

The graphic features a dark blue background with a pattern of light blue triangles. On the left side, there are three yellow triangles pointing right, stacked vertically, and a white outline of a Christmas tree. The text 'Christmas Project' is in a large, white, serif font, with '2021' in a smaller, white, serif font below it, underlined.

Christmas Project

2021

Challenge: Raise \$180,000 by January 16, 2022

This year's Christmas Project focuses on raising funds to impact our neighbors through ministries at River Oaks, in our local community, and various locations around the world.

Please prayerfully review the following information and be as generous as possible to help us reach and even exceed our goal! We desire to see every individual in our church family give something financially to love our neighbors through this project.

Christmas Project 2021

Total Goal: \$180,000

International Compassion - Goal: \$50,000

\$21,500 for Children's Lifeline - Haiti

(childrenslifeline.com)

Children's Lifeline is a non-profit agency called by God to provide solid Biblical teaching, food, clothing, medical supplies, and facilities for educational assistance to children and their families in underdeveloped areas in Haiti. The goal is to assist them in developing the skills and resources to become self-sustaining.

Children's Lifeline has recently begun a project to help make them independent of US Funds over time. Funds from the states fluctuate and with the unstable government and economy, moving US Funds safely to Haiti is becoming more dangerous. Therefore, Children's Lifeline has begun investing in leased agricultural property to grow common cash crops to help pay teachers' salaries at Children's Lifeline in a sustainable way. This money will go toward funding one new farm.

Additionally, Project 216 is working to reduce hunger and malnutrition by feeding starving children worldwide. Project 216 has been partnering with Children's Lifeline for more than eight years to deliver meals to children in Haitian villages. We will be using the remainder of these funds to purchase meals to pack. **Mark your calendars: We are again partnering with Project 216 for a Pack-a-Thon on Saturday, January 22, 2022!**

\$10,000 for Voice of the Martyrs

(persecution.com)

Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) is a non-profit, interdenominational Christian organization dedicated to serving and assisting persecuted Christian families worldwide through practical and spiritual assistance. This money will go toward supporting Christians driven from their homes. It will provide food and shelter for a displaced family, replace Bibles lost in attacks, and meet other needs as well.

\$9,000 for Mexico

Naucalpan Edo de México is a church located in a rough neighborhood in Mexico City. They will use \$4,500 of these funds to update sound equipment and their building. The remaining \$4,500 will go to Casa De Misericordia, a ministry located in Vera Cruz, Mexico. They are in need of a van to continue ministering the gospel, doing community work and providing meals to 12 rural and poor communities around the city of Vera Cruz. Their current car (a 2005 Volvo with over 270k miles) is broken and too expensive to fix.

\$4,500 for Venezuela

River Oaks en Español has contacts in both the United States and Venezuela that are coordinating the effort to get supplies to those in need. These funds will be used to create essential food bags for 55 families in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

\$3,000 for our Ecuador

The Foundation "Cerca De Ti" is a legally-constituted institution whose desire is to help women in Ecuador who are unable to escape domestic violence in their own homes. "Cerca De Ti" will establish temporary shelters to serve the purpose as a refuge for mistreated women. These shelters will provide a place to live, be fed, clothed, and more than anything, safeguard their lives and their children.

\$2,000 for our Missionaries

- Aaron and Elizabeth Badenhop, with CRU, serving at Ohio State University (\$500)
- Julie DeWit, with NICS/OASIS serving in Nairobi, Kenya (\$500)
- Doug and Rene Dyksen, with CRU, serving in Orlando, FL (\$500)
- Mark and Megan Musick, serving in London (\$500)

Local Compassion - Goal: \$50,000

\$10,000 for RETA Pregnancy Clinic & Family Resources

(retaforlife.com)

RETA Pregnancy Clinic & Family Resources is committed to helping women and men find the support they need when facing pregnancy and beyond. These funds will be used to go toward a new ultrasound machine. They would like to eventually upgrade both of their ultrasound machines to allow for 3D capability.

\$5,000 for Church Community Services

(churchcommunityservices.org)

Church Community Services is a faith-based agency helping people of Elkhart County weather life's storms and build more secure futures through emergency assistance and intensive job and life-skills training. These funds will be used to purchase a reliable used tractor along with a manure spreader and a cultipacker for their "Seed To Feed" project.

\$8,000 for Faith Mission

(thefaithmission.org)

Faith Mission is a local ministry that provides meals and shelter for the poor and homeless needing mental, physical, or spiritual care. Despite all that the mission offers with emergency housing, they still have a homeless population who cannot function in a dorm-type situation for various reasons. Last year, River Oaks donated enough money to help build a shelter for individual housing. Funds this year will help cover costs to complete this move-in-ready structure.

\$5,190 for The Window

(thewindowofgoshen.com)

The Window is a local ministry assisting the poor with food and clothing in the downtown Goshen area. These funds will go toward replacing and expanding an existing doorway. This will become a two-door entrance to allow their staff to use a pallet jack to haul in skids of food. Currently, they are hauling everything in by hand in all kinds of weather. Having a two-door entrance will allow staff to bring all skids of food into the building out of the weather.

