

Winter Volunteers

Season Report

October 2023 – March 2024

*Rio Grande Bible Ministries exists to train Christ-centered leaders
with a biblical worldview for the global church.*

~ Introduction ~

Our Winter Volunteer program provides essential support for the mission of Rio Grande Bible Ministries. God has richly blessed RGBM with a talented group of dedicated volunteers. This becomes evident as you observe all they accomplish year after year. And when a unique need arises, God sends the right talent at the right time: He is ever faithful, and we praise Him for each volunteer.

This season, 138 people reported volunteer hours to the ministry of Rio Grande Bible Institute. There was one mission team of 9 that reported hours included in this report. Two other mission teams; one with 20 and another with 9 did not report any hours, nor are their numbers included in this report.

70 ladies reported	10,569 hours
<u>68 men reported</u>	<u>16,952 hours</u>
138 total	27,521 total reported work hours

Of the 138 people reporting, 34 came for shorter periods of time ranging from a few days up to 3 weeks. Some were visting on campus friends or family and offered their services while here. Others came seeking the Lord's will for a bigger commitment to ministry, considering RGBM as a place to volunteer.

You will see in the following pages that a great number of projects were completed, and our volunteer resources were used to minister off campus as well as on campus. Even though we've made reporting progress, there are still volunteers whose work is unaccounted for, at least in my records.

Hebrews 4:13

~ Looking Back ~

2016-2017 Season:	103 Volunteers reported	20,693 hours.
2017-2018 Season:	103 Volunteers reported	19,234 hours.
2018-2019 Season:	118 Volunteers reported	24,851 hours.
2019-2020 Season:	124 Volunteers reported	24,509 hours.
2020-2021 Season:	87 Volunteers reported	21,605 hours.
2021-2022 Season:	101 Volunteers reported	24,616 hours.
2022-2023 Season:	125 Volunteers reported	29,124 hours.
2023-2024 Season:	138 Volunteers reported	27,521 hours.

NOTE: This report covers the Winter Volunteer Season from October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024. During this time frame, some volunteers did not report any hours, and others under reported hours. Only hours reported are reflected in this report.

~ People~

~ Types of Volunteers ~

Every season we are blessed with a variety of volunteers. Based on their type and length of service, they are placed in one of 3 categories. The categories are **Mission Team**, **Volunteer**, and **Winter Volunteer**.

Mission Teams are a group of people, varying in number, and usually from the same church or service group. They tend to be specific project oriented with a defined start and stop date. The length of service varies from a couple days to a couple weeks. Very often Mission Teams bless RGBM by supplying not only the work talent, but also the funding needed for a specific project. Mission Teams come throughout the year, but this report covers only the Winter Volunteer season. We were blessed by 3 Mission Teams during the 2023/24 season. Staff member Bill Graf coordinated the work for these teams.

~ **Liberty Bible Church of Chesterton, Indiana** has sent teams in the past. This year they sent a team of 5 men and 4 women. They provided funding for 3 concrete pads and a gazebo along the walking path. The men worked primarily on building a gazebo. The women worked on a variety of projects such as preparing a staff house for painting, helped in the library, the mail room, landscaping, stuffing envelopes, and quilting. This team participated with the Winter Volunteers in morning prayer time and coffee breaks. Some of this team has been here in the past; for others, it was their first visit to our campus. We praise God for the continued blessings of Liberty Bible Church. *The Liberty team reported 203 hours which are included in this report.*

~ **West Side Baptist Christian School, Eldorado, Arkansas** sent a team of 20 people. It was a mix of teenagers and some more seasoned adults. They worked at a variety of projects which included building another gazebo on a previously poured pad, patching potholes on Juarez Street, painting parking stripes and handicap spaces at the Clinic, Friesen building, and the parking lot north of the Multi-purpose building. They helped in the printshop, assembling and stuffing envelopes, and general cleaning. They did provide funding for the gazebo materials. I believe this is the first time for this entire team, and they are planning a return trip next March. We praise God for the blessings of West Side Baptist Christian School. *The West Side team did not report any hours for this report.*

