western Loudoun

115 E. Main Street
Purcellville, VA 20132
540-441-7920
www.tolministries.org
info@tolministries.org

Stay connected:

