



P.O. Box 51824  
Knoxville, TN 37950

## Winter Newsletter, 2017

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865-584-7571

(Fax) 865-584-7574

(E-Mail) [info@missionofhope.org](mailto:info@missionofhope.org)

[www.missionofhope.org](http://www.missionofhope.org)

## MOH KEY CALENDAR DATES 2017

Winter 2017	“Soup for the Hope” Food Collection Drives
March 23 - 24	Outreach & Distribution Event – Oneida, TN
April 1	Construction Ministry & Handicap Ramp Builds Begin
April 11	Alice Lloyd College – Scholars Recognition & Field Trip
April 20 - 21	Outreach & Distribution Event – Blaine, KY
April 17	Lincoln Memorial University – Scholars Recognition & Field Trip
April 29	Repair Fair Event – Middlesboro & Pineville, KY
May	New Scholarship Awards at High Schools
May	End of School Year Parties – MOH Volunteer & Program Teams
May	Scholarship Program Fundraising Appeal
May 6	Outreach Event at Owsley County, KY Elementary School
June 3	Day in The Park Outreach Event – Oneida, TN
June 12 - 16	HOPE Academy – Black Mountain Elementary School, Evarts, KY
June, July, August	Summer Mission Trips to Appalachia (By Church Team Groups)
July & August	20 <sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Program
August ?	Stuff the Bus Back to School Collection - The Pinnacle at Turkey Creek
August 11	14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Mission of Hope & Chick-fil-A Golf Classic
August 12	Cruisin’ For Kids Car Show at Joe Neubert Co. on Clinton Hwy
August ?	Outreach & Distribution Event – Sneedville, TN
September ?	Repair Fair Event – Williamsburg, KY
September ?	Outreach & Distribution Event – Hazard, KY
October ?	Outreach & Distribution Event – Williamsburg, KY
October 31	Construction Ministry & Handicap Ramp Builds Ends
November 2	Annual Celebration & Fund Raising Banquet
November ?	Zoo For The Hope Food Drive @ Knoxville Zoo
November ?	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Drive Collection at Pinnacle – Turkey Creek
November ?	Keyboards at Christmas (Tennessee Theater)
November 17	22 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Program and Barrel
December 4	Collection Drives in Knoxville and Lexington
December ?	LMU Christmas Concert & Tree Lighting (Toy Collection for MOH)

*(For more information and updates visit our Website or call the MOH office)*

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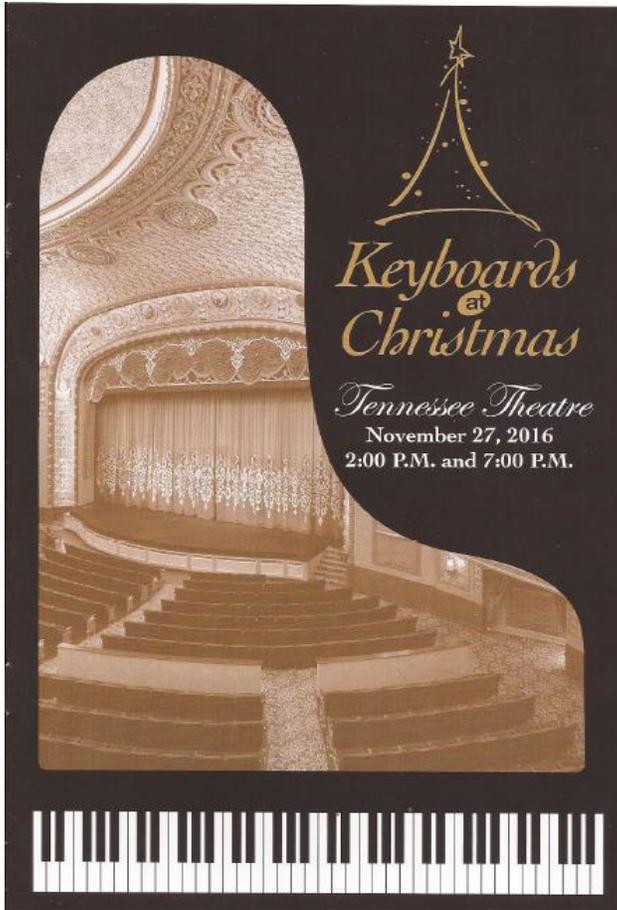
Greetings Dear Friends:

God so abundantly blessed the Mission of Hope in 2016. We served 28 elementary schools and were able to help even more of the less fortunate in the Appalachian communities. We extend the HOPE through our Resource Ministry, Scholarship, Back-to-School and Christmas Programs, and Construction and Outreach/Distribution Ministries. We could not go and do the work we do without God's blessings and the ongoing support of friends like you. May God bless you and your family each and every day. Thanks for your friendship and know we are immensely grateful for all you do to help us extend the HOPE.

