

Your Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church gives a portion of its monetary resources to serve the needs of others. If you would like to make a contribution to any of the following mission projects you may consider making it in another's name. The person you honor will receive an announcement of your gift and a thank you note from the church. This can be another way to say Happy Birthday or Merry Christmas or just "I'm thinking of you" to someone while you help to further God's work. These are the missions with which your congregation is involved.

- **FILLMORE FOOD PANTRY**
Helps to feed families who are experiencing difficulty putting enough food on the table. The pantry is open on the third Saturday of each month. There is also a brief worship service before the pantry opens for those who would like to attend.
- **BAGS OF BLESSINGS**
Bags of Blessings is an outreach program to new expectant parents. The church collects various baby needs, diapers, lotion, etc. and presents them to expectant parents as they are given a tour of Mt. Nittany Medical Center. It is our way of saying congratulations and best wishes to new families.
- **VALLEY MINISTRY INITIATIVE**
This group consists of three elected representatives from each location as well as the Pastor. Its focus is to find ways to enhance worship opportunities and invite others to become part of our worship community. Recent events include the Easter Egg Hunt/Skating Party in which we partnered with local township government and a combined Memorial Day Worship Service/Picnic with special entertainment by a local group.
- **FIRECRACKERS**
The Firecrackers Women's group shows the love and light of Jesus Christ within the Buffalo Run Valley and beyond through short-term and ongoing missions.

- **THE HOME INITIATIVE**
An outreach Initiative to equip local Churches, through a ministry of presence to care for our returning combat and peacetime veterans and their loved ones with an open mind, a listening ear and compassionate conversation.
- **THE AGAPE FUND**
This is a monetary fund set up to help those who are experiencing a financial crisis. It can be used to help keep the electric turned on for those who have fallen behind, provide fuel, especially in the winter months, or help pay back rent in order to fend off eviction. The Agape Fund is administered by the Pastor. There are caps put on amounts donated to an individual or household.
- **ROSE OF SHARON ORPHANAGE**
The Rose of Sharon Orphanage is located in the Dominican Republic and ministers to children who are unable to be cared for in their homes. The orphanage provides basic essentials such as water, food, clothing, medical care and shelter. The children are also able to attend school. To date five boys have graduated high school and were able to continue on to college. Funding from the church and other local groups has allowed work teams from the area to make improvements to the conditions of the facility as well as provide opportunities to take the children on trips to sites outside the orphanage.
- **COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL**
Through Compassion International, a monthly gift of \$38.00 supports our sponsored child, Edgar Alexis Echevarria Tantaleán. This contribution connects Edgar with a loving, church-based sponsorship program through which he receives medical checkups, nutritious food, health and hygiene training and educational assistance. But most important of all, Edgar will hear about Jesus Christ and be encouraged to develop a lifelong relationship with God. We keep in touch with him through letters which are translated for us into English and our return letters are translated by Compassion into a language that he can understand. We're always looking for individuals to share in a pen-pal letter exchange with Edgar.