



Living the Beatitudes

A Call to Action and Connection

***Mission Giving Opportunities
Advance Projects and
Connectional Giving***

**Updated May 2026*



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LIVING THE BEATITUDES

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely [b] on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)

The Beatitudes are essential and relevant today.

In Matthew 5: 1-12, Jesus offers a portrait of the ways in which it is possible to be a good person with respect to others – a description of the various forms human goodness can take – within the eight categories of the beatitudes.

The categories describe people we can recognize in our own day, in homeless shelters and nursing homes to the halls of power.

The projects and ministries described in this resource are matched with a beatitude that allows the Church to “advance” the cause of Christ and work for the public good.

Your congregation, mission committee or small group can learn about apportioned funds through connectional giving, give to Advances in a specific category, or learn about the missionaries our Annual Conference supports.

Be encouraged and join with others in mutual support and strengthened connection.



LINKING ADVANCE PROJECTS AND CONNECTIONAL GIVING TO THE BEATITUDES

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." - Luke 4:18-19, NIV

Each project links to at least one of the Beatitudes - and NIC's direct call to action in response to Jesus' words. The Beatitudes are identified with the following icons:



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.

Moved by God's grace, we forgive ourselves and others as we pursue justice, peace and unity in our journeys together.



Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Called to service, we grow in faith while sharing in ministries that reveal God's vision as we face and respond to challenges.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Inspired by the Spirit, we seek God's guidance as we accept new challenges in our faith journey, wherever it takes us.



Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Touched by the pain of those who suffer injustice and hopelessness, we demonstrate God's compassion, love and acceptance.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Remembering Jesus's humble journey to Jerusalem, we seek nonviolent, peaceful change and advocate for the powerless.



Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Recalling Jesus' promise to heal the sick, free the prisoner and liberate the oppressed, we reach out in compassion.



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Remembering Isaiah's promise to rescue the poor and the oppressed, we pursue social justice to restore wholeness to communities

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Heeding Jesus' call to witness to God's love, we work with others to restore local, regional and global communities and celebrate the faith and courage of those who risk persecution.

CONNECTIONAL GIVING

demonstrates our connectedness to one another, to God and to the body of Christ.

Biblical Study

I Corinthians 12 illustrates the connection of one person to another in the church, calling each person a member of Christ's Body, each with important work to do. That connection is so clearly felt that when "one suffers, all suffer; when one is honored, all rejoice."

(I Cor. 12:26). We share both in the pain that is felt and in the joys we share together.

That connection is not just between individuals but between all people in the Church.

Acts 2: 42-47 demonstrates how daily communion and evangelism was a vital part of the Church. One of the most striking features of our early ancestry is that those members would "sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need" (vs. 45, NRSV). From our beginning, the Church has been about sharing God's gifts with others.

Financial gifts, especially to support the missional work of the church, have connected us as Christ's Body since the beginning.

What is Connectional Giving?

Connectional Giving is one of the founding ideas that the United Methodist Church was built upon. Participating in connectional giving helps us to be in mission with people and congregations around the world - giving every church, regardless of size, a larger mission footprint. Connectional giving includes Apportionment giving (Northern Illinois Conference Fund and General Church) as well as Mission Link (The Advance) giving.

Are These "Special Gifts"?

Connectional Giving are not to be considered "special gifts," but rather, they are similar to our tithes that we give to our local church. These funds are to be set aside and given first priority in our church budgets.

Apportionments are our first-mile of mission giving. They form the framework for the rest of our connectional ministry & mission. First mile giving ensures 100 percent of gifts to Advance Specials, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Imagine No Malaria, Love Offerings, Special Sundays, etc. benefit the desired mission or ministry.

We encourage all churches to go the second mile to become a Mission Links church by participating in The Advance mission giving and continuing to support the good work across the connection.

Do all the good you can... in all the places you can... to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

- John Wesley



Apportionments allow us to do together what no church, district, or annual conference could do alone.

Why Give to Apportionments?

Apportionment giving flows from our call to care for God's family not only in our neighborhoods but across the world. Through this shared giving, we strengthen local churches, annual conferences, and our global connection so Christ may be known in transformative ways.

What are Apportionments?

Apportionments are the way congregations join together to support mission, ministry, leadership development, and crisis response locally and globally. They allow us to accomplish what no single church could do alone, creating shared resources that benefit all.

How are Apportionments Calculated?

NIC's new, simple, equitable apportionment formula, passed at the 2025 Annual Conference:

- churches with income under \$250,000 will be apportioned 8 percent of their income
- churches with income between \$250,000 and \$750,000 will be apportioned 10 percent of their income
- churches with income over \$750,001 will be apportioned 12 percent of their income.

