

Outreach Commission Report

Outreach Ministries and projects are an important part of our life at Saint Timothy's. Saint Timothy's parish has a strong commitment to serve our brothers and sisters in need. You can find more information on Outreach and the 16 ministries and projects we support on our **church website**: <https://www.sainttimothysdanville.org/what-outreach-is.html> and click on the Outreach pull-down menu. Each ministry has a liaison representative listed beside the organization. These liaisons are passionate about the groups they represent and bring the congregation information and projects where we can get involved in helping them.

God's Hands Projects are listed on the Rolling bulletin board in the Parish Hall. God's Hands projects are short term events that people with limited time can join in to help. There is also an Outreach calendar with projects listed there. We also advertise projects in the Tidings newsletters and in weekly announcements.

Outreach Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall entry has newsletters and announcements on the work these organizations are doing to help people in need.

Fruits of the Harvest (FOTH)

This is our annual fundraiser and biggest party of the year to benefit all our Outreach Ministry partners. We help these organizations by volunteering and by raising funds at this event to give them grants to help them do their work to make people's lives better.

FOTH is a themed event with a catered dinner, silent auction, raffles, fund-a-need, wall of wine, and other fun fundraising festivities. This event had a Bingo Game which was sponsored by Kathleen Murphy. There were creative new raffles with a Superhero theme by Kimberly Bryant. We had a delicious dinner, Mystery boxes, and the highlight was so many of you who came in costumes. This is a parish wide party that brings us all together to participate and do good work while having fun.

In 2025, FOTH netted an amazing \$71,500, which was over \$14,000 more than last year. Over 28 years, this event has netted over \$1,019,153. We can only attribute that to our consistent donors and to our new generous donors who have seen the need to help others. With the addition of a \$15,000 allocation from the church budget, plus rollover and other donations, we gave out grants of \$90,100, and overall, we have given grants of over \$1,246,090 to help our brothers and sisters in need. A list of this year's grants is posted in the report and on the church website.

Our 28th event had a Superheroes theme: "Superheroes! Not all superheroes wear capes," with an emphasis on honoring not only superheroes from the comics or movies, but superheroes who have influenced your life or have changed the world. Attendees were encouraged to wear costumes, and they were fantastic. We had 4 Ruth Bader Ginsbergs, 2 Mother Teresas, Joan of Arc, Dr. Fauci and other medical heroes, Statue of Liberty, Jane Goodall, Mother Nature, Florence Nightingale, and lots of iconic superheroes. We even had a prize for best and runner up costumes judged by loud applause.

Our special guest speaker was our own Tania Hanson De Young, President of Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIC), which provides furnishings for newly housed individuals who are coming out of homelessness.

The last five years, Carolyn Bried has created wonderful videos to highlight the 16 ministries and projects that we support and the liaisons that represent them on the Outreach committee. Some of the videos from the last few years are posted in the OUTREACH/FOTH part of the church website. The individuals featured this year were mostly submitted entries from our Outreach partner organizations highlighting someone who they consider to be an outstanding hero volunteer to their causes. This Outreach video was featured as a sermon in church the Sunday before the event.

We are so grateful for all our very generous donors and fantastic volunteers!

SAVE THE DATE for the 29th Annual Fruits of the Harvest fundraiser for Outreach: **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025!** Theme: **“Love is an Action Word”**
Stay tuned and come out to help us put this event together and to join in the fun.

Outreach Committee Chair: Leslie Firth

Adopt-a-Family Bikes

In 2025 Adopt-a-Family Bikes refurbished 481 donated bikes and distributed them to local nonprofits and schools. A significant positive change was the ability to use St. Timothy’s Venmo account to accept donations when individuals were dropping off their donated bikes. The donations were used to pay for helmets, locks, and parts.

Adopt-a-Family Bikes started at St. Timothy’s in 2002 as an all-volunteer program. As the program grew, it was moved out to donated spaces in the community and welcomed volunteers from throughout the valley. We are grateful for the assistance of Kimberly Bryant, Steve Zimmerman, and Teresa Centeno concerning insurance, bookkeeping and administrative support.
www.adoptafamilybikes.org; Facebook – Adopt-A-Family Bikes

Liaison: Tania Hanson-De Young

Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition

In 2025, CCIC provided essential furnishings to 219 families, representing 610 people. 101 of those families were single parent families. CCIC is grateful for the support of St. Timothy’s. CCIC is an all-volunteer program working out of three donated storage spaces totaling less than 900 square feet. Additional volunteers are needed in all capacities.

