

VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

Ministry reaches out as it keeps folks on move

For more than six years, Hands & Feet Ministries has offered Car Care Saturdays once a month for individuals in the community. The Christian Automotive Ministry is an arm of Hands & Feet Ministries, a nonprofit organization



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Cedar Bluff,
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founded by members of Bridgewater Church and now involving 15 area churches.

The automotive ministry serves single mothers, senior citizens and low-income families by providing oil and filter changes, vehicle inspections, minor repairs on occasion and honest repair advice — all free of charge.

Appointments are taken for the third Saturday of the month, April through November. Two teams of volunteers alternate months to provide a variety of services.

While some volunteers changed the oil in participants' vehicles Nov. 18, other volunteers, including **Paula Roberts**, greeted guests as they arrived.

A hospitality team then serves breakfast or lunch while the children's ministry team provides an opportunity for the children of participants to make crafts, enjoy snacks, play and listen to Bible stories.

If a participant so desires, he or she can discuss personal issues with and pray with members of the evangelism/prayer team.

When a guest's car has needs beyond those the volunteers can handle, the team tries to make recommendations about honest, reliable repair shops in the area.

In its first year, CAM served



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Volunteers change oil and perform basic automotive inspections as part of a Hands & Feet Ministries Car Care Saturday at Bridgewater Church. **Dave Eubanks, Byron Alcorn, Jake Alcorn, Paul Roberts, Steve Blair** and **Brandon Snow** (not all shown, and not in order photographed) were among the volunteers.

six families. Since then, the ministry has served 1,100 families. It is completely staffed by volunteers, many of whom are from West Park Baptist Church and Bridgewater Church.

The ministry is "not about a (particular) church," said Hands & Feet Ministries Executive Director **Allen Haynes**. "We provide this service in the spirit of God's love."

The original idea for this type of ministry, Haynes said, came from a church in Minnesota. But the local ministry has gone above and beyond as it has trained people from four other local churches and 10 across the United States and Canada.

Other segments of Hands & Feet Ministries include The Lighthouse at Austin Homes, Hands & Feet Services Center and Epiphany Media.

The Lighthouse began as an outreach of Bridgewater Church, but now includes volunteers from several churches. It comprises a food pantry, clothing closet, job-skills classes, tutoring for children, Bible studies, and community

luncheons and celebrations.

The Hands & Feet Services Center is next to Bridgewater Church. Its services include a food pantry that also contains household goods, a clothing closet, a homeless ministry and Christian financial counseling.

Epiphany Media Ministries uses digital media to promote not only the Hands & Feet Ministries, but also to support small ministries and churches

that do not have media capabilities.

Those wishing to contact the ministry can call **865-690-8012** or visit the group's Web site at www.handsandfeetministries.org.

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