

LIGHT OF THE VILLAGE

SHARING CHRIST'S MESSAGE OF FAITH, HOPE & LOVE
WITH THE INNER CITY ONE PERSON AT A TIME



Dear Friend of Light of the Village,

2023 turned out to be a phenomenal year in many ways. We'd like to highlight a few items with you as we launch into 2024.



First, the Light of the Village (LOV) ministry team enters into its twenty-third year with an amazing group of seven experienced individuals. Kristen Jordan, a former high school teacher with thirteen years of experience, has joined our staff offering after-school and in-school tutoring to our students. As a face-to-face, hands-on ministry, each member of our staff is gifted in building genuine relationships and sharing the message of Christ.

Second, this summer we took our teens and young adults to Camp Waukaway in Mississippi. It was a joy to see them enjoy themselves as they experienced new and challenging things while learning about Christ. By the end of the retreat, six committed their lives to Christ and were baptized. Please be in prayer with us that the Lord will continue to develop their faith and draw even more people to Himself.



Third, we thank the Lord for the generosity of our supporters. 85% of our donations come from individuals, 12% from foundations, and 3% from churches. This support allows us to remain **100% debt free!** We also are committed to receiving **no government funding**, and keeping our management and general expenses less than 5% of our total budget. Our current Form 990 and combined financial forms are posted on our website. We are also members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) since 2011.

Fourth, over a thousand volunteers have supported the ministry by spending time with our kids either playing with or tutoring them; bringing groups to do projects; collecting school supplies, gifts for Christmas, and groceries for our pantry; and by providing meals for TeenNight, Community Lunch, Ladies Night, and/or special events. We are grateful for their service and support.



January 2024

The Light of the Village has and will continue to be a light by sharing the message and love of Christ through the following endeavors:

After School Programs: Where Kids Can Be Kids!



- **Camp LOV**, located in Alabama Village: Children are picked up from five different schools, averaging forty students. Volunteers tutor students in reading & math. Children play games, study the Bible, and share a meal together. In addition, one-on-one discipleship sessions are held with students who have made a profession of faith in Christ.
- **Camp Peace**, located at the Figures Community Center (part of the Mobile Parks & Rec.) in Toulminville: Children are picked up from two different schools, averaging twenty-five students. Volunteers assist children with homework. Children play games, study the Bible, and share a meal together.
- **Teen Night**, located at LOV: Middle and high school students are picked up by LOV staff from all over Mobile, but primarily Prichard. This program continues to grow averaging 50-60 teens from 12 different schools! Teens share a meal and a Bible study!
- **Lights of LOV Candle Program**, located at LOV: Our candle team is made up of middle and high school students. Last year, our teens participated in life skills and job training sessions all while producing and distributing close to 1,000 candles!



Neighbors of all ages enjoy Thanksgiving Eve and Community Lunch outreach events.

January 2024

Community Outreach: Where Everyone is WELCOMED!

- **Special Events, Thanksgiving Eve & Easter Block Parties:** With the help of local organizations and churches we invite community members of all ages to join us in a free meal and fun for everyone!
- **Ladies Night:** More than 20 women are meeting weekly and drawing closer to the Lord. Many of these ladies have children who participate in other LOV programs. Childcare is provided by patient and loving volunteers.
- **Community Lunch:** On Thursdays at noon at LOV, people from all over Prichard join us for a free, hot meal provided by volunteers and a time for fellowship.
- **Sunday Breakfast and Bible Study:** A homestyle breakfast is served each Sunday morning. Afterwards, children and adults dive into worship and God's Word.

Volunteers are a tremendous blessing to our staff and participants! If you would like to volunteer with any of these programs, please contact Morgan at morganc@lightofthevillage.org.

Summer Bible Camp:

Six Weeks of FUN! Offered FREE of charge! Interns needed!

- **Camp LOV & Camp Peace:** Summer Bible Camps are located at two sites and average 50-80 children. Each camp is supported with a well-trained staff consisting of college interns, TeenLeaders, and many volunteers. Anyone interested in applying for an intern position or in providing housing for interns please contact Morgan at morganc@lightofthevillage.org.
- **Summer Traveling Team:** This team consists of an LOV staff member, a college intern, and TeenLeaders and travels to multiple parks and rec camp sites located at various community centers throughout Mobile. For six weeks, the team offers group Bible studies and games to the students at each of the sites reaching more kids and sharing the message of Christ. This school year they have continued providing Bible study and fun to the kids at the Harmon Park and Recreation Center in Mobile.



Daily Challenges:

In the last year, we have had forty-eight "Broken Arrow" events (gunshots within range of our ministry) in which we had to take measures to secure the students. That compares to forty-three last year. Additionally, in 2023 we have had five individuals killed that were involved in LOV over the years in various ways. Thankfully, we have never had anyone hurt while participating in ministry events or programs. We are grateful to the Lord for His protection. It is our duty to protect those in our care by implementing, following and continually evaluating our safety protocols based on best practices and professional trainings we have received. And as always, we remain alert as we operate daily in this violent and unpredictable environment. Please pray for the Lord's continued protection and guidance for us.

Look For These in the Future:

- After three years of on-site research, renowned author, **J. Malcolm Garcia**, is in the process of publishing his book, *The Village*. Look for it in 2024!
- The Good Road, season one, Alabama Village episode, is now available on YouTube.
- **Save the Date** for this year's **Night in the Light** dinner and celebration March 21st!
- Recently in an interview, John Young Jr., the court-appointed Prichard Water Board receiver, shared information he has been gathering and analyzing in order to determine future plans for improving the Prichard water system. The Alabama Village neighborhood is part of that evaluation. No decisions have been made concerning Alabama Village at this point. Regardless, we at the Light of the Village are committed to serving Christ throughout Prichard and Mobile.



Most importantly, we are incredibly grateful to God for the many years we've had to spread His message and serve Him. We also want to extend our thanks to all of you who have supported us by giving so generously and for your prayers and encouragement. Your support has been a tremendous blessing to this special ministry. Thank you from all of us at LOV.

Sincerely,

**John & Dolores Eads
and the entire LOV Team**