~ **Christ Community Church of Nisswa, Minnesota** sent a team of 9 young people and adults led by youth pastor Nathan Gontzy. In addition to working a day on campus patching potholes, painting and cleaning, they helped La Carpa, an RGBM church plant, prepare and celebrate its one-year anniversary. La Carpa has grown from a start-up, meeting in homes, to more than 80 regular attendees in a nice facility in McAllen. We praise the Lord for this ministry, and thank God for the blessing of Christ Community Church at both RGBM and at La Carpa. *The Christ Community team did not report any hours for this report.*

Volunteers are a valuable resource that serve occasionally or for short periods of time on any project as needed. Some stay on campus in their RV or in guest housing if available. Some stay at Bibleville or in other off-campus housing. They do not commit to, or meet, the qualification of a Winter Volunteer, but they are still a greatly appreciated help in completing projects. Anyone who does not qualify as a Winter Volunteer is classified as a Volunteer. This is one category where several volunteers did not complete time sheets, so we have no record of them or their hours worked. This season 34 people reported 1,445 hours that fall into this category.

Winter Volunteers make up the core of our volunteer program. This is a distinct group of volunteers that are here by invitation. They commit to work a minimum of 4 weeks for 28 hours per week. For those who make this commitment, RGBM provides RV connections with sewer, water, electric, and wi-fi at no charge.

Most Winter Volunteers live on campus in their RV's, which gives them opportunities to interact with students beyond the work day. Living as godly examples, engaging students as conversation partners, or tutoring them in English provides multiple blessings to the students as well as to the Winter Volunteers. This interaction results in friendships which last long beyond their time at RGBM. Winter Volunteers become so thoroughly dedicated to this ministry that they return year after year. Those who do not have an RV, can rent housing at Bibleville or other locations.

It is important to note that most of our Winter Volunteers are senior citizens, retired from a variety of careers, and bringing with them a wealth of knowledge and experience. The average age of the men in this category is just over 75 years, which makes all they accomplish even more remarkable.

I was recently told the term that "Volunteer" does not adequately capture the essence of this dedicated group of people. I pondered this for a while, and soon realized the students had already solved this issue. They affectionately call this group "abuelitos," a term of endearment meaning grandparents. How fitting, since grandmas and grandpas have a natural vested interest in the success of their grandchildren. They perform tasks and sacrifice time and resources, all from a heart of love. This defines what we

officially call Winter Volunteers, but they truly are “abuelitos,” many returning year after year to participate and witness firsthand how Christ is working through the ministry of RGBM in the lives of these dear students.

This season, 95 people qualified as Winter Volunteers, reporting 25,802 hours for this report.

~ First Time Volunteers ~

We like to recognize those who are first time volunteers at RGBM. This season we had 25 people who reported hours for the first time, but did not qualify as Winter Volunteers. They were here less than 4 weeks and did not work 28 hours per week. They were not part of a Mission Team.

Dallas & Marilyn Asher
Calvin & Garnet Baker
Verna Doerksen
Bill & Donna Elrod
Steve & Kammie Firkins
Alvina Friesen

Carroll & Mitzi Golden
Gavin Grifhorst
McKenna Grifhorst
Paige Grifhorst
Dana Hamil
Joanne Martens

Amy Meyer
Jeff & Sharon Piatt
Robert Sitton
Peter & Amy Snyder
Joshua Snyder
Erin Wonders

This season we had 13 first-time volunteers, (four couples and three singles) who also qualified as Winter Volunteers.

Steve & Silvia Biggs
Rhon Blau
Henry & Bernice Guenther
Mike Morgan
Harold & Jane Peters
Faye Prindle
Guy & Jeanene Scott
John & Stephanie Weber

Pryor, Oklahoma
Independence, Missouri
Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada
Roosevelt, Minnesota
Stanley, Manitoba, Canada
Pendleton, Oregon
Bowie, Texas
Arnold, Missouri

We had one couple who volunteered two years ago, came back this year, and qualified as Winter Volunteers with plans to return for a longer time next season.

