



## The Lion's Roar

### A Newsletter from Your St. Mark's Outreach & Mission Team

Every year St. Mark's vestry sets aside a portion of your pledges to support various local and international charities. Both last year and this year that amount was \$18,000. Additional funds from special events are sometimes added to that basic amount. For 2017, your generosity provided another \$6,000 for outreach efforts.

St. Mark's Outreach and Mission Committee is responsible for deciding which groups receive the money. This newsletter is the first of a planned quarterly report to let parishioners know where that money goes and how it will be used.

Each charity seeking money is asked to fill out a form and submit it to the committee. The form emphasizes St. Mark's greatest interests, or passions, which include helping children and feeding the hungry. St. Markers are also passionate about helping to hasten the end of racism in our community. The form may be found on the website at: <http://www.stmarksc.org/resource-request-form/>

Last year twenty-six charities benefited from St. Mark's financial support, ranging from missions in Puerto Rico, Tanzania, Burundi and the Dominican Republic to local projects such as Kairos Prison Ministry, Family Promise, Help of Beaufort, and even putting a comfortable sofa in the CODA (now called Hopeful Horizons) Shelter to honor a late member of St. Mark's, Barbara Yergens.





### Port Royal Elementary School



The committee also voted to join with individual members of St. Mark's to help with costs of eye surgery for a Port Royal elementary pupil. Before the successful surgery the boy's vision was so distorted he couldn't read or see normally.

Many of the recipients write to tell us how the donation is being used and what it means to those they serve. According to [Friends of Shanklin](#), St. Mark's donation helped finance field trips for children at the elementary school and provide them with books, uniforms and school supplies.



 At [Water Mission](#), an official wrote that our donation "*has changed a life. From easing the burden of a woman who spent many hours every day collecting contaminated water, to making it possible for a child to attend school.*" That child might have been forced to miss school because he drank the contaminated water.



At [Thumbs Up Children's Learning Center](#), St. Mark's helped make it possible to recruit a family outreach worker.

In Puerto Rico, where Hurricane Maria devastated most of the island, our donation helped St. Cecilia Episcopal Church distribute vital food supplies to the doors of the hurricanes' victims.

So far this year, the committee has voted to allocate your pledged funds to the Episcopal Church's mission in the Dominican Republic, ABLE and St. Francis Center on St. Helena Island. ABLE assists disabled children and adults and St. Francis Center provides food and other necessities to migrants working on local farms.

Request forms for donations to charities that meet St. Mark's criteria are available online and at The Center. Requests are due one week before the committee's meetings which are held on the third Tuesday of each month.