



Rev. Keary Kincannon, pastor, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, introduces "The Blessing and The Crowns of Life Gospel Band" at the church's Festival Day.

Photos/Chuck Hagee "Griff The Comedian" entertains the crowd gathered to eradicate hunger and homelessness along the Route 1 corridor.

Above left, Dave Collyer (lft) and Rae Crabtree staffed the Mount Vernon Evening Lions Club's mobile Sight and Hearing Unit which provided free testing during Rising Hope church's Festival Day. Above center, Marcos Castillo, bilingual health educator, K.I.Services, Inc., staffs the organization's mobile unit. Above right, Kirsten Kaiser of the Laurie Mitchell Employment Center distributes literature from her organization to aid the mentally ill in finding employment.

On page one, top photo, MAGNET distributes corn and string beans to attendees at Rising Hope's Festival Day to eradicate hunger and homelessness. Bottom photo, Jeff Majors and Al Johnson perform at the evening concert.

At right, Jeff Majors performs on the harp during the evening concert.

Photo/Kathryn Weaver



"The Blessing and The Crowns of Life Gospel Band" perform for attendees at Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church's Festival Day for the Hungry & Homeless along Route 1.



Attendees at Festival Day enjoy food provided by Mount Gilead Full Gospel Ministries of Richmond, VA.

A Festival For 'The Least, The Lost, The Lonely'

By CHUCK HAGEE
Contributing Writer

A mixture of hope and giving was the primary fuel driving the engine of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church's "Festival Day for the Hungry and Homeless on the Route One Corridor." Held last Friday in the church's parking lot it drew more than 300 participants. "The whole idea was to have a festival for the hungry and homeless to offer them both hope and a variety of social services as well as necessary food and clothing," said the Rev. Keary Kincannon, pastor and founder of Rising Hope Church on Rus-

sell Road in Lee District. "We went to shelters and camps in the woods to get the word out." Throughout the afternoon there was entertainment by The Blessing and The Crowns of Life Gospel Band as well as "Griff The Comedian," or as his t-shirt announced, "The Secular Saint." A radio personality in Atlanta, GA, he is a 2004 Emmy nominee and a star on BET and Starz television networks. Topping off the day was a concert at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Mount Vernon District featuring internationally known jazz and gospel composer, musician and harp master

Jeff Majors and his National Tour for the Homeless. Packing the church, the concert raised \$26,000 in donations and offerings for the work of Rising Hope, according to Kincannon. The evening benefit concert marked the second annual event Rising Hope has sponsored with Majors "to fight against homelessness along the Rt.1 corridor." It was free to the public in exchange for a can of food to help stock Rising Hope's food pantry which feeds over 1,400 people weekly. Their free lunch serves over 1,600 hot meals every month and their clothes closet distributes house-

hold items to over 200 community families every week. Majors has been bringing his National Tour, "a rich amalgam of musical styles," to churches throughout the nation since 2007. He has played his harp for the funerals of civil rights leaders such as Coretta Scott King and Washington, DC's own Dorothy Height. In addition to the day and evening entertainment and picnic luncheon, supplied by Mount Gilead Full Gospel Ministries of Richmond, VA, from their hot-food mobile trailer, attendees were offered a variety of social services and take-

home food items provided by an array of private and Fairfax County organizations. Bushels of corn and bags of string beans were handed out by the Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network (MAGNET). "We got 104 bushels of corn and 5 multi-gallon bags of string beans donated by 50 farmers throughout Northern Virginia," said Garrett L Hutsko, chief information officer, MAGNET. Kiersten Helene Kaiser, program assistant and certified peer specialist, Laurie Mitchell Employment Center, Edsall Road, Alexandria, staffed her organi-

See Festival Page 10