

# History

In 1999 eleven high school students of the Priest Lake Presbyterian Youth Group looked for a mission project. They were led to provide assistance to the depressed coal mining district around Harlan, Kentucky. On the first trip in December of 1999 they were moved by the poverty they saw and realized that this was a mission that needed their full support. Now nearly a decade later the ministry has grown to involve many other churches in Nashville and continues to grow. With your support we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of the community of Harlan and make the vision of these young people come true.



Project J.O.Y. Founders

# Contact Information

## General Information

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## Project Coordinator

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## Clothing Coordinator

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## Blanket and Linen Coordinators

Pond Presbyterian Church

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# Sponsorships

If you or your company want to contribute to this effort we have different levels of sponsorship. To see how this will benefit your company and Project J.O.Y. visit our website or e-mail us to receive a Project Package.

# PROJECT

# J.O.Y.

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*An Appalachian Ministry of Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, supporting the community of Harlan, Kentucky*



*"If one member suffers, all suffer together..."*

1 Corinthians 12:26

[www.projectjoytn.org](http://www.projectjoytn.org)

## What is Project J.O.Y?

Project J.O.Y. (*Joyous Offerings of Youth*) is a youth driven mission project of Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN that provides families of Harlan, KY with food, clothing, and other necessities of life.



Downtown Harlan

Harlan is in the middle of the Appalachian coal mining area which although once was thriving is now in a state of depression. This means that well over 50% of the population live below the poverty level. It is our aim to provide assistance to this community and help them with the basic necessities of life.

## Clothing & Toiletries

Have you tried working in a freezer with a T-shirt, shorts and no shoes. This is what many in Harlan have to endure during the winter.

By providing warm clothing, such as jeans, flannel shirts or blouses, sweat-shirts, insulated underwear, and gloves, along



with shoes and socks the quality of life for these people is greatly improved. Collection and distribution of clothing is one of the main emphasis of Project J.O.Y.

As well as clothing it is essential to supply personal hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and feminine hygiene products. Often people have to make a choice between these clothing and food and clothing is not covered by food stamps.

## Food

When you are living below the poverty line getting three nutritious meals a day can be difficult. Many children come to school without breakfast and rely on the school lunch program to provide their only meal of the day. Project J.O.Y. provides food boxes that contain the staples of life that will help families eat nutritiously. The food boxes concentrate on supplying food that allows meals to be stretched, such as rice and beans and other non-perishable food items.



## Blankets & Linens

Imagine living in the Appalachian mountains in the middle of winter. The outside temperature is below zero and there is a 30 mile per hour wind blowing. Your house has no heat and the cold comes in through the cracks around the doors and windows of your house which badly needs repair. The blankets you have are 30 years old and thread bare. Worse yet your new baby does not have a blanket to be wrapped in. A new or near new blanket would be like gold to you to keep you and your family warm.

Pond Presbyterian Church has partnered with us and collect and distribute Blankets and Linens.



## Learning Bags

When you are struggling for survival day-to-day it is impossible to provide the supplies your children need for school. Providing Learning Bags for children at all school levels helps with the learning process and is one way to help the next generation of Harlan escape the poverty. Learning Bags have the basic necessities for school such as paper, pencils, pens, crayons binders, story books and other items to promote learning.



## How can you help?

Project J.O.Y. requires gifts of food, clothing, blankets, linens and other sundry items. Gifts of cash help purchase needed supplies. To learn more of how you can help visit the web site. Project J.O.Y. is a fully volunteer organization and 100% of your donation goes to helping the people of Harlan.

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