Sincerest regards,

Emmette Thompson - Executive Director, Mission of Hope

# KEYBOARDS AT CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



What a fantastic job Donna McNeilly did in planning and organizing the **Keyboards at Christmas** event. The afternoon performance was sold out, and the evening performance was two-thirds full. This program was a huge success and received many accolades from those who attended. Russell Biven from WBIR-TV10 and Emmette Thompson representing Mission of Hope did an excellent job as Master of Ceremonies for the performances. It was heartwarming to have our Veterans, Police and Firefighters honored during the program. SFS Charles Lawson, 7th Armored Div., and a World War II Veteran who served with General Patton was recognized. Our sincere thanks to Col. (Ret) James Montgomery, U.S. Army, for his help with this event.

Sincere thanks to: musicians, vocalists, Inside Out, Children's Choir directed by Rhonda Mayfield, Children's Drama directed by Elizabeth Eaker, Knox County Sheriff's office, Knoxville Police Department, Knoxville Fire Department, Mayo Garden Center, First Baptist Church Concord, Scott and Pook Lane, Lane Music, Stage Manager Robby Martin, and Videographer Clyde Plemmons for their help. How grateful Mission of Hope is to be named the recipient of the proceeds from this event.

A special thank you is extended to the sponsors of this event and to all MOH friends who attended each of the two performances. A two and one-half hour DVD of this program is available at the Mission of Hope office for \$10. If you want to purchase and have a DVD mailed to you the cost will be \$13. Please come by or call the MOH office to request a DVD. Payment may be made by cash, check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to Mission of Hope.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to the sponsors of the **Keyboard at Christmas** event for Mission of Hope:

Grand Benefactors: Lane Music  
Greg Coleman Law  
Appalachia Business  
Communications  
In Memory of Polly Enix  
Tibbetts and her  
Appalachian Heritage

Benefactors: Duncan Automotive  
Home Choice  
Windows and Doors  
Jack and Sue Bryan  
Fisher Tire Company

Visionary: Coleman Printing

Guardian Angel: Doug Nichols State Farm  
Insurance

Friends: Greg Scealf Insurance



## KNOXVILLE ZOO FOOD HARVEST

Wow! What an amazing, incredible, unbelievable, and blessed event for the Hope! These are the best words that can adequately describe the Food Collection Harvest reaped by the Mission of Hope at the Knoxville Zoo during our Christmas campaign. These donations help us tremendously as we prepare to pack thousands of food boxes for those who so desperately need our help. During this four day collection drive for non-perishable food items, donations by friends that visited the zoo filled 95 of our fifty-five gallon blue barrels. We also received approximately \$500 in financial donations which were used to purchase more of the needed food items.

A big "Thank You" goes to the Knoxville Zoo and its Staff and Volunteers for deeming MOH worthy of its support. Also, our thanks to all of those who came and brought donations for all those we serve in rural Appalachia. We say Thank You to all of our dedicated MOH Volunteers for their hard work in loading and helping to get these donations to the MOH warehouse. Above all, we give thanks to God for touching the Hearts of those who then responded with their Giving Spirits.

## SMOKY MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS

Smoky Mountain Elementary is just one of the 28 schools in KY and TN where MOH provides Christmas, but this year visiting this school was especially significant. The wildfires that claimed lives and so much property had raged just weeks before. In the wind storm that preceded, Smoky Mountain Elementary sustained significant damage. Due to ongoing repairs there was a much shorter program but that didn't dampen the spirits of the volunteers from Faith Fellowship Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Led by Jim and Regina Stinnett, this amazing group made this delivery as special as every year! Regina recalls, "Our Christmas Delivery to Smoky Mountain Elementary this year came just after the fires in Gatlinburg and the tremendous winds that spread it. Unfortunately, the winds damaged the roof of the school and the much needed rain flooded several parts of the school, including the kitchen, cafeteria, media room, library, and a portion of the gym. Although none of the children's homes were damaged by fire, some of their parents lost their jobs. This was such a sad, unsettling time for these children. But Mission of Hope came through for them by bringing Christmas presents for every child.