The new formula comes with these rules:

- Income shall be defined according to each church's statistical report.
- It shall be computed by subtracting the amounts on lines 53 and 54b from line 55 on the apportionment remittance form. (Line 53 reports capital campaigns amounts and other designated projects, and line 54b reports the Advance Special, Apportioned, and Connectional Funds the church received.)
- A church's apportionment will be figured on the most recent income information that it has submitted.

Questions about apportionments, Second Mile Giving, or advances?

Please contact David W. Quinn, NIC Apportionments Administrator, at dquinn@umcnic.org or 872-810-0895.

CONNECTIONAL GIVING GUIDELINES

1 Pay 100% of your Church's Conference and General Church Apportionments.

2 Select at least one project in each of the giving categories:

- Special Sundays page 7
- Global Advance Projects page 9
- Missionary Support. page 15
- UMCOR / Emergency Relief Projects page 17
- US-Based Advances page 19
- Northern Illinois Conference Projects page 20
- NIC District Projects page 31

3 Send your church's gifts to PO Box 5656, Carol Stream, IL 60197-5646 with your monthly apportionment payment or via the prosper online payment system. In the memo line, indicate both the Fund and Project Number for correct allocation.

*****Please note:** Gifts should be directed only to the funds and projects listed in this book. Credit toward a church's Mission Links giving is applied only when donations are submitted through the Conference office. Contributions to other ministries or projects outside the Mission Links booklet are to be sent to those ministries or projects directly, but will not be counted as part of the Mission Links giving program.

What is an Advance?

The Advance for Christ and His Church (The Advance) is the United Methodist program for designated mission giving. Begun in 1948, more than \$1 billion have been given through the Advance.

Advance funds are specifically designated for particular projects or ministries, allowing the Church to "advance" the cause of Christ through new church development, disaster relief, missionary support, health services, and many other programs.

The Advance represents "second-mile" mission giving, the "first mile" being apportionment giving. After giving those apportioned dollars, your congregation may choose to partner with an existing project or ministry. Because overhead costs are covered by other donations, 100% of every gift to the Advance goes to the ministry designated.

The NIC also participates in designating and monitoring Advances designated Conference or District Advances. Conference Advances serve the entire Northern Illinois area and District Advances offer ministry services within a particular district. Other eligibility apply. The Northern Illinois Conference votes to approve these advances each year.

6

SPECIAL SUNDAYS

Northern Illinois Conference

Scouting Ministries Sunday - NIC Fund #783

Any Sunday in February or March

This fund supports Scouting America, Girl Scouts of the United States of America, Campfire, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America.

Golden Cross Sunday/ United Adults Services Sunday - NIC Fund #775

First Sunday in May

Supports the six retirement and long-term adult facilities within the Northern Illinois Conference and provides education scholarships for persons pursuing careers in the field of adult services.

Volunteers in Mission - NIC Fund #901375

Any Sunday in July or August

Helps promote any short-term mission trips in your congregation, especially those organized under the auspices of the VIM program of Global Ministries. To learn about VIM or how to organize a team in your congregation, visit umcnic.org/VIM.

Christian Education Sunday - NIC Fund #776

First Sunday in September

Informs the congregation of the crucial church growth ministry of Christian Education and recognizes teachers and leaders for their dedicated service.

Disability Awareness Sunday - NIC Fund #782

Any Sunday in March

Supports the award of accessibility grants to local churches. The worship service should call church members to recognize and celebrate persons with handicapping conditions in their congregation and community, including those persons in the service of worship, and recognizing the gifts of all God's people. Resources may be obtained from the NIC Accessibility Committee.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Sunday - NIC Fund #780

First Sunday in December

Funds ministries to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families and commemorates those who have died from an AIDS-related illness and works to raise awareness/education of HIV/AIDS.

United Voices for Children Sunday - NIC Fund #778

Each fifth Sunday in months with five Sundays

United Voices for Children (UVC) is a coalition of NIC congregations, agencies, groups and individuals that speaks and acts on behalf of children, youth and families in need. Funds are divided among the institutions in the UVC coalition: Kids Above All, Rosecrance Health Network and MYSI.

Learn more at unitedvoicesforchildren.org.

Special Sundays are:

- A way for your church to join with other congregations across our connection to recognize specific kinds of ministries.
- May involve receiving an offering, having a "minute for mission" about the day, or to recognize ministry in your specific context, such as a Scout troop or Volunteers in Mission (VIM) team.
- Set by the General Conference and the Northern Illinois Conference (NIC).



