

HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

Jacqueline Gottlieb, CEO and President

In 2021, Hinton Rural Life Center celebrated 60 years of serving annual conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction through equipping clergy and local churches (particularly small, rural churches) and offering opportunities for individuals and church groups to serve in Safe and Healthy Home Repair missions and/or come for retreats and renewal time, experiencing God's presence at our 33-acre campus in the Appalachian Mountains. (Check out Embracing Our Roots and Sharing the Fruits videos at www.hintoncenter.org/about-us to learn about Hinton's beginnings and the impact of our ministries.)

With the support of local volunteers and mission teams, as well as generous support from individual, organizational, and United Methodist churches (Board of Global Ministries Advance Project #731372), Hinton was able to offer relational and impactful ministries. Highlights of 2021 include:

- Completed 123 home repair projects on 25 different homes and four nonprofits in our area, prioritizing and addressing the health and safety of homeowners
- Hosted over 400 mission participants
- Installed vegetable gardens for homeowners to support their nutritional well-being
- Provided over 570 loads of firewood to over 480 families/individuals, who heat primarily with wood
- Premiered our House on Wheels (HOW) mobile teaching unit to promote home safety awareness and practices in our local community and with our volunteers
- Provided local and missional leadership training for more than 35 adults and young people
- Provided over 300 children with new clothes at Christmas through Christmas Care
- Began installation and enhancements of trails and sanctuary gardens on our campus for individuals and groups to experience rest and renewal for mind, body, and soul

Another exciting highlight was the planning and promotion of Theotokos Confirmation Retreats, which launched in March 2022. Registration for all four weekends reached capacity, with groups from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee in attendance. Content focus is on the vows of membership (prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness), biblical stories of call, and services of baptism renewal and Holy Communion. Hinton also developed and now offers a digital confirmation resource, Theotokos Connections, designed to be small-church relevant and accessible, but available for any size church.