As the "deliverers" of these toys, food, clothing, etc., our church was privileged to be a small ray of hope for them at this uncertain time. We received the blessings from this trip! They were using one section of the gym as their cafeteria, and we were able to use it between breakfast and lunch to set up and distribute the toys. Although this was one of our most difficult deliveries as far as logistics, it was the most meaningful to our church family." Santa Claus made his jolly appearance. WBIR-TV anchor Russell Biven and his photographer were there to document all the excitement. As each age group was led into the gym, volunteers helped each student pick out 2 gifts, hygiene items and a Bible.

Laura Peck, a MOH staff member and Toy Coordinator, was on her first-ever delivery. "Seeing the children pick out the toys that my Toy volunteers packed was just overwhelming and fabulous all at the same time. The joy on their little faces will stay with me forever. I can't wait to go back next year!"



## THANKS TO PINNACLE AT TURKEY CREEK

The entire shopping center at The Pinnacle at Turkey Creek was transformed into "Santa's Workshop" for its **LIGHTS UP** event. Adults and children enjoyed many fun activities, crafts and performances, along with festive treats and refreshments. Many attendees donated toys and food items that filled several of our blue barrels. Monetary donations from many that enjoyed this event totaled \$3500. Thanks to all for helping to extend the Hope to our friends in Appalachia.

## SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

In addition to our 13 high school scholarships, MOH has Scholarship Endowments at Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, KY, and at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN. We will be going to Alice Lloyd on Tuesday, April 11, to present the 2017 MOH Scholarship to one of its students. On Monday, April 17, we will attend the Annual Awards Dinner at Lincoln Memorial to award our 2017 MOH Scholarship to a deserving student.

Awarding a total of 15 scholarships each year can only be done with your help. We appreciate your faithfulness in helping bring the HOPE to students who know the key to success is a good education.

### NEEDS AT THE HOPE

One of our biggest needs at MOH is for volunteers with strong backs to work in our warehouse or as drivers Monday-Friday during the day. Please call our office if you would like to volunteer.

We are continuing to receive more and more urgent and desperate requests here at The Hope.

**Food** – canned goods, soups, canned meats and stews, peanut butter, pasta, crackers

**Hygiene** – bar soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste

**Furniture** – good used beds, dining suites, sofas & chairs, stoves & refrigerators

**Bibles, Tracts, Christian Books and Bibles on CD**

If you can help the MOH with any of these items, we will be grateful. Perhaps your church and/or business would like to help. Please call the MOH office for more details.

## HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

MOH offers 13 new scholarships each year to students attending the high schools in the counties we serve in rural Appalachia in KY and TN. Currently, we have 31 graduates, with 7 additional students graduating in 2017. Over 40 Scholars are still in school. Courtney Gilbert, one of our Scholarship Recipients from KY, had this to say about what the scholarship has meant to her and her family:

"The MOH scholarship has been beyond a blessing for me. The most amazing and helpful thing is knowing that there is someone there for you when you need it. In this scholarship program, my spiritual family grew. I was blessed with a support system! I gained mentors, even more, friends that pray for me and help me to the best of their ability. I thank God for putting these people in my life. The influence they have had on my life has inspired me to volunteer and sponsor this organization, if God be willing, after I graduate."



**Jim Friedrich presents Courtney Gilbert with a new laptop and printer**

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Brian and Tammy McKinley have done an awesome job maintaining our Website. They are now pursuing a new endeavor and will only be helping with the Website on an as-needed basis. We wish them the best in their new work. Our blessings and love are with them.

Mission of Hope is a fully licensed 501c3 nonprofit charity and your donations are tax deductible as allowable by law. We have all the proper licenses for local, state and federal requirements. If you would like additional information, or have questions regarding our ministry, please contact the MOH office.

Thanks to Editor Mary Sue Miller, MOH Staff members Shirley Plant, Diane Webster, Lesa Medley and Laura Peck; Coleman's Printing and Awards, and Direct Mail Services for their help in compiling, preparing, printing and mailing our Newsletters.

Thanks also go to Brian and Tammy McKinley for doing a great job maintaining our Website at [www.missionofhope.org](http://www.missionofhope.org). Please visit our updated Website to keep informed of MOH activities.