

ALABAMA RURAL MINISTRY



Celebrating
25
Years of Ministry



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

About Alabama Rural Ministry

We Build More:

sustainable homes
strong families
servant leaders



Our Vision:

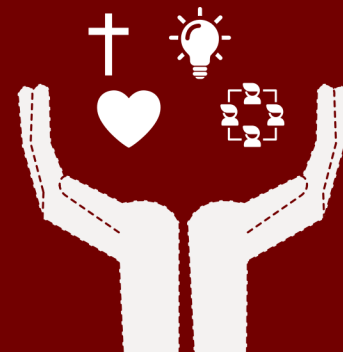
Transformed rural communities
with sustainable homes, strong
families, and strategic
community partnerships for
the glory of God.

Our Mission:

Discover, develop, and deploy
spiritual leaders who, as
disciples of Jesus Christ,
minister with rural and under-
resourced communities to
create sustainable homes,
strengthen families, and build
strategic community
partnerships for the glory of God.

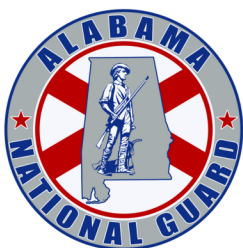
Our Values:

Christ-Centered
Compassionate Servant Leaders
Creative and Thoughtful Stewards
Intentional Strategic Partnerships
Racial Bridge Builders



Letter from the Executive Director

Lisa Pierce



Dear Friends of ARM,

Deployed in Kuwait seems easy compared to the challenges ARM faced this year. Culminating from COVID-19, we experienced lower mission team numbers this year and have dropped to one mission site as we rebuild. It is not the mission teams per se, they continue to sign up albeit with smaller team sizes. Our limiting factor is the participation of college students as our summer camp counselors. On the heels of COVID are the challenges within the UMC from where many of our teams originate. Despite these significant hurdles, we are committed to serving families in need with home repair and inspiring our new generation of servant leaders.

I've been reflecting on the story of the Starfish and wearing a Starfish charm on my necklace. You may recall the story of the stranded starfish dying on the beach by the thousands and the faithfulness of a youth throwing each one back in, undaunted by the sheer number. "It matters to this one", as the youth gently tosses one back into the water. Surely the perseverance of the youth is inspiring. Additionally, starfish are amazing creatures able to regenerate when losing one of its members and even being cut in half. They embody resilience!

Reset and regeneration seem to be our watchwords going forward. There are so many stranded starfish; people desperately in need of home repairs. Despite our challenges as a ministry, we are going to reset and rebuild so we can help more families and children. Although feeling fragmented by many fast changes, we are regenerating and seeing opportunities with a fresh perspective. Indeed, it feels like the new wine in new wineskins!

We hope you will join us to toss starfish back into the ocean and are grateful for your financial gifts and what keeps us going! We look forward to serving and partnering with you as we together make homes warm, safe, dry, and beautiful for God's glory!

Thank you!

Grace and peace, Lisa

What does ARM mean to YOU?

Rev. Lisa Pierce- Exec Director/Founder

Executive Director/Founder

"Every day is mission and there is a purpose greater than me! Jesus is alive and we get to serve Him daily!"

Lawton Vallely- Communication Director

"ARM has allowed me to grow my faith while surrounding myself with Godly people and learning valuable life skills."

Kabe Fetner- AmeriCorps Vista
Student Recruiter



"ARM has shown me the true meaning of service. Putting God above everything, and using him as our inspiration, is one of the most fulfilling ways to serve. Serving others is not just a human thing, it's a Godly thing."

Jeremy Bolton- Property Manager

"My work with ARM has put me in direct contact with the Truth of our Christian faith, that we are all called to love and serve our neighbors, and the much deeper questions about what it takes to create the beloved community."

Nancy James- Admin Assistant

"ARM is family."

Raechel Schultz- Program Director

"I have formed so many friendships through this organization and am excited to see the disciples we grow and the people we can help empower through our ministry!"

