





- As early as 1913 the women of the Evangelical Church became aware of the needs of the people of the Southern Highlands.
- In 1919 the Illinois Branch Women's Missionary Society was the first of three branches to request that the church begin work here.
- Meanwhile, God-fearing people in the mountains of Southeastern Kentucky were praying that someone would "come over and help us."
- Miss Zelfhia Roberts, taught in a little school at Phillip's Fork across the mountain from Beverly.
- She heard that a school was needed . As she walked across the mountain, she stopped at a certain rock in Red Bird and prayed that a school would be built.
- God answered these prayers and sent the Evangelical Church into the Cumberland Mountains of Kentucky into the area called Red Bird.
- The first workers arrived on July 1, 1921.
- Soon after teachers came, nurses and doctors arrived.
- In 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren Churches united with the Methodist Church to become the United Methodist Church.
- Churches reorganized into the Red Bird Missionary Conference.
- Grown into 5 areas of ministry:
- Education—private Christian school-K-12
- Health & Wellness-medical & dental clinic
- Economic Opportunity—craft store & community store
- Community Housing Improvement—Facility Maintenance & Work camp
- Community Outreach—Elderly ministry, community aid, women & children, and family ministry.
- Agriculture programs are under family ministry—Grow Appalachia & Red Bird Farmers Project.

Peer to Peer Summary

- Randal Pflieger, Henderson Settlement
Grow Appalachia Supervisor, Sustainability Director
- Randal Pflieger connected with Red Bird to provide his expertise about Basic Gardening.
- Pat Biggerstaff, Guest speaker and Grow Appalachia Supervisor
- Pat then applied to become a Grow Appalachia site this year after learning about the program thru Red Bird Mission.
- Both assisted the Mini Project with expertise and knowledge for the children and youth program.

Mini Project

- Youth Summer Program
- Seven week summer day camp for children & youth ages 5-15.
- Youth & teen leaders work with this age group 3 days a week.
- This led to a relationship with the Red Bird School.
- School garden and Girl Scout garden.



Collateral Outcomes

- ❑ UK Extension Service---networking with Ag & Natural Resource agents in Bell, Clay, Laurel, Leslie and Jackson Counties.
- ❑ Provided trainings and workshops on basic gardening, food preservation, strawberry production, pastured poultry and farmers markets.
- ❑ Berea College partnership thru Grow Appalachia grant.
- ❑ Grow Appalachia grant assisted in expanding program to 45 families this year.
- ❑ Some participant gardens help feed up to 3 families and also business opportunity to sell vegetables and fruit.
- ❑ Red Bird Mission School—children have a garden and learn skills.
- ❑ Girl Scouts—Have a garden at school and plant, water and harvest vegetables.
- ❑ Churches locally and across U.S. have increased support for gardening and Agriculture needs

Best Use of Funds



Future Needs

- Information about each GSO agency involved
- Include information about how they could assist in different programs
- What is each agency currently involved in 6 months or 1 year from now

