



ABOUT PROJECT J.O.Y.



Project J.O.Y. (*Joyous Offerings of Youth*) is a youth based ministry of Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, TN. Project J.O.Y. serves the small impoverished coal mining town of Harlan, KY. We provide the families in our focus area with food boxes, warm winter clothes, coats and shoes, warm toiletries, blankets, and "school learning bags". This is the ninth year we will travel to Harlan. Each year we have grown and been able to help more. Project J.O.Y. is a fully volunteer organization and 100% of your donation goes to helping the people of Harlan.

This project was founded in 1999 and serves approximately 1000 people in Harlan. Each year this project has evolved and grown to better meet the needs of our families. Project J.O.Y. partners with several resource counselors, head start directors and 1st Presbyterian Church of Harlan to identify the neediest families. In the past years we have received a food grant of \$2000 from Middle TN Presbytery, earned \$3000 by working concessions for the Nashville Sounds Baseball games and numerous other donations of products from corporations and individuals.



Project J.O.Y. Founders

The Children's Defense Fund states "A child in Kentucky is born into poverty every 44 minutes". In our focus area 73.82% of the Children in Harlan County combined High Schools are on "Free and Reduced Lunch Program". When you struggle to survive day-to-day it's often impossible to provide school shoes, clothes and school supplies and even enough food for your children. If your home has no heating or electricity and you find it even hard to keep your children warm on those long winter nights you won't sleep well and learning is affected. If you don't have shoes and warm clothes for school, don't have enough money to get a pencil or that note book you need for class your self esteem is so low that it affects learning. Providing school supplies and other necessities is one way to help keep children in school so this next generation of Harlan Children escapes the poverty.



Project J.O.Y.'s goal is to focus on 400 families (approx 1000 people). We will take food boxes for each family, school learning bags, warm blankets, winter coats, shoes, jeans, school clothes and family toiletries. The project is governed by a steering committee and has team leaders that handle the different areas. Our trip to Harlan is planned for the weekend of October 11th, 2008. We will travel to Harlan on Friday and set up in the local High School gymnasium. The clothing and school supplies are set out for selection in the gymnasium. Food trucks are parked outside so families can select clothing that they need for each member and then move outside to collect their food boxes. The teens and men of Project J.O.Y. then help each family carry their items to their cars allowing time of interaction with the families. All of the work is done by the Project J.O.Y. Team (teens and adults). We have partnered with 17 other Presbyterian Churches that provide goods that we take to Harlan or travel with us.

MISSION STATEMENT

Project J.O.Y. is a youth based Appalachian Ministry of Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN. Project J.O.Y.'s goal is to improve the lives of families and keep children in school in the impoverished town of Harlan, KY by providing school supplies, food boxes, clothes, shoes, blankets and toiletries.

www.projectjoytn.org