**Saint Mark Local Mission Ministry Partners**

Literacy Council of Montgomery County

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County (LCMC) has a tutoring program that has been in continuous operation since 1963. The organization recruits and trains volunteers to be literacy and English tutors, recruits and assesses adult students, and matches tutors and students in either one-on-one or in small groups. Learners receive individualized instructional support and individualized lessons. Lessons proceed at the learner’s pace and are conducted in a public location convenient to the learner, who in many cases does not drive and may have trouble navigating public transportation.

Saint Mark members are welcome to volunteer as literacy tutors; tutor contacts; board members; teacher aides; reading and math tutors for pre-GED students; office volunteers; and, special event and/or fundraising volunteers.

Bethesda Help

Bethesda Help’s Emergency Financial Assistance Program provides financial assistance for rent (when there is about to be an eviction), partial or full payment of utility bills (when service is about to be cut off) and prescription medicines (when need is verified by a doctor’s office and the client is without full or partial payment). Financial assistance is generally provided within 24 hours of the client’s request.

Bethesda Help’s Food Pantry is housed in donated space in a church in Bethesda. The pantry is stocked with a variety of healthy food, which is both donated and purchased. Clients can receive up to three food deliveries a month. Each delivery consists of grocery bags packed with a three-day supply of food, for as many people as there are in the household. A grocery gift card is included with each delivery so clients can buy fresh produce, meat and dairy items. Snack packs with healthy snack foods are also given to families that have school aged children.

Bethesda Help is a 100% volunteer run organization. Saint Mark members can serve as volunteers for their program in several different ways. Every weekday, they have one Officer of the Day and one driver on duty. Volunteers also pack bags for the food pantry and makes sure the food pantry is stocked. Since Bethesda Help relies on donated food, volunteers can organize food drives to keep their food pantry well-stocked.

Anyone interested in learning more about how to serve with any of our local partners or to assist with the Local Mission Ministry can contact Mary Casper (Casper219@aol.com)