Marty & Kathy Labs

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

~ Awards ~

Annually we recognize Winter Volunteers who reach various years of service benchmarks with an award. This season the following Winter Volunteers were recognized:

5 Years

Lowell & Joyce Martens Newton, Kansas

Lowell works as a general handyman

Joyce works in the sewing room

10 Years

Steve & Mabel Grifhorst Grand Rapids, Michigan

Steve works as a general handyman

Mabel helps set up and serve coffee breaks

15 Years

Bob & Katie Olsen Aurora, Colorado

Bob works as a mechanic in the shop

Katie works in the quilting room

James & Edna Friesen Manitou, Manitoba, Canada

James helps maintain the grounds

Edna works in the sewing room

20 Years

Sheldon & Karla Weinert Sheldon, Iowa

Sheldon works as an electrician

Karla works in the quilting room

Charles & Mary Anderson Tehlequah, Oklahoma

Charles works at coding books for the library

Mary helps Charles and volunteers at Bibleville

Congratulations to each of our award recipients. Thank you for years of dedication and faithfulness. May the Lord continue to abundantly bless each one as you use the talent He has given you for His glory.

~ A Snapshot of This Season’s Work ~
By Type

Types of Work

We have been blessed with a great variety of talent allowing us to accomplish various projects. The work is broken down by type for accounting purposes.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u># Volunteers</u>
Carpenter	3,582.5	41
Electrician	1,830	8
General Labor	15,219.25	110
*HVAC	188	1
IT.....	731.25.....	7
Mason	1,284	16
Mechanic	869.5	13
Machine Operator	405	4
Painter.....	1,945.5	19
Plumber	792.5	9
ESL / Tutor	461.25	19
Welder	213	1

These labor types are spread throughout the various projects. For example, hours log in the carpenter shop are recorded as carpenter hours, but carpenter hours are also logged on individual projects. This applies to all categories. Dennis Kronberg is associate staff and works many hours before and after the season on HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) as well as many other maintenance and grounds activities and helps with food pantry. Most of the hours Dennis works go unreported, but not unnoticed. The 188 HVAC hours logged this season do not include any hours Dennis worked. IT projects include anything that supports information technology, such as running conduit and cable, setting up routers and antennae, or measuring and drawing utilities in auto cad. Machine operator includes running backhoe, bobcat, or man-lift. Painter includes hours in the paint shop as well as time spent painting on projects around campus. General labor as a type logs the most hours and includes grounds, maintenance, cleaning, daycare, library, post office, pantry, print shop, Koinonia, stuffing envelopes in finance, quilting, sewing, boutique, bodega, running for supplies and general help. It should be noted that quilting and sewing are unique skills, yet those hours are recorded as general labor. Many participated as conversation partners with students or helped with ESL/tutoring but did not report those hours.

Note: An asteric (*) denotes the writer is aware of more hours worked than reported in these categories throughout this report.

~ Capital Improvement Projects ~

Men's Dormitory Window Project

3 Winter Volunteers.....	430 hrs.
Mason.....	296 hrs.
Painter	134 hrs.

In the East wing of the men's dormitory, 60 windows were removed. The openings were cleaned and prepared and new windows were installed in concrete. Outside stucco was repaired and painted. The interior of each room was also painted. This is a student housing project. The hours are separated out of the student housing totals.

McKinney Building Stucco Project

6 Volunteers	215 hrs.
Carpenter	114 hrs.
Mason.....	85 hrs.
Painter	16 hrs.

During certain times of the year, the west wall of the McKinney building would conduct excessive heat into the classrooms. Three courses of blocks were laid as a foundation along the outside of the west wall. Stud walls were erected to the roof on top of the blocks. Insulation was installed, window sills were extended, and sheathing installed. A contractor was engaged to install the stucco. The soffits and rain gutters were installed. This is an Administrative-Academic project. These hours are separated from the Administrative-Academic totals.

Radio Port Isabel Generator Project

11 Volunteers	224 hrs.
Machine Operator.....	7 hrs.
Mason.....	104 hrs.
Electrician.....	96 hrs.
General Labor.....	8
IT	9

Before the backup generator for the Port Isabel radio station could be installed, a concrete pad needed to be poured. Winter Volunteers took all the necessary equipment to the radio station and prepared the ground, formed the pad, mixed and poured the cement and finished the surface. A trench was also dug and conduit installed from the pad to the transmitter building. Once installed, the electricians connected the transfer switch which automatically starts the generator in the event of commercial power failure. The pad location and size, the conduit location and depth were recorded in auto cad. These hours are separate from the hours recorded below.