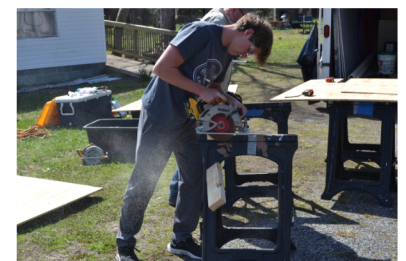
Partnerships

Alabama CBF & Together For Hope Service Weekend

Alabama Rural Ministry held our first Building Hope Service weekend, in partnership with Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Together For Hope, in Macon County, AL! This weekend was nothing short of a spectacular blessing to our local community. Thanks to 64 amazing volunteers that answered the call to serve, ARM was able to repair 5 Homeowner sites. Our five Homes included Mrs. Trimble, Ms. Jones, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Richmond, and Mrs. White.

- **Ms. Trimble-** Our volunteer team left no stone unturned at Mrs. Trimble's home. Our new friends at Williams FBC patched up her screened-in front porch door, fixed her rotting window frames, installed new quarter round in her home, and gave her fence a fresh coat of paint. The team also left a cross painted on her fence gate, which was a touching parting gift that left Ms. Trimble in tears of joy.
- **Ms. Jones-** Trinity Baptist Church continued their ministry with Ms. Jones who has had a stroke and is now wheelchair-bound. She was surrounded by loving family, including her grandchildren, that interacted with the team as they showed their skills with handstands and cartwheels. Repairs have started on her bathroom making it more accessible for her and her family.
- **Mr. Williams-** Mr. Williams is a senior citizen that lives alone with mobility issues. In his free time, his passion is working on automobiles. Our volunteer team was able to finish his bedroom flooring, creating a safe space for Mr. Williams to walk throughout his home.
- **Mrs. Richmond-** ARM is just getting started with Mrs. Richmond's home, which has significant damage. She and her husband have already survived multiple tornados in their mobile home. While trying to recover from the storms, Mr. Richmond is also healing from a debilitating back injury and staph infection, leaving a lot of work for Mrs. Richmond. The volunteer team began working in their bathroom and tearing out rotten flooring in preparation for new fixtures and flooring.
- **Ms. White-** As Ms. White celebrates being in her 80s, her large garden tub is no longer an accessible option for her and is leaking into her floor causing her floor joists to rot. Auburn FBC was able to rip out her garden tub, repair her rotten floor joists, replace the insulation and subfloor, replace her bathroom with vinyl tile, and install a walk-in shower! This will make Mrs. White's home much more accessible, and ARM is happy to say her home is now safe, warm, and dry!

ARM is beyond blessed with our new partnerships with Alabama CBF and Together for Hope. We look forward to collaborating again in the future, and are so thankful for all the hard work accomplished by the amazing volunteers that answered the call to serve with us!



Community Grants Acknowledgments



ARM is blessed with many partnerships within our local community. These partnerships are a crucial part of the ministry as we are always looking into new resources for our homeowners as we work diligently to make all their homes safe, warm, beautiful, and dry! While donations are certainly the majority of our funding, as good stewards, we try to utilize grants when they are available on a case-to-case basis. These grants allow ARM to offset the costs of many of our home repairs and let the ministry extend our reach to as many people as possible in our local community. ARM would like to take this time to acknowledge and thank the many organizations that made these grants possible! Listed below are the grants ARM utilized for 2022:

- USDA awarded a \$132,000- Housing Preservation Grant- Which will be used for extreme external home repairs.
- Central Alabama Community Foundation awarded \$20,000- Which was used for HVAC units for the Tuskegee Mission Hub.
- East Alabama Community Foundation awarded \$500 for home repair and \$54,000 for the tornado recovery.

We are beyond grateful for their continued partnership with Alabama Rural Ministry and look forward to what God holds in store for the future!