\$4,500 for FBI Service Group

The FBI Service Group (Fixers, Builders, and Instructors) is a group at River Oaks that finds different ways to bless the local community with manual labor and service projects. The requested funds will be used to help with project costs for widows and the elderly who are not able to afford the purchase of materials.

\$6,000 for the Jail Ministry

The Jail Ministry shares the gospel in the context of relationships with the inmates of Elkhart County Jail through over 100 different programs, Bible studies, and church services. A unique way that this ministry is able to show love to the inmates is by removing their unwanted tattoos. The requested funds will go toward their tattoo-removal services.

\$4,970 for SPA Women's Ministry Homes

(spaministryhomes.org)

SPA (Spiritual & Personal Adjustments) is a Christ-centered residential treatment program that empowers women to address the root causes of life-controlling issues and addictions and rebuild new lives through recovery. These funds will go toward Commissioned Addictions Biblical Counselor Training. This will allow them to have a team of staff and volunteer Biblical Counselors that all have the same training and certification from a reputable organization. This type of consistency in training will lend credibility to their counseling ministry while equipping lay-counselors with the knowledge and skill sets to counsel women who have experienced trauma and turned to drugs and alcohol to numb the emotional aftermath of this trauma. The requested funds will also help purchase 22 new chairs for their Group Room.

\$1,500 for Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network

(goshenihn.org)

Interfaith Hospitality Network is dedicated to providing resources and temporary shelter for the homeless in crisis by partnering with congregations and the community. Funds raised through this project will help purchase a larger bed bug zapper. The current zapper takes up to 8-9 hours to treat belongings for a family of 4-5. A newer model would allow them to complete the process in two hours, allowing new residents to get acclimated more quickly.

\$1,900 for The Crossing

(crossingeducation.com)

The Crossing School of Business and Entrepreneurship empowers struggling students to become contributing members of their communities through academics, job training, and faith-based mentoring. These funds will be used to repair garage doors, repaint the building on the inside, and purchase sweatshirts for each student as Christmas gifts.

\$2,000 for The HUGS Project

(thehugsprojectofelkhart.com)

The HUGS Project of Elkhart County is a non-profit organization, which provides 'cooling neckties' (HUGS) and care packages to soldiers serving our country. It is their mission to place a HUG around the neck of every military personnel serving in the Middle East to let them know they are appreciated and not forgotten. The HUGS Project will use these funds to purchase fabric to make the HUGS and absorbent crystals that are sewn into the HUGS to absorb water.

\$940 for The River Oaks Garden

The River Oaks Garden committee oversees the planting and harvesting of the River Oaks Garden which grows produce to support the Church Community Services Seed to Feed Program. These funds will go toward the purchase of eight cattle panels to hold up our tomatoes, 15 pairs of garden gloves, and 35 shirts for the garden volunteers.

Evangelism - Goal: \$80,000

\$25,000 for Transitional Housing for Immigrants

These funds will be used to help provide transitional housing for immigrants coming to River Oaks from countries like Venezuela, Mexico, etc. Due to living conditions in Venezuela, we are seeing an increased volume of immigrants who are seeking and being granted asylum from the country of Venezuela. In addition to the normal amounts of immigration that is to be expected from other countries, we are facing a housing shortage for Latino families arriving at River Oaks En Español. These funds will help them get established in affordable housing while they secure employment.

\$37,000 for the Elkhart Campus Future Location

We are continuing to diligently work toward finding a permanent home for River Oaks in Elkhart. Our current lease with Elkhart Community Schools ends in October 2022. We are currently collaborating with contractors and Central Christian Church leadership to determine whether their facility at Franklin and 5th St in Elkhart is a feasible long-term home that allows us to fulfill our vision to develop a racially and socio-economically diverse campus of River Oaks in the city of Elkhart. Whether God opens the doors at CCC or not, these funds will continue to build and help us locate and secure a permanent facility for River Oaks in Elkhart.

\$10,000 for SpringHill Day Camp Scholarships

In Summer 2022, River Oaks will once again host SpringHill Day Camp. These funds will help provide full and partial scholarships and other camp expenses for children from River Oaks and the surrounding community, who would otherwise not be able to attend. At SpringHill Day Camp, kids get five full days of SpringHill fun right in their hometown. This will be one week out of the summer they will never forget. From the Climbing Wall to the Flying Squirrel or Nine Square to wild water games or stretching their creativity through cool crafts – they'll have more fun than they can imagine. Not only will campers have a blast, but they'll also make great friends and learn a few things about God and themselves!

\$8,000 for a Student Trip Scholarships

We believe that our students participating in trips, retreats, camps, and mission trips are formative and important opportunities for them to not only grow in their own faith but invite their friends to participate as well. These funds will be used to help offset the cost for students to participate in these kinds of opportunities. These funds will be used to not only help subsidize, but also provide scholarship money to families with financial needs.

All donations exceeding the goal will be contributed toward the Elkhart Campus Future Location

Give online at riveroaks.org or make checks payable to River Oaks with "Christmas Project 2021" in the memo and drop in the offering box in the Lobby or mail to 58020 CR 115 Goshen, IN 46528.

Gifts will be accepted through January 16, 2022.

Thank You, and Merry Christmas!