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ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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**ALABAMA
RURAL
MINISTRY**

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,

I was having coffee with a friend who chaired ARM's Board early in its journey. She is now the director of her own ministry in Auburn. She said, "Wow, 25 years of ARM. That is nearly half your life." Indeed. Although I never married, I can honestly proclaim I don't have commitment issues. Twenty-five years of watching ARM ebb and flow has created a deep and persistent joy. ARM has slowly built capacity even amidst the setbacks. If ARM were a tree, we'd have quite a few stress rings from the storms we've weathered, but we've seen some great times too. Thousands of stories of lives changed and transformed by homeowners, children, and mission volunteers abound. Testimonies of Jesus' transforming love live among the hundreds of summer staff and interns from ARM. Admittedly, there are also memories of pain and hardship and (I did not get it right and people were hurt) mistakes are also part of this 25-year journey. All those combine to shape the story and what God will do in the next stage. We recently celebrated ARM's 25th Anniversary jARMBoree celebration. You are part of this continual story as a donor partner, volunteer, intern, or more, and the ARM team and I thank you deeply. As we look to the future, we reflect on lessons learned. I pray you can join us as we discern where God leads us as we serve our Alabama neighbors and pour into the missionaries from all over the nation who come to serve. Together we can end substandard housing while developing servant leaders committed to loving their neighbors in Jesus' name. Thank you!---And here's to the next 25 years!

Grace and peace, Lisa

WHAT DOES ARM MEAN TO YOU?

Rev. Lisa Pierce - Exec Director/Founder

"Home repair is a metaphor for the restoration that happens when we repair homes and love our neighbors. God is the ultimate Restorer!"

Mandi Simmons- Director of Ministry Operations

"Everyone has a gift, and we are to use it to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10-11 "I love helping people in our community to make a stronger, more united community!"

Seth White- AmeriCorps Vista Development

ARM has given me the opportunity to help those across the state, not only in our home county."



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."

Josie Dimino- Communications Assistant

"ARM is being a part of something bigger than yourself"

PARTNERSHIPS

Alabama CBF & Together For Hope Service Weekend

ARM held its second "Building Hope" service weekend, in partnership with the 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 75 amazing volunteers who answered the call to serve, ARM continued repairing four homes. These included Mr. Lee, Ms. Mary, Ms. Willis, and Mrs. Richmond. They also served at the Veterans' Restoration Project in Tuskegee.

- **Mr. Lee** - Sustained damage to his roof in the 2019 tornadoes. Mr. Lee is 87 and was working until February of last year until he fell off of his porch and broke his hand. He was part of a singing group, The Fantastic Gospelairens, until 2022 when some of the members passed away. Despite his circumstances, he is so kind and has a very upbeat spirit. Volunteers from Vestavia Hills Baptist installed a front porch and cleaned out one of Mr. Lee's rooms that suffered tornado damage.
- **Ms. Mary** - Is a single mother who fosters a severely autistic child and adopted another severely autistic child. Ms. Mary has a compassionate heart for those who are hurting. She also had tornado damage to her roof. We recently repaired a leak in her roof causing part of the ceiling to collapse. Volunteers from FBC Huntsville demoed the drywall and insulation caused by the leak.
- **Ms. Willis** - Served on the staff at First Baptist Opelika for 18 years where she came to know Jesus through staff there. ARM, along with volunteers, built a porch and wheelchair ramp for her. Auburn First Baptist volunteers applied Kool Seal on her roof and Thompson's water seal on her ramp.
- **Mrs. Richmond** - 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 in addition to a staph infection, leaving significant amounts of work for Mrs. Richmond. A volunteer team from FBC Huntsville installed a bathroom vanity, wheelchair ramp, and a set of stairs for Mrs. Richmond.
- **Veterans Home** - A volunteer team from Trinity Baptist installed insulation and drywall at our Veteran's home. We aim to finish this project this year enabling us to use this home to give Veterans in need an affordable place to live.

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 2023:

- USDA awarded ARM \$132,000 in 2022 via a Housing Preservation Grant- This is used for extreme home repairs. We are continuing to use this funding through 2024.
- Duns Buns- A small grant of \$250 used for day camp supplies from St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
- South State Bank- \$2000 used for home repair materials
- Opelika Giving Day was sponsored through the Community Foundation and helped raise over \$6000.