Leadership & Financial Stewardship

ARM Board of Directors

ARM Officers

Board Chair - Cathey Donald

Board Vice-Chair - Rogers Hunt

Board Secretary - Mary Baird

Board Treasurer - Tom Meagher

Statement of Expenses

Revenue, Donations, and Other Support		
	2022	%Total
Individual Donations	\$175,803.40	36%
Church Donations	\$63,875.96	13%
Corporate Sponsors	\$18,550.43	4%
Day Camp Sponsors	\$18,825.00	4%
Conference Funding	\$20,900.00	5%
Team Fees	\$34,059.50	7%
Grants	\$20,500.00	4%
Housing Programs (USDA/CDBG)/Other	\$129,430.30	27%
Total Revenue, Donations, and Other Support	\$481,944.59	

Expenses		
	2022	%Total
Ministry Program	\$281,008.81	54%
Administrative	\$118,142.54	23%
Ministry Support	\$121,342.86	23%
Total	\$520,494.21	

2022 by the Numbers




13
Teams
Serving


2,164
Volunteer
Hours


340
Volunteers


19
Families
Served


6
Mission
Interns


6 Summer
Teams


4 AmeriCorps Vistas on
staff



Stories from our Friends

It was the middle of Iraq and on Christmas Eve in 2004. I (Lisa) was in a large hangar draped with a gigantic US flag and a stage decked with a Christmas tree and a small cradle. My chaplain introduced me to Captain Wendy Oleson, a gun truck commander overseeing security for logistics convoys traversing throughout the IED-infested roads of Iraq. Wendy was also leading a women's Bible study on the base and I was interested in joining. As we exchanged pleasantries and learned Wendy was in the Army Reserve, I asked her what she did and where she was from. When she told me she lived in Phenix City, Alabama serving as a Teen Challenge counselor, it was inevitable we would become immediate friends. Fast forward to 2023 and Wendy remains one of my confidants and ARM's faithful partners. Wendy is now married to LTC David Dykema and they now have three beautiful children. I asked Wendy and Dave what has kept them so connected to ARM all these years. Wendy shares that she enjoys seeing the progress of the homes we repair. While living in East Alabama and working in the rural community with at-risk teenagers, she saw the homes people were living in and knew of the deplorable conditions.

She explains there is something rewarding about being able to give and seeing a tangible use of that gift. When we share the stories of the families and reveal their challenges, it provides a glimpse into how we can all help and make a difference. An elderly woman receives a wheelchair ramp or a new roof is put on a home and there is an assurance of a home that is now warm, safe, and dry. Wendy and Dave appreciate and love hearing the stories and seeing the fruit of the youth groups and volunteer teams who come and serve in Jesus' name.



"We love seeing the tangible repairs made for families and how it improves their lives."

- Wendy Dykema, Donor

Dave also connected to ARM in tangible ways. Enjoying recreational cycling, he was eager to join the challenge of cycling across Alabama for the annual Cycle of Service bike rides, extending his average ride of 30 miles to 100 miles two to three days in a row. He shared he enjoyed riding the roads across Alabama knowing it was making a difference to families. The sense of comradery and fun made the pain and fatigue more bearable. Today, Wendy, Dave, and their kids, Eleanor, Cavannah, and T.J. reside in North Carolina. Dave recently retired and Wendy serves with the Army. They support ARM monthly and continue to encourage and pray for the ARM team. Their investment is another testament to the partnerships and friendships forged while serving and giving. We are grateful to the Dykema family and their love and grace for ARM!



The Richmonds have been a part of the ARM homeowner family since 2019. It began with repairing sweet Mrs. JoAnn's front porch and foundation. Mrs. JoAnn is a wonderful God-fearing woman that has leaned on Jesus throughout her difficult battle with throat cancer. We are thankful to still have her light with us!

Shortly afterward, ARM repaired the home of the late Mr. Willie Richmond. ARM volunteers removed debris around his house and began repairs on his kitchen. Sadly, He passed due to a heart attack on Christmas of 2021. May he rest in peace with our Heavenly Father.

Now, more recently, ARM has had the pleasure of serving Mrs. Dorothy Richmond, the sister of Mrs. JoAnn. ARM is currently repairing Mrs. Dorothy's bathroom and is planning to replace her home with a much-needed new roof. Mrs. Dorothy is a full-time caretaker to her husband as he continues to suffer from leg surgery complications for over a year. He is currently fighting off a staph infection and praying he doesn't have to lose his foot. Please continue to keep the Richmond family in your prayers for healing from these health conditions. We are so blessed to be able to serve such a courageous, faithful, and strong family like the Richmonds.