In July, for the health of our clients, CCIC made the decision to no longer accept and donate used beds. This put an additional financial burden on an already tight budget.

Clients are referred to CCIC by case managers from Aspiranet, Contra Costa County, Hope Solutions, Love a Child Mission, St. Vincent de Paul, Trinity Center, and Independent Living Resources. Those referrals included the elderly, veterans, disabled, sick, and families with children; most having just

transitioned from shelters or the streets. 80% of the clients reside in Antioch, Pittsburg, Concord, and Richmond in descending order.

www.ccichope.org; Facebook – CCIC – Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition

Liaison: Tania Hanson-De Young

The Comfort Cub Update

Created over 25 years ago by a mother suffering a broken heart with physical & emotional grief after losing her newborn child, this remarkable Comfort Cub is now medically recognized for its therapeutic positive benefits for people suffering with grief, trauma or special needs and is endorsed by doctors as well as distributed by many major hospitals throughout the country. The Comfort Cub is weighted and when held releases the feel-good hormones of dopamine, oxytocin and serotonin. This creates a sense of calmness.

The Comfort Cub celebrates its 7th year with St. Timothy's Outreach distributing Comfort Cubs to the non-profits supported by St. Timothy's. The annual distribution begins with the Winter Nights Family Shelter program every January. In 2026, we expect more families with children than past years. St. Timothy's Winter Nights has attracted the attention for always having "the precious Cubs that bring comfort" and we are humbly proud to continue the tradition thanks to your support. The Respite Inn that provides a safe and secure temporary stay for adult special-needs adults always has a replenished supply of Comfort Cubs for new guests as well. Each guest names their Cub and takes a photo with their newly named Cub. The handwritten letters transcribing the guests' feelings of gratitude are beyond heart-warming. The largest Comfort Cub program we support throughout the year is at Hope Solutions. Whether it be through the summer camp or their year-round reading program, your support makes a positive difference in the lives of others. Thank you for your support. www.thecomfortcub.org

Liaison: Nancy Lucas

Discovery Counseling Center

Discovery Counseling Center is grateful for the continued partnership and annual grant support from our St. Timothy's church community. For more than 54 years, Discovery has provided affordable, compassionate mental health care to children, teens, adults, and families in the San Ramon Valley and surrounding communities. Each year, Discovery delivers more than 13,000 hours of counseling through clinical counseling programs in schools and at their offices in Danville and San Ramon. They meet clients where they are in difficult times, and through life's everyday challenges. Thanks to generous parishioners and community support, Discovery is able to offer financial assistance for the fees, ensuring that high-quality counseling remains accessible to those who need it most, regardless of ability to pay.

Another way to support Discovery Counseling Center is by donating your used clothes and household items to their store – **The Thrift Station** – at 486 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville – in the Crossroads Shopping Center.

Liaison: Peg Miller

GAIA Global Health

GAIA continues to provide community-based health services and education to people in Malawi, and Zambia. We are extremely grateful for St. Timothy's Church gift of \$6,500 this year, particularly at a time when GAIA and so many others were rocked by the loss of critical institutional funding. The current uncertainty of government-led foreign aid underscores the importance of our faith-based community of donors in sustaining GAIA's vital programs in Malawi. Together, we have been able to maintain trust, credibility, and service in the communities we serve.

Today, with the country on the brink of a historic end to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, GAIA Global Health marks a quarter century of remarkable progress thanks in large part to your steadfast support. Annual HIV infections in Malawi are down nearly 90% since GAIA was founded, and our nursing program has educated more than 10% of Malawi's nursing workforce. Now, that is impact. Because of you, GAIA is advancing the fight to end AIDS, improving care in communities "at the far end of the road," and training Malawi's future nursing workforce. From the hundreds of thousands of Malawians who have benefited from your generosity: Zikomo Kwambiri!

Next year, GAIA will launch our next chapter with the implementation of our Strategic Plan 2026-2030. In addition to providing critical access to healthcare via our cornerstone programs in Malawi, we will continue our Zambia programming, with scholars graduating and fellows completing their programs before the end of 2026.