Fiber Optic Project

16 Volunteers	981.5 hrs.
Electrician	38
General Labor	249
IT	598.75
Machine Operator.....	85.75
Painter	10

This significant project connected every home on campus directly to the schools network through fiber optics cable. A small rented trencher plus the trencher attachment on the bobcat, some hand digging and directional boring were necessary to install over 8000 feet of conduit. Connection pedestals were installed outside, connection boxes were made in the carpenter shop, and painted in the finishing room and installed in each home. The electricians ran electric power to each in-home connection box. Over 8000 feet of fiber optic cable was pulled through the conduit. Some of the Winter Volunteers learned how to do the fiber optic cable splicing and began connecting each of the houses to the cable. The trenches had to be back filled with dirt and the ground cover restored. The carpenter shop hours did not get separated out for this project and are included in the carpenter shop totals.

311 Rose Haven Drive remodel

26 Winter Volunteers.....	1,449 hrs.
Carpenters.....	930 hrs.
Electricians	149 hrs.
Mason.....	16 hrs.
Painter	284 hrs.
Plumber	4 hrs.
General Labor.....	64 hrs.
Machine Operator.....	2 hrs.

This remodel project started with removing the old shingles and repairing any damaged roof sheathing, then installing new vents and shingles. Inside the old kitchen, cabinets were removed and an archway leading into the kitchen was moved. This

provided for reconfiguring the cabinets and new locations for the appliances. New kitchen cabinets and counter tops were made in the carpenter shop and finished in the finishing room. Carpenters from the carpenter shop installed the new cabinets. The ceilings and walls had new sheet rock installed throughout the house. This required taping and texturing, and then painting of the entire interior. The electric service panel was moved, which involved considerable rewiring. Additionally, new outlets were located in the reconfigured kitchen. The walls and ceiling required box extensions. All the interior doors were repainted. Plumbing leaks were fixed. Some old, worn plumbing fixtures were changed. The garage door springs were replaced. A tile backsplash was installed in the kitchen. The old flooring was removed, tile was scraped up, carpet tack strips removed, and the floors prepared for new floor installation. And finally, a contractor installed new flooring. This is a staff housing project. The hours are separated out of staff housing totals.

4318 Ehlert

remodel

22 Winter Volunteers.....	514 hrs.
Carpenter	187 hrs.
Electrician	36 hrs.
Mason	20 hrs.
General Labor.....	98 hrs.
Painter	119 hrs.
Plumber	54 hrs.

The first concern was a water problem from the roof. It was determined that a valley on the back of the house was the problem. The affected area had shingles removed, bad sheathing replaced, new tarpaper and shingles installed to properly shed water. Additional roof venting was also installed. Water-damaged walls had old sheetrock removed and new installed, taped and textured. One bathroom had sheetrock repair, taping and texturing. Flooring was removed, old phone and cable boxes were removed, and holes in walls repaired. The air handler door was enlarged. A new door and window were installed in the laundry room and back entry. The laundry room plumbing was removed and new installed inside the wall. The laundry room was sheetrocked, taped and textured. Several repairs were made throughout the house, then the interior was primed and painted. This is a staff housing project. The hours are separated out of staff housing totals.

Apartment 21-24

Roof replacement

9 Winter Volunteers.....	250.75 hrs.
Carpenters	217.5 hrs.
Machine Operator.....	0.25 hrs.
Electrician	33 hrs.

This project involved tearing off the old shingles and tar paper. Damaged sheathing was identified and replaced. Damaged roof ventilation was replaced. New tarpaper and shingles were installed. Roof extensions over the door were removed and entry lights were relocated. Backhoe and bobcat were used to lift shingles to the roof and haul away debris. This is a student housing project. The hours are separated out of the student housing totals.

306 Estrada

9 Winter Volunteers.....	354.5 hrs.
Carpenter	194.5 hrs.
General Labor.....	105 hrs.
Painter	21 hrs.
Plumber	32 hrs.
Machine Operator.....	0.5 hrs.
IT	1.5 hrs.

This home had plumbing repairs both inside the house and in the lines outside. There were also some roof issues that were corrected, including repairing the sagging overhang on the gable ends. This repair required taking off some shingles and removing the soffit overhang, rebuilding, and installing it again. New shingles were installed on the opened portion of the roof. New soffit and fascia were then installed. This is a staff housing project. The hours are seperated out of staff housing totals.