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

LEADERSHIP & FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

ARM Board of Directors 2023-2024

Tyler Adams
James Arrington
Mary Baird
Eric Canada
Lynne Hammond
Elizabeth Hill
Kathy Molnar

Emily Myers
Gwen Reid
Charner Rodgers
Jessica Smith
Kate Thornton
Drew Yantis

Officers

Board Chair - **Cathey Donald**

Board Vice-Chair - **Rogers Hunt**

Board Secretary - **Audrey Marshall**

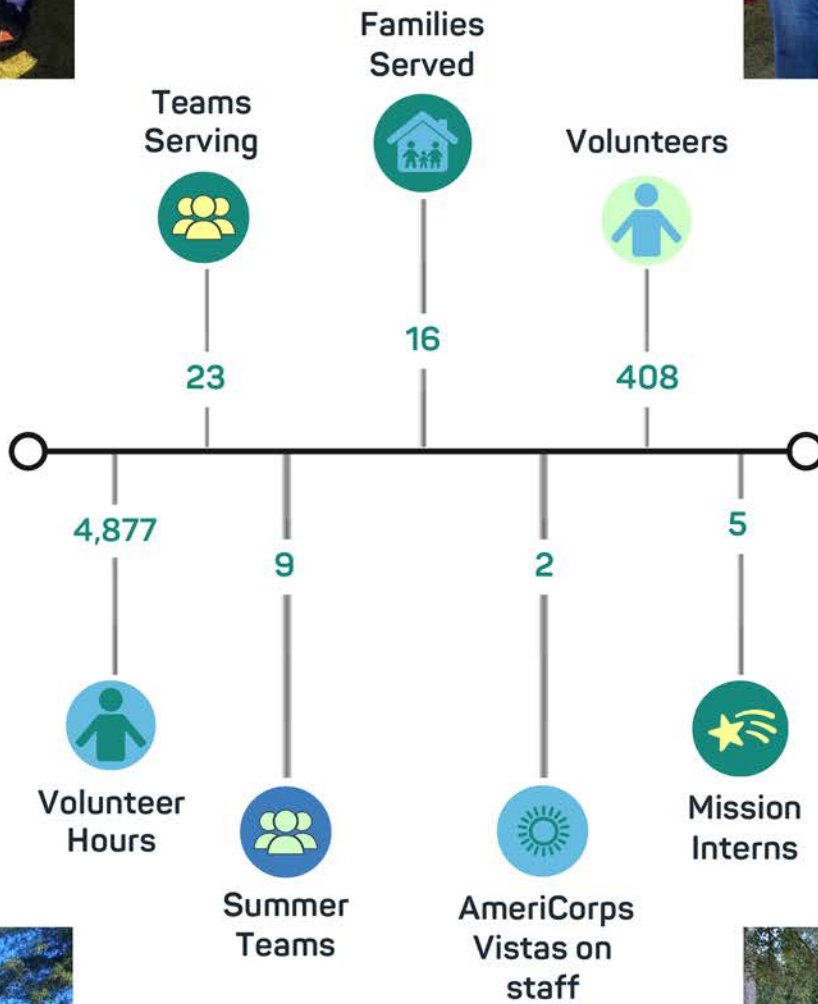
Board Treasurer - **Tom Meagher**

Statement of Income and Expenses

Revenue, Donations, and Other Support	2023	%Total
Individual Donations	\$166,917	36%
Church Donations	\$59,551	13%
Corporate Sponsors	\$14,831	3%
Day Camp Sponsors	\$22,846	5%
Conference Funding	\$21,500	5%
Mission Team Fees	\$48,817	10%
Grants	\$2,000	1%
Housing Programs (USDA/CDBG)/Other	\$126,971	27%
Total Revenue, Donations, and Other Support	\$463,435	100%

Expenses	2023	%Total
Ministry Program	\$210,956	45%
Ministry Support	\$132,594	28%
Administrative	\$123,162	27%
Total	\$466,713	100%