Ella, a sophomore at Auburn University, volunteered with ARM during CBF Building Hope. Ella has done hands-on mission work previously, and when she heard about her home church partnering with ARM, she said she just had to get involved. We love working with volunteers because we believe they walk away more connected to God and their community. Ella was kind enough to share her experience and what she learned serving with ARM!

While volunteering with us, Ella worked with a team to help demo an entire bathroom. The demo included replacing drywall, a brand-new tub, and flooring. During her downtime, she mentioned having fellowship with the homeowner and learning more about her story. Ella said the homeowner's story touched her heart and made her volunteer work more fulfilling. She also got to play with the homeowner's little nieces and nephews, running around the yard as they tired her out.

As a college student, it can be hard to find time for activities other than school. Ella agrees and was thankful for the opportunity to serve alongside us. The opportunity to reconnect with God amid exams and extracurriculars as a way to slow down and appreciate His word and the loved ones around her. We are so blessed and grateful that we can make these moments happen with those who volunteer with us.



Community & Discipleship

COVID-19 Assistance Program

Made possible thorough a partnership with the Lee County Commission

The Alabama Rural Ministry Covid-19 Housing Assistance Program, in partnership with the Lee County Commission, was a major success in reaching rural families throughout the county. The program focused on unincorporated Lee County reached a total of 243 households and assisted with a total of \$9,419 in housing-related assistance. The CDBG program, providing rental, mortgage, and utility assistance to citizens of Lee County, first started in July of 2021 and ended in August of 2022. We are thankful for our partnership with Lee County Commission and the chance to help our friends in rural Alabama recover from this life-changing pandemic! May God continue to watch over you all and bring healing to those affected by Covid-19.

MLK Weekend of Service 2023

Diversity is KING

1 Corinthians 15:58 says, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the LORD, knowing that in the LORD your labor is not in vain".

Thank you to the selfless and steadfast efforts of several teams of volunteers who took Paul's words of Christian guidance to heart and put those words into action. As a result, essential home repairs were completed at Ms. Ross' home, south of Tuskegee, during our annual MLK Weekend of Service on January 16, 2023. This was a critical priority as Ms. Ross' home was in dire need of repairs to her kitchen and bathroom flooring. Her weak floors had been substandard for over a year, making daily living in her home unsafe. Thanks to this effort, we were able to make substantial progress in one day and made Ms. Ross's home safe for her daily living activities.



No More Shacks 2022

No More Shacks is our annual campaign to raise awareness of substandard housing in rural populations and those living in poverty. The shack is a handmade hut that serves as a shelter for ARM Staff as they weather the elements to simulate someone's reality living in substandard housing. ARM Staff was accompanied by community leaders, board members, and other supporters donating their time by sitting with the ARM staff to help with fundraising. The 2022 Campaign raised over \$190,000! We could not have done this without the support of compassionate people in our community, and through God's grace and his never-ending love, we hope to raise even more in 2023. As the time approaches, be sure to look out for future announcements of the annual event. If you want to contribute or feel called to be a part of the No More Shacks 2023 campaign, give us a shout at info@arm-al.org! Together, we can make homes in Alabama safe, warm, beautiful, and dry.



Summer Ministry

Summer Missions

In 2022, we had six mission teams join us for home repair and day camp ministries, with half of those being new teams and half returning. These teams consisted of 108 total volunteers who got the opportunity to form relationships with our homeowners, day campers, and summer staff while growing in discipleship with Jesus. The summer teams worked with homeowners on projects ranging from wheelchair ramps to roofing to flooring.



Summer Interns

Our three summer interns - Aliyah, Collin, and Logan - worked hard to make sure the summer program ran smoothly. Aliyah, an Elementary Education major at the University of West Alabama, worked hard during her second summer with us as the Tuskegee Site Leader, stating that "Working at ARM has taught me great leadership qualities. But the most amazing thing is making the connections with everyone while serving and growing in your faith together." Collin, a Building Sciences major at Auburn University, and Logan, a Civil Engineering major at Auburn University, worked together as our Construction Coordinators, ensuring the safety of our summer missionaries while performing home repair projects throughout our community. We are so grateful for their hard work and dedication to making the summer meaningful for our summer mission teams.