Liaison: Peg Miller

Habitat for Humanity/East Bay Silicon Valley

For over a decade, Habitat for Humanity/ East Bay Silicon Valley has been and continues to be a recipient of grant funds from St. Timothy's. With these generous donations, St. Tim's is provided the opportunity to participate in numerous volunteer build days each year at active Habitat for Humanity construction sites. In 2025, volunteers from St Tim's assisted in completing the construction of 10 housing units at the Sequoia Grove site in Hayward.

For 2026, St. Tim's volunteers can look forward to completing the finishing touches at the Sequoia Grove housing units as well as beginning work on Phase 2 of Esperanza Place development in Walnut Creek. St. Tim's was also actively involved in the completion of the Phase 1 site at Esperanza Place in 2024. If you are interested in volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, please contact David Kutrosky.

Liaison: David Kutrosky

Hope Solutions (HS)

Its mission is to heal the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support to highly vulnerable families and individuals. Since its founding in 1997, by a coalition of local faith communities, it has grown to be one of the top providers in the county of permanent affordable housing and has reached out to over 4,000 people with transformational housing and services. 98% of them remain permanently housed. They offer many services such as intensive case-management which improves self-sufficiency and increases stability. They offer after

school programs in four locations to give youth enrichment programs to advance them to the next grade level and develop improved self-esteem.

Disappointingly, funding is being slashed, and individuals are being directed into long-term, often traumatizing and expensive institutional settings rather than providing permanent supportive housing.

Liaison: Leslie Firth

Loaves & Fishes of Contra Costa (L&F)

Its mission is to provide a safety net, community-based food program and partner services that focus on basic needs. They are the largest provider of hot meals in Contra Costa County. It is their 42nd anniversary and they have served over 6+ million meals to many thousands of hungry people and have recruited thousands of volunteers. They are now serving 515,000 meals annually from 5 dining rooms and have one central Food Kitchen 5 days a week, with the Martinez and Pittsburg locations open 7 days a week. They also have a daily food pantry in all 5 locations that distributes 20 tons of groceries (fresh vegetables, bread, and other food) per year to individuals. They have a hybrid dinner service indoors as well as serving dinners to-go. Their operations have been impacted by cutbacks of government grants.

Their Mobile Delivery food program has a food truck in operation since last year which has increased its distribution of meals in 5 different locations to address increased need in the community. There also are meal drop off partners that distribute food to 7 other organizations. In addition, they partner with other social service agencies and community-based organizations such as Trinity Center, St. Vincent de Paul, Rubicon Programs, Opportunity Junction, White Pony Express and the Food Bank of CC and Solano. This cooperation of agencies has streamlined operations among all partners.

They have also relaunched their Culinary Arts program to offer a 12-week free culinary program for individuals wanting to learn how to work in the restaurant industry.

Our group of St. Timothy volunteers came back in 2024 from a hiatus after 3 years due to Covid and we serve on the second Tuesday of every month from 9:30 to 1:00 at the Martinez dining room. We also support L&F with an annual "Share the Warmth" clothing drive in January which will help clients stay warm.

Liaison: Leslie Firth

Monument Crisis Center (MCC)

Monument Crisis Center provides food, education, assistance, and referrals to families and individuals in crisis situations in Contra Costa County. The exciting news for 2025 is the groundbreaking at the MCC location in Concord for an expansion of the food pantry. This 2000 sq. ft extension is urgently needed to serve the increasing population of local families and individuals experiencing food insecurity.

The long-time director of MCC, Susan Scherer retired this year. Her son, Danny Scherer, who has worked at the center since 2011 and who served as executive director when Sandra was on leave for

cancer treatment has succeeded her.

Monument Crisis Center (MCC) continues to serve an increasing number of families. In the fiscal year 2024-2025, the Center served 5,000+ families and 12,500+ individuals. Sally Shea Potts volunteers her time there on Mondays and reports that they regularly serve 300+ families. The center gives out food on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and now regularly takes food for distribution in Pittsburg. Sally has been filling the back of her car with donations from St. Timothy's and our scouts. In addition, the Gary Hunt Garden project has been donating herbs, and we have taken fruit from parish members trees. Every donation is really needed.

