



Flat Rock

Restoring Hope. Transforming Lives. Living Faith.

Faith Connections October 2020

In this issue:

- #GivingTuesday: TRL Outdoor Therapeutic Center
- Race at the Rock wrap-up
- "Spotlight on Youth"
- Sibshop in Greensburg UMC
- DisAbilities Awareness Resources

#GivingTuesday Project

Globally, #GivingTuesday raises millions of dollars for non-profits with the help of people like you. We're excited to continue to be a part of this amazing initiative. For 2020, we hope you will help us with the development and construction of the **TRL Outdoor Therapeutic Center**. This project will include the demolition of a few buildings on campus, the construction of a memorial walking path, a prayer labyrinth, and upgrades to the playground to make it accessible for those served by Flat Rock.

#GivingTuesday at Flat Rock Homes has raised over \$60,000 to help our continued mission! With your help, we have been able to replace the furniture in the Care Center, purchase two minivans, and aid in our emergency preparations for COVID-19. Stay tuned to our social media for more information and be on the lookout for our matching gift announcement! You may partner with us now to make your donation early! Visit the website at <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/givingtuesday/> and mark your calendar for #GivingTuesday on **December 1, 2020**.

Race at the Rock Wrap-Up

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2020 Dick Parks Memorial Race at the Rock! With your help, we were able to raise almost \$33,000 for our continued mission at Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services! We had participants from all over the country, but the furthest away was from Albuquerque, New Mexico!

The winners of The Dick Parks Fundraising Award are:
Team Dennis, Lakewood United Methodist Church, and Becky Brandt

Thank you to everyone who helped make this race a success! We're looking forward with hope in our hearts that we will be able to see everyone in person next year. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated!



More photos are available at <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/events/race-at-the-rock/>

Rock Homes, Care Center, & Community Services 7353 County Road 29, PO Box 1, Flat Rock, Ohio 44828
419.483.7330 www.flatrockhomes.org

Spotlight on Youth with Blair

Our new volunteer Youth Ambassador, Blair Porter is already talking with church groups and making plans for future endeavors. Please keep Blair in your prayers as she juggles school and several leadership positions alongside this new role. We will have more details for you next month!

The Sibshop at Greensburg UMC

They drive from miles away for the Sibshop meetings: From Hudson, Streetsboro, Solon, and beyond. These brothers and sisters make the trip to the Greensburg UMC in Green, Ohio (Canal District), to gather for a Saturday meeting and meal at Sibshop. You may wonder, just what *is* Sibshop? What about it gathers these young people from miles away? "Founded in 1990, the Sibling Support Project is a national program dedicated to the life-long and ever-changing concerns of millions of brothers and sisters of people with special health, developmental, and mental health needs. Our initiatives include Sibshops which are lively events for school-age brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. Over 400 Sibshops exist throughout most US states and Canadian provinces, and in eight countries." (via www.siblingsupport.org)

Since 2016, the Greensburg Church in the Canal District of the EOCUMC has hosted Sibshop. Before the pandemic, they met monthly for a casual gathering and meal, led by trained facilitators. Judith Martin, a strong Sibshop supporter, says the church is very supportive and provides free space for the group, which hopes to be able to meet again in person as soon as possible.



The participants develop strong friendships with others in their age group who share similar situations. When many of the group were younger, they formed such tight bonds, that they formed a group for older teens like themselves, just so they could continue to meet. Now there are two teams – grades 2-6, and grades 7 - 12. These siblings may feel a bit left out within the family unit due to the needs of their sibling, and this casual group allows them to share and find support with each other. Judith says church donations, the Akron Women's Civic Club, and individual fundraising help supply the needs of the group. In northern Ohio, there are several other Sibshops. To find a group near you, visit www.siblingsupport.org.

What Will Your Legacy Be? Remember Flat Rock in your will. Contact Jill Kinser at jkinser@flatrockhomes.org for details.

DisAbilities Awareness Resources:

"Increasing Access and Opportunity" is the 2020 theme for October's annual observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This Month celebrates the ingenuity people with disabilities bring to America's workplaces. (Department of Labor. www.dol.gov)

Looking ahead: March 2021 is designated National Disabilities Month. Our Flat Rock ministries team is here to help you plan and present your DisAbility Awareness Sunday program. We offer **pulpit supply, music supply (Rose), spiritual gifts retreats (Sherri), and other special services/programs**. References are available.

Please contact the following for additional information:

- Karen Kilgo, President/CEO of Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, and Community Services at kkilgo@flatrockhomes.org
- Deaconess Sherri Buehl, sbuehl@flatrockhomes.org (EOCUMC: Firelands, North Coast, Mid-Ohio, Western Reserve, and Southern Hills districts).
- Rose Darling, rdarling@flatrockhomes.org (EOCUMC: Canal, Mahoning Valley, Ohio Valley, Three Rivers, and Tuscarawas districts)

We are available to present Flat Rock ministries to churches of all denominations throughout Ohio.

Rock Homes, Care Center, & Community Services 7353 County Road 29, PO Box 1, Flat Rock, Ohio 44828
419.483.7330 www.flatrockhomes.org