SonShine Kids Day Camp

Our 2022 SonShine Kids Day Camp continued in a face-to-face setting with the children of Tuskegee. The campers' favorite module was Entrepreneurship, where we hosted a lemonade stand to raise money for their end-of-summer field trip and taught lessons on how to manage money and grow your business. People from the Tuskegee community came out to support our kids by buying fresh lemonade and snacks. We continued to observe best practices following COVID guidelines and safety. We were able to carry out a wonderful summer program through the response of our amazing day camp sponsors. Our contributions reached \$25,410 from 106 donors! Thank you for all you do to make this ministry and our kids thrive! You can help sponsor a child during this impactful summer experience! Check out arm-al.org/sponsor to see how you can help.



ARM Updates

ARM@AU impacting the campus

Auburn University has numerous student organizations that focus on various issues and projects. However, in our mind, one group stands out for their commitment to service in our community - this is the student-led group ARM@AU!

ARM@AU is currently recruiting new members for 2023 on Auburn's campus! To learn more, or check out the latest updates with ARM@AU, visit their Instagram @armatau. If you, as a student, or a student you know is interested in joining ARM@AU, please reach out to ARM at info@arm-al.org! We look forward to seeing God work through this group of college students.



The Tuskegee Mission Hub is Cool!

We love our church! Tuskegee Methodist, better known as the Tuskegee Mission Hub, is the site hosting ARM's hundreds of mission volunteers passing through each year. It is where our day campers participate in SonShine Kids Day Camp and learn about Jesus! Our partnership with Destined to Change Ministries also creates space for a weekly worship service, food distribution, and much more.

With any historic church, it needs lots of TLC to keep it functioning and provide a comfortable space for our tired volunteers to eat, rest, and worship after long, hot days of serving.

This is why we were super excited to receive a grant from the Central Alabama Community Foundation (CACF) for three new split-unit HVAC systems. Now we can effectively cool and heat the youth bunk rooms. Formerly, we were using portable systems that took up extra space and were not nearly as effective at cooling, nor were they energy efficient! This \$20,000 grant has made a huge difference and we are extremely grateful to the Community Foundation for their partnership!

Stay tuned for our next effort to repair the bell towers and fascia through a partnership with the Historical Society to continue renovations.



Partner with Us



Donate Funds

How much did giving improve? We are so thankful for all of our partners who have helped ARM accomplish amazing things! Check out how much you grew our ministry!



	2020	2021	2022
Individual	\$236,784	\$252,257	\$175,803.40
Church	\$62,077	\$60,119	\$63,875.96
Corporate	\$16,895	\$27,023	\$18,580

Donation Breakdown

The table above shows the current breakdown of how routinely our donors give. With just a \$10 monthly donation from each of our donors, we can be fully funded for the year! To set up a recurring gift, click the "Donate" button on our website at www.arm-al.org or find out more on the back cover of this report!

2021: New Donors: 137 Active: 460 Recurring: 26
2022: New Donors: 51 Active: 300 Recurring: 20



Celebrating 25 Years Of Ministry

Silver is a beautiful color, but more than that it shows stability! After 25 years of your investment, we are ready to deepen our impact. Stay tuned for ways you can help us celebrate our 25th anniversary and plan for what God has in store. There will be some events in the fall and a gathering in the Spring of 2024 where you can join us as we thank God for His growth through us and see where the Spirit leads next! Watch your mail and emails!

The 25th also reminds us of the long term. Contact us if you would like to set up a living trust, donate stock, and consider ARM in your will so you can help make repairs well into the future!

The Power of One- Simply Serve

Home Repair options: 1 day- 1 weekend- 1 week

These are the various ways you can serve whether near or far-contact us to see how!

Becoming a monthly partner allows ARM to better pray, project, and plan for where God is leading us. Sign up online to give at www.arm-al.org/give.



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