Liaison: Sally Shea Potts

Monument Crisis Center (MCC) Christmas Food Boxes

Christmas Food Boxes at St. Timothy's had another outstanding year. We donated 268 boxes of food to the MCC Holiday Food Box drive which gave out 1,500+ boxes to client families. The parish really got involved again for the 12th year in a row. We started by bagging rice and beans one Sunday in early November after church. We gathered to fill 200+ boxes with food on a Saturday in December. We also had people filling their own boxes individually. Finally, we had many pitching in to load the truck on a Sunday to get the boxes to the Center on Monday. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and supported this ministry, particularly John Henry Wells who facilitated obtaining the food from the Safeway on Crow Canyon Road in San Ramon, to John Geraci, who again rented the truck that transported our boxes and the Sunday volunteers who sign up supporters and explain options, and Sally Shea Potts for her guidance. What a village!

Liaison: John & Cathy Hager

PFLAG

(Parents, Family and Friends of LGBTQ+Individuals) is an organization working to create a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people. We support families, educate allies, and advocate for equality through our network of supporters, members, and chapters across the country. PFLAG provides peer-to-peer support, educating people on the issues, and advocating for inclusive policies and laws. <https://www.srvpflag.org/>

Liaison: Steve & Lauren Mason

Options Recovery Services

Options Recovery Services has been supported by St. Timothy's since its beginning nearly thirty years ago. Options is now a state-of-the-art Drug and Alcohol Treatment program with treatment centers in Berkeley, West Oakland, San Leandro and Concord; safe, supportive housing in Berkeley and Oakland; and community outreach activities addressing homelessness and addiction in Berkeley, Concord, and Oakland. Options programs have outstanding results compared to all programs throughout the state due to the excellence of their staff, many of whom are recovering addicts and alcoholics themselves who have been trained to be "the best Drug and Alcohol Counselors in the US." To learn more about Options' in-prison training program, Options' Occupational Mentor Certification Program, just watch *The 50*, a documentary now on Amazon Prime. Last year St. Timothy's sponsored a screening of the film in our Parish Hall and had an inspirational panelist discussion afterwards. Options' vision is that one day every addict and/or

alcoholic will have the treatment and supports needed to break the cycle of addiction that causes crime, homelessness and broken families.

Liaisons: Peg Miller & Patti Farris

The Respite Inn

The Respite Inn is a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency that provides short-term care (1-21 days) to adults age 18-59 who have an intellectual/developmental disability. These adults are guests at the “bed & breakfast” style location in Concord, California where they enjoy a wide range of fun activities, interact with other guests, and explore life away from home. The rewards of their stay include new experiences, socialization, creating new friendships, and preparing for a more independent future. Guests are welcomed by specially trained staff capable of responding to the individual needs of every guest. Guests enjoy a myriad of fun and engaging activities—from karaoke, yoga, baking and crafts—to meditation in multiple gardens, biking, music therapy, games in the yurt, or enjoyment of donated tickets to local sports or performing arts events.

Their families, meanwhile, gain a gift of time away from caretaking to rest, rejuvenate, and attend to their own needs. <https://therespiteinn.org>

Liaison: Carleen Carns

Rise Against Hunger

On Saturday, October 27, St. Timothy’s hosted a Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing event in the Parish Hall. Thanks to the hardworking effort of donors and over 90 volunteers, we packed a total of 15,000 meals. That’s enough to feed 77 children for an entire school year. Since we started hosting the event in 2016, St. Timothy’s has packed over 150,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. The meals are distributed worldwide by the non-profit Rise Against Hunger to areas of food insecurity, disaster sites and refugees displaced by war. The Rise Against Hunger event is a great community building activity that parishioners of all ages can participate in.

<https://riseagainsthunger.org/>

Liaison: Joann Oliver

SHELTER, Inc.

Is a Concord-based non-profit that provides housing and support services to prevent and end homelessness. SHELTER, Inc. is one of the largest nonprofits covering Contra Costa, Solano, and Sacramento counties. SHELTER, Inc.’s goal is to make it possible for their clients to rebuild their lives by providing homes and the necessary wraparound services to assist with being self-sufficient and maintaining a home. They serve veterans, families and individuals with specialized programs for those facing domestic violence, mental health issues or substance abuse.

Last year, SHELTER, Inc. helped 5824 individuals and families. Providing affordable housing SHELTER, Inc. owns, or master leases hundreds of units renting to low-income vulnerable residents. For 2025, SHELTER, Inc.’s new initiative is Casa Canal in Marin County, offering 40 units of permanent supportive housing with case management and life skills of formerly homeless individuals, expanding their reach again beyond Contra Costa.