2023 BY THE NUMBERS



STORIES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Some of ARM's closest friends and most active donor support originated when Director, Lisa Pierce, deployed to Iraq in 2004. CW5(Ret) Chris Haynes is one such connection. Meet Chris and his wife, Paige, daughters Hannah and Kendall, and their son, Greyson. Chris and Lisa worked in the ammunition community and developed a strong partnership not to mention they share the same birthday. Chris' family lived at FT. Moore (Benning) and therefore they easily stayed connected. During this time the Haynes Family began supporting ARM and were deeply connected to the mission. Although the Haynes family deployed worldwide they maintained connections with ARM and kept up through social media. The Haynes family eventually moved to Alabama and were stationed at FT. Novosel (Rucker). Although Chris was a huge Alabama fan, (amazingly he and Lisa could be friends), their daughter Kendall's decision to attend Auburn became a huge bonus for the partnership.

Today, the Haynes family visits us for special events, gives monthly, and is a source of encouragement and grace. Kendall has come to No More Shacks and filmed events and coordinated live feeds helping ARM with the fundraising efforts. We are so humbled and grateful for their love, support, and service!

ARM accomplishes several important issues concurrently with its ministry. First, they provide real help to those in need. The Bible gives us numerous verses calling us to do just that, and the type of support that ARM provides brings not only immediate relief in terms of a much-needed home repair but many times restores faith and hope in the people they are serving. Second, the work realized in the community at large also resonates with the community, knowing that through its ministry that God does provide His workers to act on His behalf. Finally, ARM builds young Christian leaders by providing them with small to mid-sized projects that allow them to strengthen not only their project management skills, but also their spiritual leadership skills. Giving to ARM monthly helps the ministry continue to serve His people in need right here in Alabama, making a difference in our local communities.

- Chris Haynes



CW5 Chris Haynes, Paige,
Hannah, Kendall, and
Greyson

VISTAs Making A Huge Difference with ARM- A reflection from Seth White



My name is Seth White and I work as a Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA) of Resource Development with Alabama Rural Ministry. My responsibilities include managing ARM's donor database, establishing and maintaining relationships with local businesses and organizations for future partnerships, and overseeing the recruiting for our summer staff intern positions. What I enjoy about being a VISTA is that it allows me to make new relationships with community members and open doors for future partnerships that can benefit ARM and the local community. ARM has allowed me to grow in my professional career and spiritual journey.

Seth's term will end in October 2024 and we will have more opportunities for these paid, one year positions that build capacity for ARM.



VISTA
Volunteers in Service to America

COMMUNITY & DISCIPLESHIP

Bibles Through Kingdom Builders

Through our membership with the National Coalition of Home Repair Organizations, ARM is partnered with an organization called Kingdom Builders. They provide free Bibles and devotional materials that we give to our homeowners and volunteers. As we complete home repairs, our ministry team signs the Bibles and gives them to homeowners.

ARM also provides to our homeowners and volunteers, devotional messages through the Upper Room publication, our Daily Bread devotional, and a booklet called You Can't DIY.

We love seeing our homeowner's faces light up as we present these Bibles to them. The daily devotions help us all connect with Jesus daily and grow closer to Him!

MLK Weekend of Service 2024

Martin Luther King stated, "The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community." Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to serve for our Great Days of Service! As a result, we were able to help several homeowners. We worked with several groups from Tuskegee University to include: Collegiate 100, National Council for Negro Women, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and the Tuskegee Service Committee at the Tuskegee Methodist Church, Tuskegee schools, and the ARM parsonage. These groups worked to beautify the schools in the community, help with clean up at the Parsonage, and aid in repairing the floor at the church. Auburn Wesley Foundation installed a new ceiling at the Parsonage. ARM @ AU and Trinity Lutheran worked on the Veteran Home to put up insulation and drywall. Groups from Trinity Lutheran and Auburn United Methodist served at the Macon County Food Bank to help put COVID-19 kits together and organize the food pantry.



No More Shacks 2023

No More Shacks is our annual campaign to raise awareness of substandard housing in rural populations and those living in poverty. The shack is large enough for a mattress and serves as a house 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 raise funds used to repair more homes. The 2023 Campaign raised over \$92,000 this year.

Our special guest was Ms. Eula Mae Walker known as The Cake Lady. A domestic violence shooting caught her home in the crossfire perforating the roof with bullet holes. Rain poured into these holes causing great damage. Funds from the shack helped repair her home and Ms. Walker visited us throughout the campaign.

