



# Annual Report

2020 - 2021



## A Note from the Director



### *You're Invited*

Dementia Friendly  
Christmas Sanctuary  
Service at FUMC

Thursday  
December 16 at 1:15



## Dear Friends,

From the very first day of Respite Care Ministry in January of 2016 I knew this was going to change my life forever! I had hoped we were going to change the story of dementia in our community from fear and dread to hope and life! AND we did it! Volunteers came from all over our community to unite in one purpose and that was to give our caregivers rest and our participants love and purpose. Five years, two expansions, and a pandemic later, I am pleased to report that the state of Respite Care Ministry is stronger than ever.

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 was GRAND RE-OPENING DAY! After being closed since March of 2020 due to COVID-19, it was the most glorious reunion! Our Respite Care community returned excited and ready to serve. We returned with a new appreciation of our time together, a larger sense of purpose and it felt like all of our hearts for this ministry had doubled in size! The first day was filled with almost all new families and new faces. We started with four participants two days a week and were quickly up to 12 participants each day in no time. Covid reared it's ugly head again and created a second "pause" for Respite Care Ministry. October we returned four days a week and began rebuilding again. Our caregivers need us. Our participants need us. We all need each other. We have built a community of love at Respite Care Ministry that won't give up!!

I hope you enjoy this look back over the last year. THANK YOU to all of you that made our reopening possible! Your time, financial gifts, prayers and encouragement kept this ministry on solid ground during a VERY difficult year. Thank you for blessing our families living with dementia and for helping us love them just as they are...uniquely made and beautiful children of God. They remember love because of YOU!

*Katie Holland*



# GRAND RE-OPENING DAY!

April 20, 2021 could not come fast enough! We had been apart far too long! We welcomed back faces that we had really missed as well as many new faces!! It was a joyous day for all....Respite Staff, Volunteers, Caregivers and Participants!





## *Truck Load of SMILES*

The Gussied Up Flower Truck made a stop by Respite Care! Each participant was able to hand pick each flower for a beautiful bouquet to present to their caregiver.



# Welcome

Judi Kelley just joined our staff as the Assistant Director of Respite Care Ministry. Judi is a former caregiver of one of our very first and beloved participants, Robert Kelley. Judi has served as a volunteer, led our Grief Support Group, and organized our amazing volunteer lunch service team from Selma Baptist Church! Judi has such a heart for serving in this ministry and we are so excited to have her join our Respite family!



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

I don't usually know our Respite participants from life before they experience memory loss. So, I have no expectation or perceived opinion – it is just me and them and whatever the moment gives us. Every day I have the gift of volunteering, I cherish these moments in time, hoping to fill the one I am with, with feelings of security, love, and happiness. In turn, they fill me with humble gratitude to the One who created us all.

— Kristin Atwell

## CAREGIVER SPOTLIGHT

Caregiver Mike Babski from Enterprise, AL was able to enjoy a day of fishing while his wife Alyene was with us at Respite Care. We all enjoyed seeing his BIG CATCH and the smile that came with it!



# Community

GIVING WHILE LIVING with Memory Loss is a way of life for us every Monday through Thursday from 10 o'clock until 2 o'clock! Our participants find so much JOY in helping others. This year we packed doggy treat bags for the Humane Society, painted bags monthly for the Wiregrass Food Bank and packaged 50 chemotherapy care packages for patients at Dothan Hematology and Oncology.





## Engagement and Purpose



*Dementia causes the outlets for purpose to shrink, but the need for being helpful and for having purpose does not.*

*– Dr. Rita Jablonski*

The Respite Care community provides so many creative opportunities for our participants to help with activities, serve others, and feel needed. In October our participants were so honored to be a part of making chemotherapy care packages for Dothan Hematology and Oncology. They filled each box with loving care and a prayer for each recipient.

# *Respite Garden*



## *Respite Garden*

The Respite Garden represents so many things for our participants, caregivers and volunteers. The garden represents life, growth, and hope! The handcrafted garden box has been filled with vegetables, flowers and love! Our volunteers create it and nurture it. Respite participants do their part and help water it. The best part...the caregiver gets to REST and just ENJOY it!



# Respite Shop OPEN For Business

We are thrilled to be re-stocking our shelves at the Respite Shop with wonderful gift items made with LOVE by volunteers and participants. New items appear weekly and they go fast! The shop is located in the Welcome Center at FUMC.







# IN MEMORY:

This year we lost several of our beloved Respite Family: Chuck Dunseth, Joe Dunlap, Juanita Dix, Alice Kieran and Jim Wheeler. The dedicated memorial gifts from these wonderful five will be applied to supporting and loving families this year living with memory loss. We will honor each of their precious memories by continuing to show families in our community that love NEVER forgets.



JUANITA DIX



JOE DUNLAP



CHUCK DUNSETH



ALICE KIERAN



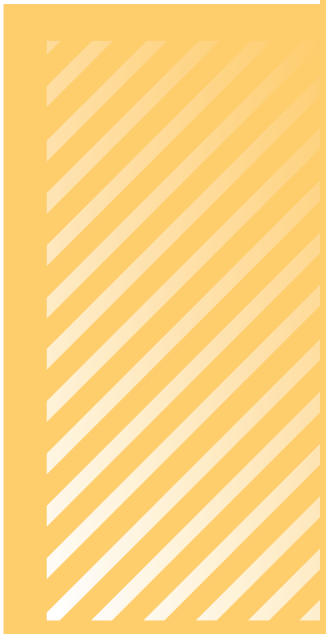
JIM WHEELER





**Thank you**

THANK YOU to the Jr. Beta Club of Highlands Elementary School for choosing Respite Care Ministry for their Spring Service Project! They showered us with essentials such as paper towels, sanitizing wipes, and exercise balls! They also handmade one pound exercise weights for us using dried beans and colorful socks! Order of the Black Dress also chose Respite Care Ministry for their annual community benefit night Taste of the Krewes! It was a wonderful evening of food and fun. Thank you! What a difference these two groups have made is the lives of our families!



COMING THIS SPRING:  
**Volunteer and Caregiver Workshop**

**What's Funny About Caregiving? ABSOLUTELY NOTHING**  
with Elaine K. Sanchez  
Author, Speaker, & Co-Founder of Caregiverhelp.com

Elaine Sanchez knows from her own experience of caring for family elders that it's entirely too difficult to take seriously all the time.





**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DOTHAN  
RESPITE CARE MINISTRY**  
1380 WEST MAIN STREET  
DOTHAN, AL 36301

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## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?



### *Volunteer Training*

Second Wednesday of each month

10:00 at FUMC Room 157

Need support?

Caregiver Support Group

Third Thursday of each month

10:00 at FUMC Room 158

To learn more about how YOU can help love families in our community living with memory loss, email [katie@fumcdothan.org](mailto:katie@fumcdothan.org)