

## Glimpses of the year...



Holiday luncheon for Alcott staff



Angel Tree gifts for Alcott families

The mission of the Pontiac Schools Partnership is to provide tutoring support, arts enrichment, and material and nutritional assistance for Alcott Elementary School and to collaborate in ministry with other community organizations to benefit the children of Pontiac.

## Please join us in our ministry with:

Louisa May Alcott Elementary School  
Pontiac School District  
460 W. Kennett, Pontiac, MI 48340  
248.451.7910  
Dr. Burdena Johnson, Principal

## For more information contact:

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Everybody's  Church  
First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

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# Pontiac School Partnership Alcott Elementary School

2019-2020



Everybody's  Church  
First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

***The Vision of First Presbyterian Church***  
**As Everybody's Church, we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion, and community.**

## What is FPC's Alcott School Ministry?

Twelve years ago we began a partnership with Alcott Elementary School in Pontiac to provide literacy tutors. Our partnership has grown in ways we could not have anticipated and continues to evolve as needs change at the school. Last year our involvement at Alcott included the following:

- Provided literacy support through individualized and small group instruction in all 14 classrooms
- The Media Center was open two days a week and circulation exceeded 4,000 books
- Continued to reorganize and refurbish the library, trained student library assistants
- Donated food baskets for 100 families at Thanksgiving and 10 at Easter time
- Provided scholarships for Alcott students to attend Skyline summer camp
- Funded and arranged for two Brainstormer's Creative Writing Assemblies
- Provided small gifts of appreciation to the Alcott teachers at least twice during the school year
- Hosted a holiday breakfast for the teachers
- Donated mittens, hats, and scarves at Christmas
- Continued our Shop 'N Drop ministry providing food for 20 families on weekends
- Donated funds for field trips, school supplies and uniforms
- Collaborated with Flagstar Bank to provide 375 backpacks with school supplies to every Alcott student and distributed them at the beginning of the school year
- Funded a FAR therapist to provide four hours of art therapy each week serving 50 children



## Our goals for 2019-2020 include:

- Staff all grades K-5th with tutors
- Fund and participate in field trips
- Provide warm coats, new socks and uniforms for children who lack adequate clothing
- Fund a FAR art therapist to provide four hours of art therapy each week
- Provide teacher support and encouragement throughout the year
- Distribute backpacks and school supplies donated by Flagstar Bank
- Expand use of the library
- Provide help with transition to middle school
- Train tutors in *Phonics First* to provide tools for tutors to support the teachers.

Funding for this ministry is provided by FPC Birmingham, a generous grant from the Filmer Foundation, the Ranney-Balch Fund of the Detroit Presbytery, and collaboration with Skyline Camp & Retreat Center, Oakland University, and Flagstar Bank.

## Here's How You Can Help!

**Literacy Tutors** are needed to work with children one-on-one or in small groups. (Men are particularly needed.) No experience necessary; an introduction to the program and training are provided. Contact Kathy Nyberg or Stephanie Kummer for more information.

**Volunteer for Shop 'N Drop** to shop for food and drop it off at the school for distribution to students by the school social worker.

**Provide special treats** during the year for the teaching staff at Alcott.

**Pray** for the children of Alcott and, their families, their teachers, and the volunteers who are involved in this ministry.

If you would like to be added to the newsletter email list, contact Cindy Merten at 248.644.2087 ext. 145 or [cindymerten@everybodyschurch.org](mailto:cindymerten@everybodyschurch.org).