Liaison: Alison Hill

Trinity Center

Trinity Center, located in St. Paul's Commons in Walnut Creek - adjacent to St. Paul's Episcopal Church - provides essential safety-net services and a clear pathway forward for unhoused and housing unstable adults in our community. Trinity Center opens doorways to opportunity for individuals seeking housing stability, financial security, and overall wellness.

Core services include meals, showers, laundry, clothing, mail and telephone access, case management, referrals, and support groups. Looking ahead, Trinity Center anticipates that two newer initiatives - the **Workforce Development Program** and the **Wellness Program** - will further strengthen outcomes for members.

Following a period of transition, **Paida Ndemera** has joined Trinity Center as Executive Director. Paida brings a strong commitment to relationship-building and is eager to connect with Trinity Center supporters at **St. Timothy's** and across the broader community.

Liaison: Caryle Voss

Winter Nights Family Shelter

With the help of our partners, Beth Chaim Congregation, St. Timothy's hosted the Winter Nights Family Shelter in the Parish Hall, January 6 – 20, 2025. We had six families, including 6 children ages 3 to 15 years. We provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner; showers; assistance with homework; space for play and relaxation. Transportation, counseling, and other services to help families move into stable housing are provided by the Winter Nights Shelter program. We will host the shelter again on January 19, 2026, our 22nd year participating in the program.

<https://cccwinternights.org/>

Liaison: Joann Oliver

God's Hands Project: The Annual Backpack and School Supplies Drive for Hope Solutions

The annual **Backpack and School Supplies Drive for Hope Solutions** is held in June and St. Timothy's parishioners showed their generosity by donating funds on-line or by sending checks directly to Hope Solutions. It helped them reach their goal of \$15,000 to provide 600 backpacks for their afterschool programs. This project ensures that these children from low-income areas are prepared to be successful in school to break the cycle of poverty.

Liaison: Leslie Firth

God's Hands Project: Share the Warmth Drive for Loaves and Fishes

Share the Warmth Drive for Loaves and Fishes happens from end of December to mid-January 2025. We collected items for Loaves and Fishes, and toiletries for Options Recovery Services in Berkeley for their Christmas bags for clients. You donated scarves, hats, gloves, mittens, caps, pants, jackets, etc., emergency rain ponchos and Mylar blankets, plus over 200 pairs of socks to keep people warm during this cold and wet winter. The toiletries were also very appreciated. Thank you, St. Timothy's.

Liaison: Leslie Firth

God's Hands Project: The Gary Hunt Produce Program

The Gary Hunt Produce Program involves cultivating plants to support families facing financial challenges. Starting with a raised garden funded by our parishioner in 2017, we have been growing herbs (e.g. sage, rosemary, thyme, tarragon, oregano, marjoram, chives, bay leaves and mint) and pollinator friendly flowers (e.g. salvia, lavender) on our church campus. Newly planted this year are the basil plants and the beautiful snapdragon and zinnias flowers, thanks to Jan Maloney. In 2025, we harvested & packed over 100 small bags of herbs for Monument Crisis Center. In addition, the team collected produce from lemon and orange trees from one of the congregants and donated around 100 citrus fruits. We appreciate Sally, Kari and the Hagers for transporting these items to MCC regularly.

If anyone is interested in working in the garden or has produce to donate, please contact Gabel Chong-Horsley or Sally Shea Potts.

Liaison: Gabel Chong-Horsley

As I wrap up my second year as the Outreach Commissioner, I feel truly blessed to continue to be part of St. Timothy's parish and the vestry. I am grateful to belong to a parish who are God's hands in so many ways and serve so many of our brothers and sisters. "Christ has no hands but ours to do His work." Thank you for being a parish that embodies this message.

Our outreach ministries and outreach liaisons continue to show such incredible passion and care for making a difference. Thank you for all you do!

I look forward to 2026 with hope and excitement for the incredible impact St. Timothy's will continue to make in our lives, community, and beyond. Thank you for always reminding me why we are here.

"Life is no 'brief candle' for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." by George Bernard Shaw

Submitted by Teresa Centeno Kim, Outreach Commissioner