



It Takes a Community...

The StopGap program—and its new afterschool initiative, Survivor Club—is so vital for the students at Memorial High School in St. Marys, Ohio. This program is not just another extracurricular activity; it is a necessary lifeline for our Juniors and Seniors. As these students stand on the edge of adulthood, they need more than just textbook knowledge. They need the everyday, real-world skills that help them become confident and self-reliant. Survivor Club helps bridge the gap between childhood and independence by teaching basic life skills, introducing students to healthy, lifelong hobbies, and giving them a safe place to step away from their phones and spend time making real connections with other people.

When a young person learns how to manage a budget, fix a basic household problem, cook a nutritious meal, or discover a hobby that brings them joy, something changes. They begin to realize, "I can do this!" Those small accomplishments can make a big difference in a young person's confidence and their belief in themselves.

We need programs like Survivor Club because our young people are our community's future. They are going to become our neighbors, coworkers, parents, business owners, teachers, volunteers, and community leaders. Giving them practical skills now helps prepare them for the responsibilities that come with adulthood and gives them tools they can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Just as important, Survivor Club gives these students a place to belong. In a world where so much of our communication happens through a screen, having a place to laugh, learn, try something new, and simply spend time together is incredibly important. Sometimes the most valuable thing we can give a young person is someone who believes in them and a place where they feel welcome.



High school won't last forever.

Be ready for what's next.

SURVIVOR CLUB

Survivor Club helps St. Marys juniors and seniors build real-life skills in a fun, hands-on way led by local volunteers.

- 🔥 Cooking, budgeting, and car basics
- 💪 Fitness, wellness, and confidence
- 🛠️ Life skills, hobbies, and more

St. Marys High School
(Room 109 – Food Lab)

➡ Thursdays after school

Build skills. Gain confidence.
Take on what's next.



👉 **Join Survivor Club Today**
Sign up in the High School office.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the Wayne Street Church family for their generous financial support, which has truly helped make this program possible. We are also incredibly blessed by the individuals who give their time, talents, and hearts to coaching and teaching these students. A special, heartfelt thank you goes out to Patty Cisco, Pam Rammel, Deb Geis, Janet Moran, and Doug Whitting for their dedicated volunteer service. To every teacher and volunteer who steps up to guide, encourage, and inspire these young people—please know that what you are doing matters. Your time, energy, patience, and willingness to invest in our youth are helping shape the next generation of our community.

We are so thankful for everyone who believes in these kids and is willing to invest in their future. Together, we are giving them more than skills—we are helping them build confidence, independence, friendships, and a strong foundation for whatever comes next.

Fall & Winter At Agape

As autumn arrives and the days grow cooler, Agape Ministries is preparing to bring warmth and joy to families in our community. During October, pantry clients can enjoy the fun of choosing Halloween costumes while we also prepare for the colder months ahead.

Our Warm Winter Coat Drive is underway, collecting new and gently used coats, hats, gloves, and scarves to help keep our neighbors warm this winter.

We are also excited about our Slumber Fun Program, collecting new blankets and pajamas for children from newborn through adult medium. These simple gifts provide comfort, warmth, and a little extra joy at bedtime.

Thank you for continuing to support Agape Ministries. Your generosity helps us put food in people's mouths and dignity in their hearts—not just during the holidays, but throughout the year.



Agape Food Pantry News

It's time to make a list, check it twice, and grab a few extra groceries for Agape! As the holidays approach, our pantry shelves need a little help from our amazing community to make sure local families can enjoy a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal around their own tables.

For Thanksgiving, we're looking for favorites like cream of mushroom soup, stuffing, gravy, French fried onions, cranberry sauce, pies, gelatin, and Jiffy mix. Every can, box, and package helps us put together the traditional foods families love. Then it's on to Christmas! We'll be collecting hams, canned vegetables, instant potatoes, pie fillings, evaporated milk, dessert mixes, hot cocoa, cookie mixes, and holiday treats.

Here's an easy way to help: when you shop for your holiday meal, pick up one or two extra items for Agape. Put them in your cart, drop them off, and know that you've helped put a little more joy on a neighbor's table.

And remember, giving is more than putting food on a shelf—it's putting love into action. Scripture reminds us in 1 John 3:18, "Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." Every donation is an opportunity to live out that calling by showing a neighbor that they are seen, valued, and cared for.

One shopper. One extra item. One family helped. When our community comes together, those small gifts become something BIG! Thank you for helping Agape make sure our neighbors have more than food on their tables—they have the reminder that their community cares.



Agape Thrift Store News

Fall is here, and the Agape Thrift Store is ready to help you enjoy the season in style! Whether you're looking for cozy fall fashion, something special for a night out, or a few treasures you didn't know you needed, you never know what you'll find on our shelves!

And Halloween is creeping closer! Stop in and check out our selection of costumes, decorations, and spooky finds to help bring your Halloween ideas to life. Whether you're going for cute, creepy, classic, or completely creative, there's always a little fun waiting around the corner.

Looking for something that sparkles? Be sure to peek in our jewelry cases! Our gold jewelry collection includes beautiful necklaces, bracelets, and other pieces that can add a little shine to any outfit—or make a thoughtful gift.

"If you Love It, Buy It. Otherwise, Someone Else Will!"

And here's the best part: when you shop at Agape, you're shopping with a purpose! Proceeds from the Thrift Store help support Agape's Client Services and Food Pantry programs, putting your purchases right back into helping our neighbors.

So grab a friend, come browse, and see what treasures you can uncover. Fall is changing—and so is our inventory! Stop by often because you never know what might walk through the door next!

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

September Shout Outs

- We asked, and our community came through! Thank you to everyone who donated toilet paper to the pantry. It may seem like a simple item, but it makes a real difference for the families we serve. We are so grateful for a community that continues to show up, love its neighbors, and help meet needs. What a great community we have!
- Thank you to Cargill for your generous donation of time and for helping us get things done! We also appreciate you bringing us over 130 pounds of food to help stock our pantry. Your generosity and willingness to give back to our community means so much to us!
- We are truly thankful for the kind contributions from our community members to our food pantry and thrift store. Your generosity enables us to consistently provide essential programs and nutritious meals to those in need. Let's come together to foster a community filled with positivity, warmth, and abundant compassion. United, our collective efforts can create a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.



September Stats

- Agape Food Pantry served **438** people in **168** households.
- Agape Summer Feeding Bags were disbursed to **398** students.
- Senior Boxes were delivered to **11** people.
- Clothing vouchers were issued to **0** people.
- Household vouchers were issued to **0** people.
- Financial Aid was disbursed for **1** people.