

Wesley Monumental UMC

Mission Program Profile: Wesley Community Centers

Name of Program/Organization

Wesley Community Centers, Inc.

Target Population

Disadvantaged women, children and families of the greater Savannah area; many served are homeless. The organization emphasizes helping children of parents who are working or in school.

Agency Mission/Purpose

To enhance economic, education and spiritual growth in its clients

Organization Contact

Tammy A. K. Mixon-Calderon: 912-236-4226

Wesley Contact

Diane Davis: dpwdmd50@hotmail.com

Nature of Spiritual Purpose

"Vessels to serve the least of these"

Sources of Funding

Funding is through the South Georgia UMC Conference and the United Methodist Women. In addition, they receive variable amounts from United Way. The staff work hard to obtain grants from any appropriate source, but most of these are small. Several UMC churches contribute food, other supplies and volunteer time. Special projects for the mission have been performed from time to time by civic clubs such as Rotary International. About \$50,000 was raised in the Love Walk 2019, in which many Wesley Monumental members participated.

Mr. Frank Wooten of Wesley Monumental was instrumental in raising funds to purchase their current facility at 1601 Drayton St. Former District Superintendent W. Hamp Watson, Jr. promoted the project as well. The property is owned by the Wesley Community Center Board of Directors, which is not usual for missions of the UMC and is due to the mission's history. The Center reports to the Board of Directors, as well as to the national UMW office and to the South Georgia office for local missions.

Organization Activity

Their primary activity is an accredited pre-school and daycare program for children ages 1-4, with two locations, serving up to 150 children of low-income families. In addition, there is a family life center with a food pantry, career clothing closet, computer lab, library, adult literacy education classes, and additional special events. The summer and spring break

multi-cultural youth arts program for ages 5-12 provides exposure to other cultures through art, field trips and other methods with an emphasis on literacy.

Non-financial Needs of Organization

Volunteers are always welcome to visit or to do a special program in the pre-school and need a criminal background check if planning to work regularly with the children. Supplies for the food pantry are essential, as well as nice or new clothing for the closet. Seasonally, gardeners are needed for their vegetable garden, as it must be planted and tended. In years past, they grew many vegetables and the children got to assist in weeding and picking. At harvest, they held a mock "Market" and the parents were invited to purchase their crop with fake money. Several teachers were enthusiastic about the program, as it teaches city children about growing healthful food. Another need is for an extension of an existing irrigation pipe to water the garden. Currently, the playground is partly covered with artificial grass and is partly sand. An extension of the artificial grass to cover the whole playground would be helpful.
