

From the Streets to Stability

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We're Back!

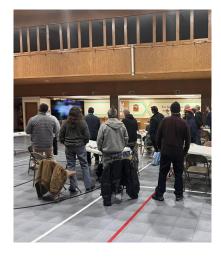
Welcome back to the Exodus Family Ministries newsletter. We've been so busy establishing the Exodus Community Resource Center that opened on October 16, holding our annual fundraising dinner (December 7), organizing a White Flag Emergency Shelter for the unhoused (January 12-19), training for and starting the USDA-approved food commodity box program (March 3), and moving our Monday night Bible Study to a new, larger location to accommodate our growing audience, we've barely come up for air since our last issue in early September, but we wanted to reconnect with you to let you know what's been happening with us.

Our goal is to begin sharing monthly announcements about upcoming events, program highlights, as well as volunteer and donor recognition. To be sure you'll receive it, please sign up <u>here</u>. Copies of the newsletter will also be available on our <u>website</u>.











Name this Newsletter Contest

As we formalize the newsletter, we believe it needs a name. If you have a clever idea for what to call it – that reflects who we are and what we do, email your suggestion(s) to <u>us</u> by 5 pm, Friday, March 29. The winner will receive a \$50 gift card to Kroger and bragging rights! The winner will be announced in next month's issue.

2023 Program Highlights

Last year was a banner year for Exodus Family Ministries. Thanks to God's blessings and all the support we received from donors, volunteers, community partners, and churches, we expanded the reach of our programs by 30%!

Since reorganizing the ministry in late 2020, we have gone from serving a few hundred people to 2,641 in 2021, 3,469 in 2022, and 4,497 in 2023. We could not experience and manage this rate of growth without our visionary leaders, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and community partners/churches who work alongside us as we serve Southwest Louisville.

Click here to continue reading about our 2023 program highlights.

Program Updates

Food Pantry – We're now a USDA-approved site!



Clothes Closet – Prom dress giveaway

We are honored to announce that we are now a USDA-approved food distribution center. This designation means that we will be able to receive additional food from the USDA to distribute to those clients who meet the income requirements. This program officially kicked off on March 3. Kudos to **Mary Lou Ballard** and all the other volunteers who have gone through the training to make this designation possible.

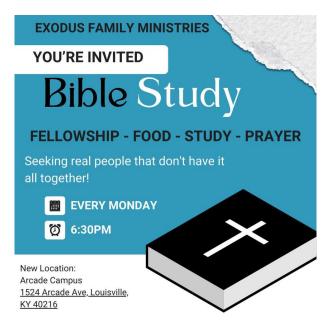
Thanks to the tireless work of volunteers **Sandy Lathery, Jackie Parks**, and **Kim Crain**, Exodus Family Ministries is partnering with **Giving Loving Heartfelt** to make prom dreams come true by giving away dresses, accessories, shoes, and makeup. This program, in its second year, has already given away 150 dresses since February. Click here for more details about this initiative that runs through March 23.



Resource Center – New offering!

Through support from Louisville Metro Government and area churches, Pam Chancey, the manager of our resource center (for the unsheltered), is now full-time! Through talking with clients, Pam determined that more people would be willing to come to the center if they could bring their partner with them on the same day, so Mondays at the center will now be for couples. Wednesdays will continue to be only for women and Fridays will continue to be only for men.

Faith Services – Monday Night Bible Study is in a new location



Exodus Family Ministries is a faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit. While all our programs are open to anyone needing them regardless of their religious affiliation (or lack thereof), we have had many people express interest in wanting to learn more about Christ. So, we offer an optional Bible Study program on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm to provide a church experience for those who feel marginalized or may not feel comfortable in a regular church setting. This program has continued to grow so much that we needed to find a larger location. We will now meet at 1524 Arcade Avenue for food and fellowship. All are welcome.

Hand Up Holiday Dinner

Thank you to the Event Planning Committee for organizing our second annual **Hand Up Holiday Dinner** on December 7 at **Signature Venue**. More than 200 people attended this fundraising event and auction that was emceed by **WAVE 3's Dawne Gee**. We appreciate all the sponsors, attendees, and auction item donors, whose generosity helped us to raise more than \$70,000 for our programs and services. Click <u>here</u> to read more.



Volunteer Recognition - Jackie Parks

We are so grateful for **Jackie Parks**! She is a Godsend to our ministry, as she oversees the tremendous amount of work it takes to run our Clothes Closet, which provides clean, seasonal clothing to people of all ages free of



charge. Each week, Jackie and her team process all the donations brought to our location to determine their best use. Not only do we help clothe 100+ people each month, we also provide clothing to more than 10 other organizations, such as recovery centers, schools, programs for single mothers, etc. Jackie noted, "I am blessed to be part of Exodus Family Ministries and the vital need we fill. I enjoy the relationships we are building with so many neighbors, businesses, partners, and others who share our passion to serve. It's wonderful to be part of a ministry that continues to expand to meet the needs of the community."

Stay Connected

If you'd like to become a volunteer, make a donation, tour our facilities, receive services, or attend an event, please check out our <u>Facebook page</u>, visit our <u>website</u>, or call our main ministry number: **502.614.8544**.



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