

Waterford Mennonite Church | October 13, 2019

buzz

Prairie View Elementary Partners With Big Brothers-Big Sisters

Have you ever been interested in being a Big Brother or Big Sister but were concerned about fitting it into your busy life? Would you be able to mentor during one lunch break per week? If so, we can make Big Brothers – Big Sisters work for you!

The Big Brothers – Big Sisters organization has used their extensive history and experience in mentoring children to develop a similar school-based program. Prairie View Elementary recognizes the critical, yet unmet need for adult relationships in some children's lives and wants to accept the offer from Big Brothers – Big Sisters, but we need your help in making this happen for our students.

Being a “Big” means that you would go through a background check and then receive some basic mentoring training. Once per week, you will meet your “Little” in a private area within the school during their 45 minute recess/lunch break. Your “Little” will eat the school or their packed lunch during your visit. Except for occasional special events, the “Big” is actually discouraged from bringing food for the “Little.” “Bigs” are encouraged to bring an activity or game to do with their “Little” during their visit. Some games and activities are available at the school. The expectation is that you would be able to serve in this role for one school year.

To learn more about being a “Big” in the life a Prairie View student, please contact our Prairie View SOS representative, Len Harms; or call Prairie View at 534-4710 and ask to speak with school counselor, Marge Gingerich, or Spanish-speaking Parent Liaison, Iris Cortes.

Notes From Anabaptist Disabilities Network

October is National Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Things to Know

- One in every 700 babies is born with Down Syndrome annually in the U.S., around 6000/year.
- People with Down Syndrome often have a mild to moderate cognitive or intellectual disability. It may take a little more time to speak and do things.
- Individuals with Down Syndrome can learn in a typical school setting. Many graduate from high school and some attend college.
- People with Down Syndrome experience the same range of emotions as other people – from happy to sad, pleased to angry, joyful to grieving.
- People with Down syndrome work in their communities and serve in their churches. They have gifts to share.

Words are Important

- Use “person first” language – “person with Down Syndrome” rather than “Down Syndrome person.”
- Treat adults with Down Syndrome as adults. Speak directly to them using age-appropriate language.
- A welcome response to the news of a pregnancy with, or birth of a child with Down Syndrome is “Congratulations!”



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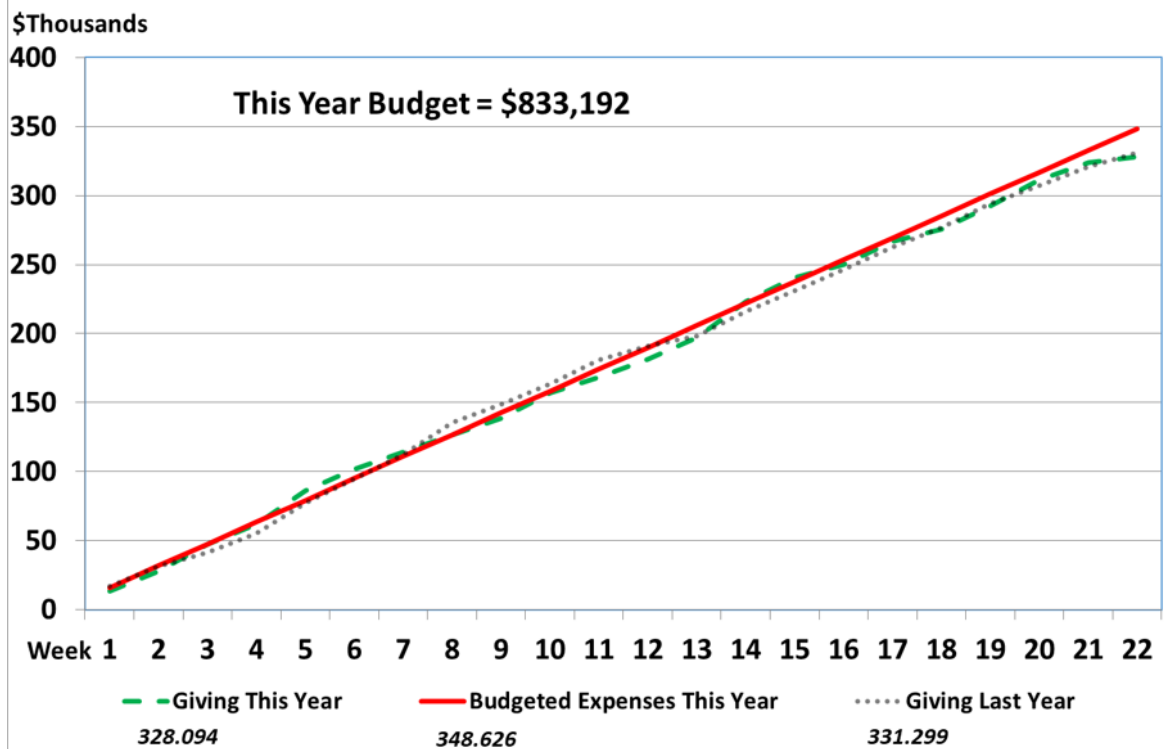
The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be given to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

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On World Communion Sunday, Jane Ross Richer surrounded the peace candle with her international doll collection. The dolls were given to her as a child by her father, Felton Ross, as mementos from his travels around the world.

Waterford Mennonite Church Cumulative Total Giving



Thank you for your generous giving so far this year. At five months into this fiscal year, giving toward the Waterford budget totaled \$328,094 at the end of September. That compares to \$331,299 at the same time a year ago. The YTD expense budget at the end of September is \$348,626.