General Conference-Designated Special Sundays

Connectional Giving has created a resource to assist us in being better stewards of the church's money. Pew cards to promote and teach members about the Special Sunday Offerings and the importance of giving to support these causes are [available to order or download](#). There is now one offering envelope for ALL Six Special Sunday Offerings. **Remember you can celebrate any Special Sunday on a day of your choosing.**

January • Human Relations Day | [Leader Kit Download](#)

This offering supports ministries of social justice and outreach like the Community Developers, Volunteer Service and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. This fund is administered by Global Ministries and The General Board of Church and Society.

Northern Illinois Fund #770

Fourth Sunday in Lent • UMCOR Sunday | [Leader Kit Download](#)

This offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs ensuring that 100% of gifts during times of crisis help those who need it most. This fund is administered by Global Ministries.

Northern Illinois Fund #771

Third Sunday of Easter • Native American Ministries Sunday | [Leader Kit Download](#)

This offering advocates for and recognizes the contributions and gifts of Native peoples to the church and their communities around the globe. Half of the offering remains in the NIC. The other half supports scholarships and general church funds administered by the General Board of High Education and Ministry and [Global Ministries](#). **Northern Illinois Fund #769**

May • United Methodist Student Day | [Leader Kit Download](#)

This offering helps provide for over 70 scholarships available for United Methodist students to further their education and enrich the life of the Church. The fund is administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. **Northern Illinois Fund #772**

First Sunday after Pentecost • Peace with Justice Sunday | [Leader Kit Download](#)

These gifts support Peace with Justice work in the NIC, the United States and around the world. Half of this offering is administered by the conference Peace with Justice coordinator and half by the General Board of Church and Society. **Northern Illinois Fund #773**

October • World Communion Sunday | [Leader Kit Download](#)

This offering makes a global impact for Christ by supporting a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults. Half of the offering benefits World Communion Scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries; the remainder assists Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduates studying in the U.S. and Ethnic In-Service Training. These funds are administered by the General Boards of Higher Education and Ministry and Global Ministries.

Northern Illinois Fund #774

GLOBAL ADVANCE PROJECTS



Cienaguita Ngobe Community Health Project (Fund #706, Project #14969A)

Promoting health, literacy, economic, cultural and community development and empowerment is the focus of the Community Health Project in Panama. The goal of this project attempts to effect change through empowerment, enabling members of the community to get involved in efforts that improve their quality of life. The strategy involves organizing and training the women and men of the communities to promote the health and well-being of their own communities.

Evangelical Methodist Church of Panama

PanamamissionRJ@gmail.com

rhetthompson.weebly.com

araval1969@hotmail.com

507-224-5184

Missionary

Rhett Thompson 09543Z

rthompson@umcmmission.org



Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic, Haiti (Fund #706, Project #418520)

Caring for and creating hope for children and families suffering from TB, HIV/AIDS, chronic illness is the focus of Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince. The goal of this project is to provide hospital and out-patient care for children and families with tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and respiratory infections and follow up with clinical healthcare for patients discharged from Grace Children's Hospital and their families. Long-term, the project hopes to expand its reach to more families and to educate the community about healthcare and nutrition.

International Child Care

internationalchildcare.org

thao@internationalchildcare.org

1-800-722-4453

[Learn more at
advance.umcmmission.org](http://advance.umcmmission.org)



Courtesy of Cienaguita Ngobe



© Keith Mumma



Burundi Annual Conference Health Board (Fund #706, Project #3021770, Note "Burundi Health Board")

Burundi's high levels of poverty among its communities have led to the proliferation of preventable illnesses such as malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia and other respiratory infections. These illnesses and similar pathologies are responsible for the deaths of Burundi's most vulnerable citizens, especially those under 5 years of age. Furthermore, the preventable morbidity rates significantly affect the ability to attend school and/or work and are reflected in the sinking underdevelopment of the country.

Burundi's 11 million inhabitants are served by 45 hospitals, including one located in Kayero and serving the provinces of Rutana and Ruyige. The Global Health Unit approved a grant to rehabilitate the hospital in early 2020. The hospital could serve an estimated 117,343 adults and 256,301 children.

Burundi's recently established Health Board is composed of a diverse group of professionals and clergy. Their professional training and experience will contribute significantly to the development of sound health interventions to the most vulnerable populations. Burundi's Health Board chair and legal representative, both Africa University alumni, are professionally affiliated with a humanitarian aid and development organization. Over the years, they have successfully built and cultivated partnerships with local authorities such as the Ministry of Health and other partners.

Goal: To increase access to health care services by providing equipment and supplies for the Bishop J. A. Nduricimpa Memorial Hospital in Kayero.

