

## WINTHROP WESLEY FOUNDATION

Over 1400 plastic bottle caps collected in two weeks. At the Winthrop Wesley Super Bowl Party, a student shared an announcement from a local church asking for plastic bottle caps. "Caps for Chemo" provided 3 minutes of free chemo treatment for every bottle cap collected for the son of a nurse who had lost her job. Word spread around the campus, students dug through recycling bins, boxes were placed in residence halls and people from around campus donated. These days it seems that people are hungry to give in any way they can.

"We walk because they walk" is the theme of CROPWALK. Winthrop Wesley coordinates the York County CROP and even in the midst of these hard economic times, over \$37,500 was raised – more than ever before! Solidarity, taking seriously the call to lend a helping hand, and taking stock of our lives of abundance and blessings and sharing that with others are themes clear in the minds of students. Even though some of their parents are facing job loss and many are looking for part-time jobs to cover tuition and food, these students continue to look outward and continue to try to embody the hands and feet of Christ.

This past year we've gone on retreats to Chestnut Ridge and Springmaid, we've had tons of fellowship playing laser tag, whitewater rafting, and hosting a District Youth Day, we've gotten to know ourselves and each other better in small groups reading books like *Mere Christianity*, *Irresistible Revolution* and *Traveling Mercies*, we've worshiped together and broken bread in communion weekly, and we've shared home-cooked meals provided by the amazing churches of the Rock Hill district while lifting our voices in song and gathering for programs ranging from our United Methodist Social Principles and Aids Awareness to Scripture Studies and Game Nights.

The heart of who we are though seems to be service and outreach. You see their passion and commitment for justice not just in working at the Relief Center in Charleston, volunteering with Interfaith Hospitality, counting people during the bi-annual Homeless Count, providing worship services at Agape Senior, or working on the houses of needy families on Saturdays with the students of The Wesley House, but in the goals and the lives these students are trying to create. They don't want a faith that is merely words or hollow sayings, but they want to bring the Gospel to the world in concrete, meaningful, and life-giving ways. It's a pleasure to witness their commitment. It's also a challenge that these young adults offer to each of us to put our time and energy and money where are mouths are or at least where they should be.

We're gearing up for a May trip to New York City with our fellow campus ministries in South Carolina and an August trip to Managua, Nicaragua. Several of our students will be doing mission work around the state this summer at Camp Providence, the Relief Center, Rural Mission, and Salkehatchie and one of our graduates will be leaving for Ghana, Africa for his Peace Corps assignment. Yes, these are hard times, but God provides, and these young people aren't letting anything stand in the way of the work God has called them to do!

Looking forward to the continued journey!

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Narcie M. Jeter*  
*Winthrop Wesley Foundation*