**New 4-plex
Buildings**

7 Winter Volunteers.....	200 hrs.
Carpenter	116 hrs.
Electrician.....	9 hrs.
General Labor.....	11 hrs.
Painter	64 hrs.

There were 2 new 4-plex buildings for married student housing constructed last year, mostly by outside contractors. One bedroom in each unit needed a closet expanded. This meant opening the back wall of the existing space, expanding over the stairway with floor joists. Framing in the doorway. Sheetrocking, taping and texturing the ceiling over the stairway and the new closet space. Then painting and clean up. This is a student housing project. The hours are separated out of the student housing totals.

**Walking Path Gazebo
Project**

6 Volunteers	134 hrs.
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This was a project completed by the Mission Team from Liberty Bible Church from Chesterton, Indiana. There were 5 men from the team and 1 Winter Volunteer who worked on this project. This church provided not only the men to build the gazebo, but also the funding for this gazebo, plus 2 additonal gazebo pads. This is the only team that reported hours. This is a grounds improvement project and are all carpenter hours. The hours are separated from the carpenter shop and grounds totals.

**El Contento
Improvements**

23 Volunteers	850.25 hrs.
Carpenter	344.5 hrs.
Electrician	95 hrs.
General Labor	6.5 hrs.
IT	14.5
Mason.....	278.5 hrs.
Machine Operator.....	19.25 hrs.
Plumber	92 hrs.

The first and biggest change on El Contento was that a contractor rebuilt the street with new curbs and gutters, and new black top. In addition to some capital improvements, there was some maintenance and repairs to electric pedestals and plumbing. Backflow preventers were installed at each water hydrant. Doors were replaced on several of the storage sheds. Donations were made by the Winter Volunteers to cover the cost of these capital improvements. This is a grounds improvement project, and all hours are separated from grounds totals.

Lot 204 had a large concrete pad poured and a RV canopy installed.

Lot 221 had some additional concrete poured and a RV canopy installed.

Lot 222 had a RV canopy installed.

Lot 225 had some additional concrete poured and a RV canopy installed.

Lot 311 had shingles removed from the trailer, roofing repairs made and new tar paper and shingles installed.

Lot 315 demolished the existing shed, additional concrete was poured and a new shed constructed.

~ Maintenance & Other Projects ~

Library

12 Winter Volunteers.....	1881 hrs.
General Labor	1877 hrs.
Electrician	4 hrs.

Last year a donation of 40,000 books from Dr. T.S. Rendall’s collection was made to RGBM. This more than doubled the volumes in our library. Many reported and unreported hours were spent moving and integrating the books onto the library shelves. The work this year was primarily integrating those volumes into our library computer system. This involves pulling

those books, assigning proper new codes, printing and installing new spine labels, and placing them back on the shelves in their proper place. Additionally, each book has biographical information which is imported and catalogued in our system. Some of the work is matching books to specific courses of study. Clearly there is far more to library science than I understand, but praise the Lord He sends those who understand it and are able to work effectively at making the RGBM library a valuable study resource for the school. The collection of volumes makes this a world class library. This is an Administrative-Academic project. These hours are separated from the Administrative-Academic totals.

Indian Hills Chapel

11 Winter Volunteers.....	71 hrs.
Electrician	6 hrs.
General Labor.....	34 hrs.
Plumber	25 hrs.
HVAC.....	6 hrs.

Indian Hills Chapel was a donated property in Indian Hills, Texas that was in need of clean-up to prepare it for sale. Electricians checked over all the electrical systems and changed bulbs. The plumber fixed a couple problems in the bathrooms. The building was emptied of everything, signs were taken down, and much of the usable items were donated to other ministries. The grounds crew mowed and trimmed the grass and cut some brush. The HVAC people serviced the AC units. Trash was picked up and hauled away.

Hanes Building Insulation

6 Winter Volunteers.....	32 hrs.
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This project got started and ran very quickly up against a deadline. The board was scheduled to meet in the morning, so the men putting the insulation in stayed past quitting time to finish the job, then more volunteers came up after supper to help with the cleanup so that the meal preparation and board meeting proceeded without interruption. What a testimony of dedication to service of these men and women Winter Volunteers. Six inches of blown-in cellulose insulation was added to the ceiling of the entire Hanes building.

