

2020 Annual Program Report



Developing good neighbors skills and values in children through programs that nourish, educate and support them while providing life-changing experiences for college students through leadership development internships.

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Introduction & History

SML Good Neighbors is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides academic and enrichment programs, year round in both Bedford and Franklin Counties. These programs are free of cost to families, and serve students that are rising 1st through rising 7th graders. SML Good Neighbors was founded in 2007 by a group of community members from various churches and organizations. The programs provided by SML Good Neighbors have grown substantially since the inception of its first summer feeding program in 2007 and summer enrichment day camp in 2008.

From the commencement of these two summer programs, the organization has expanded from serving 65 children, rising 1st through 4th graders at the first camp, to serving 234 students, rising 1st through 6th graders at camp this past summer. Additionally, we also provide a summer academy serving rising 6th through rising 12th graders that was launched during the summer of 2016, student enrichment in the arts after-school programs, launched in 2014, throughout the school year, and have continued and grown the reach of our nutrition and weekend backpack program. All of our programs and services are provided free of cost to families.

The growth of the programs has been in line with our mission and has come to fruition to meet the need of expanding our reach in the community and to better serve the children in the community. To meet this rapid need for growth the organization has also grown from being 100% volunteer operated to currently having four year-round employees; three part-time and one full time.

Our 2020 Supporters

In 2020, SML Good Neighbors received generous financial support from 422 loyal donors. Over 50 individuals volunteered their time and experience to support the programs for the Good Neighbors children. In addition to the support of individuals, many organizations, churches, foundations and trusts provide funding that is critical in sustaining the Good Neighbors programs. We are also grateful for our partnerships with the schools, civic organizations and businesses. Countless individuals, organizations and businesses supported us this year through material donations. 2020 partnerships and supporters not listed below include: Franklin County Public Schools, the Virginia Children's Theatre, private individual donors and several anonymous donors.

Al Stroobants Foundation
Bartlett Tree Service
Bayside Marina & Yacht Club
Beacon Counseling
Bedford Community Health Foundation, Inc.
Bethlehem United Methodist Church
Bob Riddick Home Services, Inc.
Capps Home Building Center
Carilion Clinic Foundation
Coveside Consulting, LLC
Dominion Risk Advisors
F&S Building Innovations
Faber CPA Firm, LLC
Haywood's Westlake, LLC
Healy Charitable Foundation, Inc.
James A. Meador Foundation
John & Sue Trinchere Foundation
Kroger Food's Foundation
Lee & Mary Lynn Tucker Fund of Community Foundation
Lietz Electric, LLC
M.W. Armistead III Family Foundation
Mariners Landing Development Company, LLC
Moneta Farm and Home Center

Moorse's Charitable Foundation
Next Generation
Patmos United Methodist Church
Patsy Smart
Presbytery of the Peaks
Resurrection Catholic Church
Roanoke Monthly Meeting of Religious Society of Friends
Runk & Pratt
Seven Oaks Landscaping
SML Animal Hospital
SML Charity Home Tour, Inc.
SML Community Church of the Brethren
SML Seventh Day Adventist Church
The Amy Elizabeth Lauth Foundation
The Antique and Classic Boat Society
The Uttermost Co.
TRAC Products, Inc.
Trinity Ecumenical Parish
US Treasury
VA Commission of the Arts
Westlake Automotive
Wolf Spirit Sled Dog Rescue

Board of Directors - 2020

Officers:

Diane Burakow, *Chair*

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Programs

Summer Programs: Enrichment Day Camp, Academy, Weekend Bags, Internships

Our summer programs have continued to grow and flourish since its beginning in 2008. Our 13th summer of providing summer programming in Bedford and Franklin Counties presented some of the toughest challenges yet. The global pandemic brought unprecedented circumstances for the entire world. Through careful planning and strategizing, SML Good Neighbors provided programs that supported our mission, despite the inability to meet in person and despite the infrastructure challenges of insufficient internet access in our rural community. The organization knows these programs continue to be a successful and important part of our community, regardless of the circumstances.

