AGAPE MINISTRIES, INC. NEWSLETTER
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## Feeding Kids Beyond the School Day

This year, Agape Ministries expanded the Weekend Power Pack Program by an incredible 39% from the previous year, providing nutritious weekend meals to 4,396 students totaling $46,158.00 while maintaining the same cost-efficient stewardship of donor dollars.

For many children, weekends and summer break can mean uncertainty about where their next meal will come from. Our programs help bridge that gap by providing nutritious, kid-friendly food when school meals aren't available.

Every bag packed is more than food—it's hope, security, and the reassurance that a child won't have to face hunger alone. Because of the generosity of our community, students can return to school healthy, focused, and ready to learn.

## Casual Fridays That Make a Difference

A heartfelt thank you to the employees of the Auglaize County Health Department for choosing Agape Ministries as the recipient of their recent Jeans Day donations. By contributing just $1 each Friday to wear jeans, employees raised $92 to help support local families through Agape's food pantry and community programs.

Their generosity is a wonderful reminder that small acts of kindness can add up to something truly meaningful. When people come together with a shared purpose, even a dollar can make a lasting impact.

If your workplace has a Casual Friday or employee appreciation program, consider turning it into a simple fundraiser for a local nonprofit. It's an easy, fun way to boost employee morale while making a difference right here in our community.

## Help Keep Our Community Warm This Winter

As the weather begins to cool, Agape Ministries is preparing for our annual Warm Winter Coat Program. From September 15 through October 31, we're collecting new and gently used winter coats, hats, and gloves in all sizes to help local families stay warm throughout the winter months.

Donation barrels will be available at participating churches beginning in September, or you may drop your donations off at the Agape Ministries Client Services Building. Collected items will be distributed through our food pantry from October 15 through February 29.

A warm coat is more than just clothing—it's comfort, protection, and a reminder that our community cares. Thank you for helping us share warmth, hope, and kindness with our neighbors this winter.

## Agape Food Pantry News

September is Pizza Month at the Agape Food Pantry, and we're collecting everything needed to help families enjoy one of America's favorite meals. Donations of pizza sauce, canned mushrooms, olives, peppers, parmesan cheese, shelf-stable pizza crusts, pizza mixes, pepperoni, mozzarella cheese, and even frozen pizzas are all welcome.

Pizza is one of those meals that brings people together. Whether it's made from scratch in the kitchen or pulled hot from the oven after a busy day, sharing a pizza around the table creates moments of laughter, conversation, and connection. For families facing financial hardship, being able to enjoy a fun family meal without worrying about the cost can be a meaningful blessing.

Your donations help us provide more than just food—they help restore a sense of normalcy and dignity. A child doesn't remember that dinner came from a food pantry; they remember helping spread the sauce, sprinkling the cheese, and sharing a meal with the people they love. Those are the moments your generosity makes possible.

As you shop this month, consider adding one or two pizza items to your cart for Agape. A single jar of sauce, a package of pepperoni, or a frozen pizza may seem small, but when combined with the generosity of others, those donations become hundreds of family meals for our neighbors.

If you're looking for an easy way to get involved, consider making this a family project. Let your children pick out a few pizza toppings to donate or challenge your coworkers, church group, or civic organization to collect enough supplies for several pizza nights. It's a simple, affordable way to make a lasting impact.

## Agape Thrift Store News

The new school year is just around the corner, and Agape Thrift Store is a great place to stretch your back-to-school budget. From backpacks, binders, folders, and educational workbooks to school clothes and shoes, you'll find affordable essentials to help students start the year prepared and confident.

Our summer clothing clearance is wrapping up soon, making it the perfect time to stock up on great deals before the season ends. At the same time, our racks are filling with jeans, jackets, sweaters, and other fall favorites, so you'll be ready when cooler weather arrives.

Looking to refresh your home for the season? Fall décor and beautiful silk flowers will begin arriving by the end of August, offering plenty of ways to bring the warmth and colors of autumn into your home without stretching your budget.

Because donations arrive every day, no two shopping trips are ever the same. Whether you're searching for everyday necessities, unique treasures, or seasonal décor, there's always something new waiting to be discovered.

Best of all, every purchase does more than save you money—it helps your neighbors. Proceeds from the thrift store directly support Agape Ministries' food pantry and community programs, providing groceries, clothing, and other essential resources to local families in need. When you shop at Agape, you're not just finding great bargains—you're helping strengthen our community one purchase at a time.

"Stay in the loop! Our ***Facebook page*** is where you'll find exciting updates and exclusive featured items you won't want to miss."

## JULY Shout Outs

- A sincere thank you to Otterbein Retirement Community for your continued monetary support. Your faithful generosity helps us provide food, resources, and hope to local families in need, and we are truly grateful for your partnership.
- Thank you to St. Paul's in St. Marys for your ongoing donations of toilet paper. This everyday necessity is one of our most requested household items, and your consistent support helps meet an important need for the families we serve.
- We are incredibly thankful to our local gardeners for sharing the fruits of your labor with our pantry. Your generous donations of fresh produce and vegetables provide healthy, nutritious options for our clients and are a wonderful blessing to our community.
- Your kindness and generosity make a lasting impact on our community. Every donation helps provide food, essential resources, and life-changing programs for local families while demonstrating Christ's love in action. Together, we are bringing hope, extending compassion, and serving our neighbors one blessing at a time.

## JULY Stats

- Agape Food Pantry served **379** people in **166** households.
- Agape Summer Feeding Bags were disbursed to **82** students.
- Senior Boxes were delivered to **13** people.
- Clothing vouchers were issued to **0** people.
- Household vouchers were issued to **1** people.
- Financial Aid was disbursed for **0** people.