Administration & Academic

Buildings

24 Winter Volunteers.....	803.75 hrs.
Carpenter	33 hrs.
Electrician.....	195 hrs.
General Labor.....	158.5 hrs.
HVAC.....	126 hrs.
Machine Operator.....	63.25 hrs.
Painter	153 hrs.
Plumber	75 hrs.

This is a snapshot of some of the work done in this category. Electricians did some LED light conversions, and there were plumbing repairs. Soundproof panels were constructed for media. Painting of bathroom signs, lots of window cleaning and general cleaning. Locks were worked on in various buildings. The electrical supplies were organized in the warehouse, and the plumbing supplies were organized in the mechanic shop.

Staff Housing

Summary

37 Winter Volunteers.....	1,442.75 hrs.
Carpenter	454 hrs.
Electrician	76 hrs.
General Labor.....	137.5 hrs.
HVAC.....	14 hrs.
IT	3.5 hrs.
Mason.....	140 hrs.
Machine Operator.....	25.25 hrs.
Painter	258 hrs.
Plumber	334.5 hrs.

More than 25 different staff housing units were visited by Winter Volunteers this season for everything from minor repairs, maintenance items, or major renovations. Several vacated apartments were cleaned and painted. Any needed repairs were made. Some were prepared for contractor-installed flooring. Several time sheets did not include the location of the specific staff house where work was done, so it is possible some may be credited here instead of a specific project. Below is just a snapshot of some of the more extensive work. If the hours were identified with a specific project, they are separated from these hours.

310 Rose Haven

8 Winter Volunteers.....	131 hrs.
Carpenter	102 hrs.
Electrician	5 hrs.
General Labor.....	24

The Winter Volunteers installed new soffits and fascia, additional ventilation, and 6 inches of blown in insulation in the attic. The electricians added some lighting on the front porch. This is a staff housing project. The hours are separated out of staff housing totals.

309 Estrada – A new sidewalk was formed and poured from the house to the street. There were also some plumbing repairs. These hours are included in the staff housing totals.

318 Estrada – The back yard had a water drainage problem. The patio was sloping towards the house. It was necessary to remove a large portion of the fence in order to get equipment into the back yard. The roof over the patio was braced, the concrete patio was removed. A new patio was formed with proper slope away from the house, and concrete was poured and

finished. New posts were installed to support the roof. The backyard was graded to provide water flow away from the house. Finally the fence was reinstalled. These hours are included in the staff housing totals.

Apartment 20 – A roofing repair corrected a water problem between the apartment and the laundry / storage shed. There was also some carport repairs and inside plumbing repairs.

122 Trenton Road – A new exterior door was installed. Some additional cabinets were made and installed. New electrical circuits were installed in the kitchen. An old storage building was dismantled and removed. These hours are included in the staff housing totals. There are also some hours in the carpenter shop totals that include this project.

Student Housing

27 Volunteers	661.75 hrs.
Carpenter	31 hrs.
Electrician	71 hrs.
General Labor.....	177 hrs.
HVAC.....	42 hrs.
IT	14 hrs.
Mason.....	42 hrs.
Machine Operator.....	28.75 hrs.
Painter	128 hrs.
Plumber	128 hrs.

In 5 of the older apartments, mini split AC units were installed. The old wall units were removed and blocks were installed. The outside had stucco applied and both interior and exterior were painted. The women’s dormitory had some light fixtures and exit signs repaired. There were a variety of plumbing repairs, and clean-up of vacant apartments.

Grounds

41 Winter Volunteers.....	2,387.5 hrs.
Carpenter	51.5 hrs.
General Labor.....	1,476.5 hrs.
Electrician	278 hrs.
IT	32.25 hrs.
Mason.....	296 hrs.
Painter	64 hrs.
Plumber	22 hrs.
Machine Operator.....	167.25 hrs.

Grounds includes all the lawn mowing and grass trimming, tree planting and trimming, planting, watering, and weeding flower beds. This season also included broken sidewalk removal and replacement, electric light repairs on sidewalks and street lights. Digging to expose broken water lines and sewer lines and doing those repairs as well as above ground plumbing repairs.

Pouring a concrete pad and installing bicycle racks. Painting curbs and parking lot stripes. Repairing the roof by the propane filling station, and putting new ridge shingles on the laundry building, plus chipping all the brush generated from tree trimming and tree removal. Any work that was done in what is considered a common area falls under the grounds project list.