A special task force met weekly and developed critical contingency plans that allowed us to move forward with our programs, despite the difficult circumstances. SML Good Neighbors converted all of the summer programs into virtual and remote versions; the internships, weekend bags, camps, academies and after-school sessions. Lessons were provided via Google Meets, paper, materials and flash drives. Programs were delivered via the internet and home delivery. Interns and volunteers worked remotely and in-person, with precautions, to deliver programs through these various avenues. SML Good Neighbors provided eight weeks of virtual and remote programming, serving over 120 students across Bedford and Franklin County, Virginia. Over 500 books, 3,000 meals and 160 hours of virtual programming were provided to these students at no cost to families.

The leadership development internships were fulfilled virtually. Ten carefully selected college students were hired as summer teaching staff interns. Six of the interns were returning from the previous year and four were new to the program. These interns were selected from eight different colleges and universities from across the Nation. Two of the ten interns stayed in the Good Neighbors facility for the course of the internship due to inadequate access to reliable internet at home. They acted as the primary facilitators of the virtual programming as well as the content planning for remote programming. Additionally, interns who were located near our office, also assisted volunteers in packing and delivery of camper kits and weekend bags (some delivery routes were up to 5 hours long).

Throughout the internship, these students receive mentoring, guidance, training and countless opportunities to utilize their skills and talents. Many former interns have gone on to join the Peace Corps, Teach America, become teachers, leaders in other nonprofits, work for NPR and many other honorable professions.

Sample Summer Virtual Daily Schedule:

Schedule for Campers / Interns	
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Morning Check-Ins & Social Skills Building
11:00 - 11:30 AM	Story Time / Reading Buddies via Google Meets
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Interactive Activity via Google Meets (in line with themes of nature education, peaceful living, cultural diversity and global education, and theater)
2:00 - 2:45 PM	Afternoon Check-Ins for students who missed the morning check-ins via Google Meets / Collaborative Storytelling

Sample Weekend Bag Contents:

- Milk
- Juice
- Fruit
- Breakfast Bars
- Bread
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Soup
- Green Beans
- Cornbread Mix
- Camper Kit (Craft, packet of information, flash drive)
- Age and interest appropriate new book



S.E.A. - The Student Enrichment in the Arts Program

The S.E.A. program is an after-school program for 2nd - 5th graders in five Franklin County elementary schools and one Bedford County elementary school. The participating schools are: Sontag, Rocky Mount, Dudley, Burnt Chimney, Windy Gap, and Moneta Elementary Schools. In 2020, a total of 58 students participated. Spring sessions at Rocky

Mount, Windy Gap and Burnt Chimney Elementary Schools were able to take place in-person prior to the pandemic shut downs of schools. A virtual session was held in the fall which was open to all schools.

Students attended one afternoon per week for eight weeks. In 2020 the programs were facilitated by the Virginia Children’s Theatre. The theatre staff was assisted by volunteers and SML Good Neighbors staff. Students participate in activities that provide instruction in, and the practice of, theatre skills. These activities develop communication skills and help students see the value of team building and collaborative learning. A closing performance for family and friends was a highlight of the program for the students. Snacks were also provided at each in-person session.



Volunteers

Volunteers provide critical support for all of our *out-of-school* programs. None of our programs could function without them. In 2020 volunteers filled many roles.

- Over 20 volunteers supported the summer programs. The majority served as *Reading Buddies*, *Weekend Bag Packers* and *Delivery Drivers*.
- Several volunteers assisted the Virginia Children’s Theatre staff at each of the S.E.A. sessions. Volunteers managed check-in and check-out procedures; setup and managed snacks, including cleanup at the end of the day. And, assisted with student needs during the program.
- Many volunteers also served behind the scenes doing administrative and facility tasks, such as fundraising, event planning, gardening, maintenance and more.

Concluding Comments

SML Good Neighbors, like the rest of the world, faced many challenges in 2020 due to the global pandemic, but our mission remained unchanged. Through strategic planning and implementation with the community, SML Good Neighbors continued its work to create a nurturing community that encourages integrity, values, responsibility and a love of learning for the children served. An entire framework for virtual and remote access to enrichment, learning and fund development was crafted as a result of the pandemic, and no doubt these experiences will help grow the work of SML Good Neighbors in the near future.