The shack sums up our efforts in restoring homes and dignity! Together, we can make homes in Alabama safe, warm, dry, and beautiful. Join us as we proclaim: No More Shacks!

SUMMER MINISTRY

Summer Mission Teams

In 2023, we had 9 mission teams join us for home repair and day camp ministries with half of those being new teams and half returning. These teams included Clanton FMC, Trinity United Methodist Church from Ft. Walton Beach, St. Mark Church from Northport, Dauphin Way UMC from Mobile, A New Hope Church from Winfield., St. Luke UMC from Pensacola, Dothan FUMC, Christ UMC, Mobile, and Asbury UMC all the way from Livermore, CA.



Summer Interns

Our five summer interns - Aliyah, Henry, Charley, Julia, and Caleb worked tirelessly to ensure the summer ministry ran smoothly. Aliyah, an Elementary Education major at the University of West Alabama, served faithfully during her third 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." We are so grateful to these amazing disciples!



SonShine Kids Day Camp

Our 2023 SonShine Kids Day Camp continued for children in Tuskegee. The campers' favorite "skill builder" this year was Construction. They learned how to use drills, built small projects, and gained lots of confidence! As always, their favorite activity was swimming at the pool! The summer was capped off by going to the zoo and some extremely fortunate campers were taken up flying and flew over Tuskegee!

We were able to carry out a wonderful summer day camp ministry 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! www.arm-al.org/sponsor



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 set up five service days and served with Martin Luther King weekends in 2023 and 2024. With a great leadership team, they have been engaging new groups on the Auburn campus. During No More Shacks, they set up a poverty simulation called "Box City" where they slept in cardboard boxes and raised over \$3000 for ARM.

Through their service, they have helped three of our homeowners!



Can you see it? The Tuskegee Mission Hub

Imagine rewriting the history of a church while witnessing restoration from a difficult past. Imagine laughter and sounds of joy from more children learning about Jesus and having the Bible come to life. Envision eyes lighting up from youth learning basic home repair while hearing stories from people who have walked the journey of life for many years. Imagine entrepreneurs having a space to build a business with low overhead. Imagine the Mission Hub being a resource for comprehensive housing ministry for people in East Alabama. Finally, what if the skills and values youth learned at our mission camps inspired these same youth to launch home repair ministries in their own communities and lead their communities in restorative missional ministry?

This is the vision for the Mission Hub and why we keep working to restore this building and ensure it lasts well into the future. The next stages of repair include repairing the bell tower, installing water drainage and erosion controls, and rebuilding the front steps and portico. We are grateful to the Auburn University Global Studies Capstone class who completed the work to apply for Tuskegee Methodist to be added to the Federal Historic Register.



We will need help raising an additional \$175,000 to complete these next repairs.

PARTNER WITH US



The past few years have been very difficult. We are trying to continue repairing more homes but donations are decreasing. We pray you will help us move in the right direction and increase our impact.



	2021	2022	2023
Individual	\$252,257	\$175,803	\$166,917
Church	\$60,119	\$63,875	\$59,551
Corporate	\$27,023	\$18,580	\$14,831

Donation Breakdown

The table below 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.



2022: New Donors: 51 Active: 300 Recurring: 20
2023: New Donors: 93 Active: 397 Recurring: 44



DAY CAMP SPONSORSHIPS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE THIS SUMMER BY SPONSORING A CHILD. SPONSORS RECEIVE A NOTE AND CRAFT AND AN END-OF-SUMMER VIDEO FROM A DAY CAMPER. SPONSOR A WEEK, MULTIPLE WEEKS, OR ALL SUMMER. \$45/WEEK. YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A CHILD IN TUSKEGEE THIS SUMMER.

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

1 Week: \$45 _____ 2 Weeks: \$90 _____ All Summer: \$360 _____ Other: \$ _____

PLEASE CUT THIS OUT AND SEND YOUR CHECK TO ALABAMA RURAL MINISTRY
P.O. BOX 2890
AUBURN, AL. 36831

YOU CAN ALSO SPONSOR ONLINE AT WWW.ARM-AL.ORG/SPONSOR

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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