Radio - other

16 Volunteers	858.5 hrs.
Carpenter	54 hrs.
Electrician	609 hrs.
General Labor	163 hrs.
IT	6 hrs.
Plumber	26 hrs.
Machine Operator.....	0.5 hrs.

Other off-campus radio work included in these totals was work to put a roof on the C-container at the Roma radio tower site. This included preparation work on campus, then transporting the materials to the site and doing the installation. The grounds crew took mowers and timmers and the brush chipper to the AM transmitter site to clean up the brush and to mow. A couple of the volunteers made visits to each of the sites for electrical work and maintenance. In the building on campus, there were plumbing repairs and maintenance. The gutters were cleaned.

Roofing

Laundry ridge.....	14 hrs.
311 El Contento	73.5 hrs.
311 Rosehaven	179
Apt 21-24.....	250.75 hrs.

Every year it is a challenge to find men that can go on the roof and do the heavy work of roofing. This year the Lord provided a variety of men who were able and willing. There were 3 roofing projects planned this season: at 311 Rose Haven Drive, apartment building 21-24, and the ridge on the laundry building. As the season progressed, 311 El Contento was added to the list. Each of these roofing projects is either a seperate project or is rolled into a bigger project. The Laundry ridge is part of grounds. There were also small roofing repairs on apartment 20 (Staff Housing), the propane filling station roof (grounds), and 306 Estrada which had other work in addition to roofing, and the roofing hours were not seperated.

Mechanic Shop

17 Winter Volunteers.....	1,116 hrs.
Mechanic	869.5 hrs.
Electrician	7 hrs.
Welder	129 hrs.
General Labor.....	104 hr.
Mason.....	6.5 hrs.

We had primarily 3 mechanics in the shop and 1 welder. Several others worked occasionally on specific tasks. One man

cleaned and organized the plumbing supplies on the mezzanine. Routine maintenance of vehicles and tire repairs on campus vehicles and equipment. A golf cart engine was rebuilt and installed. Several small engines were repaired. The welding shop hours are included in these numbers.

Campus Post Office 3 Winter Volunteers.....581.25 hrs.

Carpenter Shop 9 Winter Volunteers.....699.5 hrs.

Carpenter613.5 hrs

Electrician86 hrs.

Many hours are reported as carpenter in specific projects elsewhere in this report. These are hours recorded specifically in the carpenter shop and not attributed elsewhere. There was electrical work in wiring 3-phase into the shop and connecting a drum sander which is an additional piece of equipment. Cabinets were made in the shop for 311 Rose Haven, but all those hours are accounted under that project.

Finishing Room 5 Winter Volunteers678.5 hrs.

Painter678.5 hrs.

Many painting hours are reported in specific projects elsewhere in this report. These are hours for work done specifically in the finishing room. Projects like furniture restoration, painting of doors and trim, receiving and distributing work orders, ordering and receiving paint and supplies. All the painting around campus is coordinated through the Finishing Room whether accounted in the Finishing Room or on a specific project. A sampling of the work in or through the Finishing Room: all the cabinets for 311 Rose Haven; the walls, trim and doors for 311 Rose Haven; all the painting in 4318 Ehlert; the West side of the Thompson building; all the cabinets in apartment 40; apartments 34, 35, 39, 44, 48 and others; teacher's office in the McKinney building; plus fiber optic connection boxes, much furniture, and many other projects.

Note: All the hours logged in the following items are recorded as general labor hours.

Quilt Room 39 Winter Volunteers.....3,630.25 hrs.

The season started slowly with the quilt room opening in mid-November and closing in mid-March. Several of the ladies reporting hours in the quilt room also worked in other areas around campus. There were also 2 men that reported a small amount of hours in quilting. Some of the quilts made are sold at the annual quilt auction and craft sale. A small portion of the proceeds is used to purchase some quilting supplies, but most of the money is given directly to the students as cash gifts.

Quite a bit of work goes into each quilt. First the quilt pattern and color is planned. Then just the right material combinations are selected, cut, and then sewn together. Once sewn, the top is then given to the "tying ladies" who install the batting and tie the backing to the top, completing the quilt. This season 99 large quilts, 23 small quilts were hand tied, and 10-12 more were

students will get clothes from the boutique and have them altered at the sewing room.

