

Reelfoot Rural Ministries, Inc.
Robert Craig, Executive Director

The mission of Reelfoot Rural Ministries (RRM) defines how the organization seeks to live out the command of Jesus Christ to “love our neighbor.” Our mission is: “Following Christ in building relationships, we provide resources and offer hope to our Reelfoot Lake neighbors.” The staff and volunteers at RRM seek to offer Christ to a hurting world by living into this brief purpose statement; “Restoring Hope, One Relationship at a Time.” The RRM “neighborhood” includes counties in northwest Tennessee and southwest Kentucky around Reelfoot Lake and beyond.

Over the past year, service to our neighbors has expanded in several areas. The RRM Dental Clinic has served clients on an average of six days per month. Demand for affordable dental services continues to grow. Sadly, we are actively seeking dental professionals to help us continue this ministry to the clients in our area. We are thankful to the discipleship of Dr. Greg Moore at the RRM Dental Clinic. He is in a season of life that he deserves to slow down and fully celebrate retirement with his family and friends. Dr. Greg has faithfully served patients at the Reelfoot Rural Ministries Dental Clinic for many years, first as a volunteer and as a part-time healthcare provider in his initial retirement. He and his amazing assistant, Michelle Holcomb, will be greatly missed and difficult to replace. However, the RRM Dental Clinic will continue to provide a quality dental home for our uninsured and underinsured patients in rural northwest Tennessee and southwest Kentucky. We are also excited to house and engage volunteer repair teams during the spring, summer, and fall for home accessibility modifications and long-term disaster recovery projects. Also, affordable housing is still a priority for the RRM Board.

Reelfoot Rural Ministries offers a variety of ministries for clients throughout the service area in addition to the dental clinic. Those offerings include assistance with groceries, rent, mortgage, utilities, and household emergencies. During the season of Advent and into Christmas, Reelfoot Rural Ministries, once again, offered hope to families through the RRM Christmas Toy Store. In 2023, more than 250 families were able to provide their children with a joyful Christmas morning with new gifts that otherwise would not have been possible. RRM continues to be involved in disaster recovery efforts assisting survivors of the deadly December 10, 2021, tornadoes, serving the disaster impacted communities in Lake, Obion, Gibson, and Weakley Counties in Tennessee as well as Hickman County in Kentucky.

Reelfoot Rural Ministries has several exciting new joint ministry efforts evolving. RRM and First United Methodist Church of Dyersburg have entered a partnership to serve the Dyer County community together in an extension ministry building located on the church’s campus. Together, RRM and Dyersburg FUMC will offer financial assistance and a grocery store style shopping experience for clients in times of need. Additionally, RRM and the TWK Conference of the UMC have received a gracious donation of a disaster ministry warehouse from donors from the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. The building is near 90% completion and should be fully functional by the late summer of 2024. This ministry center will serve as a collection and distribution point for recovery supplies for several states and two jurisdictions. It will also provide space for disaster training, storage of solar trailers for disaster deployment, and meeting space for disaster recovery work between survivors and disaster case managers. The United Methodist Committee on Relief, the TWK Foundation of the UMC, and the United Way of West Tennessee have also helped make this ministry center possible.

Obedience to God’s call will always adjust the way we serve at Reelfoot Rural Ministries. However, our supporters and clients can rest assured that RRM will continue the work of “Restoring Hope, One Relationship at a Time” on behalf of Christ and the Church.