



During the past 8 years, our totally-volunteer, relationship-based and research-minded organization has provided a Christ-centered response to our “neighbors in need” in Lexington County (29033, 29053, 29073, 29169, 29170, 29171 and 29172). Our mission is to transform lives as we help our neighbors help themselves. Currently, we serve more than 1,000 families through 31 different ministries.

We view poverty as more than an economic condition. Our research confirms that individuals/families living in poverty CAN be positively impacted physically, socially, cognitively, emotionally and spiritually, when those in commerce, education, government, Church and our “neighbors in need” come together. Some of these include:

- 1. After-School** We are building 100 “at risk” students from Airport and BC High Schools and Fulmer Middle School into “tomorrow’s leaders.” Students are tutored and mentored, while learning to make better life decisions and developing a healthy work-ethic. 95% of students have or are “on track” to graduate from high school. We are eager to work with churches and/or schools to do the same. (This is NOT a daycare!)
- 2. BelleMeade Estates** This suburban, poverty-dominated, high crime neighborhood in Lexington County serves as a template for other neighborhoods facing similar challenges. Last year, more than 600 volunteers from Next Step Ministries, Inc. and Lexington County Sheriff’s Department worked WITH residents to repair 22 homes. A donated home, called the “Hub of Hope,” serves as the epicenter of hope and provides a variety of services for all ages, including Mom2Mom gatherings.

During summer 2015, a donated piece of property will be built and ultimately serve as transitional housing for a single mom and her children. We will add a “wellness” component for all residents, a “Healthy LifeStars” initiative for children and youth, and the BelleMeade Estates” template will be multiplied into an urban, poverty-dominated neighborhood called “Happy Town” in West Columbia. We are eager to work with others to transform their neighborhoods.

- 3. Fast Track GED** During the past 3 years, more than 260 individuals have earned their GED. Most have gained employment, attended college and/or improved their employment status. We are eager to work with others to get their GED.

4. **Camp Nehemiah** During the Summer of 2016, this 38+ acre estate with four ponds (off Platt Springs Road) will begin providing weekend and summer outdoor experiences for youth and/or other groups, designed to enhance their character and ability to work with others. Recently, we entered into a partnership with the Lexington County Blowfish baseball team. We are eager to make this facility available as needed.
5. **The Giving Table** In 2012 and 2013 (during Christmas), we provided a free sit down meal, live entertainment and great fellowship for more than 1,000 families in Lexington School District Two. Groceries/Clothing were given away, with drawings conducted for Wal-Mart gift cars. We are eager to host this event again and/or help others do the same.
6. **Nehemiah Headquarters** Our newest ministry, located at 2801 Augusta Highway in West Columbia, is designed to allow us to perform “triage” on “individuals/families in need” ... or discover how we might “journey” with our neighbors in an effort to help them help themselves.

Also, starting this Monday, May 25 (7PM) we will begin an informal “dialogue” on why, how, and what we do to help our “neighbors in need” in Lexington County. During these times together, we will also share success stories of what God is doing in the lives of His people. All are invited!

Our needs: Other like-minded partners willing to give of their time and effort.

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