Coffee Break 8 Volunteers625 hrs.

Four of the eight ladies reporting time were occasional help. Over 575 hours were given by 4 primary workers. Coffee break is more than just coffee and snacks. This is an opportunity for the volunteers to hear from staff, students, and other volunteers. We hear testimonies of how they came to know the Lord, how they came to RGBM, what the Lord is currently doing in their lives. We hear about different ministries. We hear thoughts from Scripture, plans and needs for upcoming mission trips, or a report of how the Lord worked on a recent trip. It is a time of encouragement and blessing. With over 100 volunteers in attendance at the peak of the season, it is no small task to make sure there are enough coffee and snacks available. Then, of course, there is the clean-up afterward and the securing of enough supplies.

Events 33 Winter Volunteers.....388.75 hrs.

Many volunteers help with planning and participate in various events. Some of the events are the 50th wedding anniversary celebration, Thanksgiving and Christmas day all-campus dinners, Christmas market and craft sale, the students Sing and Share, Festival of Nations, Founders Week, Grandparents day, the annual Craft, Quilt, and Bake Sale and Auction, Bibleville's craft sale, and the Fiesta at Bibleville. They help in setting up and serving at student banquets at Christmas and Valentine's days. Some also helped in serving dinner at the board meetings. Many volunteers planned and participated without reporting any hours.

The annual Craft, Quilt, and Bake Sale and Auction is the main fundraising event of the Winter Volunteers. It is designated as a "Sales Tax Free" day, so items are sold without the addition of sales tax. This season generated more than \$8,700, most of which was given to students as scholarships and to the students' mission trips fund.

ESL / Tutoring 19 Volunteers502.25 hrs.

This is a sharp increase from those reporting last year. While more people are reporting ESL/tutoring time, there are still others that engage students as conversation partners and help them with English as a second language without reporting hours. Some of these are actually classroom hours, and some are scheduled conversation times as part of student assignments. Because of the growth of ESL in the curriculum, there will be a more concerted effort to track this time in the future. Those who do engage the students are blessed with friendships that last long beyond the students' time at RGBM.

Food Pantry 19 Volunteers941 hrs.

The Food Pantry is primarily for the staff and students, but the Winter Volunteers reap some benefit as well. This adjunct ministry has provided considerable blessing not only on campus, but, as a pass-through ministry, has an extensive reach throughout the Rio Grande Valley. 19 people reported hours as helping with the Food Pantry, most of which are occasionally helping to unload a truck or trailer. However, most hours are worked by Kendall Pliner, who travels around the valley picking up products from numerous locations, setting up and cleaning up after on campus pantry hours, and then finding other ministries to bless with the extensive surplus. The Lord has really opened the flood gates on this ministry.

Koinonia	3 Winter Volunteers.....416.75 hrs.
2 Winter Volunteers from El Contento, and one from Bibleville served as a baristas in the coffee shop.	
Locks & Keys	1 Winter Volunteer157.5 hrs.
Daycare	3 Volunteers22 hrs.
Clinic	5 Volunteers20 hrs.
Finance	4 Winter Volunteers.....95.5 hrs.
Reception	3 Volunteers173 hrs.
Recycling	3 Winter Volunteers.....55 hrs.
Parts Supply	1 Winter Volunteers.....672 estimated hours

All these projects require an almost continuous stream of parts. This tasks falls primarily on one individual who keeps projects moving and seeks to do so economically and efficiently. Without his efforts, many projects would be slowed greatly. His 35-plus years of service to RGBM gives him an advantage of knowing where to find the right stuff at a good price. We praise the Lord for the service of Gary Williams.

Other

18 Volunteers311.5 hrs.

This is one of those “catch-all” categories. Activities that fall here are the following: help in the cafeteria, scheduling CPR classes, helping with home school co-op, providing some basic medical aid or care for other volunteers or for Nell Pearson, driving to medical appointments, help in the print shop, setting up risers for photo shoots, board meetings, and retrieving a stranded vehicle from San Antonio. Again, these are testimonies of the Winter Volunteers’ dedication to service. What a privilege to be the coordinator of this incredible group of the Lord’s servants.

Psalm 92:12-15 *The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, “The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”*

Prayerfully submitted,

Kevan Soderberg