Global Ministries Contact
Tatenda, Mujeni
458 Ponce de Leon Avenue N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30308
TMujeni@umcmmission.com
T - 1-770-625-7851
F - 1-404-942-4241
umcmmission.org

Project Contacts:

The Rev. Jean Ntahouri,
Legal Representative
jnaja2000@yahoo.com

Dr. Aloys Nyabenda
Health Board Coordinator
Godfreyogbu82@gmail.com
+257-79914312

The In Mission Together project allows local congregations to partner with specific congregations in regions of new mission development. The hope is that a 50/50 joint partnership may be achieved through a covenant of multi-year financial support and relationship building. Current In Mission Together countries include Cambodia, Cameroon, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Russia (and Belarus), Senegal, Thailand and Vietnam. umcmmission.org



Lithuania In Mission Together (Fund #706, Project #12168A)

Supporting church development, pastors' salaries, pastor and lay leadership, training and outreach is the purpose of Lithuania In Mission Together. The primary goals are:

- **Development of indigenous committed and skilled spiritual leaders.** Provide at least two significant training events for pastors each year for their personal growth and the growth of the church in Lithuania. At least half of these should focus on United Methodist beliefs and understandings. Continue to expand the responsibilities of laypersons for the work of the church, including developing the work of Pastor Parish Relationships Committees. Provide annual training events for the lay work of the church. Continue the Lay Speakers program so that courses are offered annually.
- **Development of new congregations.** Begin new congregations in new communities in Lithuania. As the number of Lithuanian pastors grows, this potential has increased reality.
- **Development of social-diaconal outreach ministries.** Increase the avenues and connections with partner churches so that more resources are available for outreach ministries. Each local church shall design their own programs, set their own goals and develop their own ministries annually and these goals will be shared with partner churches.
- **Expand Partner newsletter** to include information about all the programs of the Lithuania UMC.
- **Develop local outreach programs** through the local churches to assist with human and spiritual needs. Each local church should strengthen an existing program or develop a new program each year.



Global Ministries Contact:
Lithuania UMC
lithuaniaumc.org

Ullas Tankler,
utankler@umcmmission.org

Remigijus Matulaitis,
remailo@gmail.com



**Mujila Falls Agricultural Research Center, Zambia
(Fund #706, Project #15016A)**

Addressing hunger and poverty with sustainable agriculture and leadership training is the focus of the Mujila Falls Agricultural Research Center in extreme North West Zambia. The original goals and objectives of the project were to increase protein, minerals and vitamins in the diet to reduce high infant mortality and low life expectancy of the Lunda People. It was also to help the Lunda People to increase family incomes by becoming more effective and efficient farmers. The desired long-term impact is to help to make the Lunda farmers and their families competitive in agricultural pursuits that benefit from high rainfall and abundant available land. These include milk, fruit and meat production, gardening and field crop production.

**Southern Congo
Episcopal Area
Tnkomozepe@umcmmission.org
[facebook.com/MujilaFallsAgCentre](https://www.facebook.com/MujilaFallsAgCentre)**

**Missionary
Temba Nkomozepe
tNkomozepe@umcmmission.org
3022400**



Nigeria Health Board Health Systems

(Fund #706, Project #3021770, Note “Nigeria Health Board”)

Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities, the cornerstone of health care in Nigeria, are often the first point of contact for Nigerians seeking medical care. PHCs benefit the country’s poorest and most isolated who would otherwise go without medical attention. Effective delivery of PHC services requires availability of adequate infrastructure, functioning diagnostic medical equipment, essential medications and well-trained medical personnel. Jalingo Hospital, built and equipped with the support of Global Ministries through its Global Health unit in 2017, has seen an improvement in quality of care, resulting in an increased patient load.

Project Goal: To ensure United Methodist Church health facilities, the first point of health care for the poor and disenfranchised segments of Nigerian citizens, meet the World Health Organization’s essential standards of primary care, thus improving health equity and reducing morbidity and mortality in most rural areas.

Global Ministries Contact

Tatenda, Mujeni
458 Ponce de Leon Avenue N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30308
TMujeni@umcmmission.com
T - 1-770-625-7851
F - 1-404-942-4241
umcmmission.org

Project Contacts:

Dr. Micah M. Madaki	Dr. Godfrey Ogbu
Health Board Chair	Health Board Coordinator
mmadaki@yahoo.com	Godfreyogbu82@gmail.com
+234 0832914934	+234 -8038773264



GLOBAL ADVANCE PROJECTS



Solar Oven Partners UMC (Fund #706, Project #418812)

Bringing solar ovens and education to families where fuel costs deplete resources for food and other necessities. Each oven contains three cooking pots, a bread pan, potholders, measuring cups and spoons, a thermometer, plus the Water Pasteurization Instrument (WaPI) for pasteurizing water or milk. Recipients contribute a small donation to get an oven. For 25 years, SOP has distributed more than 24,000 ovens. Demand for ovens continues to grow in the Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone and Four Corners Native American Ministry in Navajo Country. Solar Oven Projects seeks to transition families struggling to make ends meet from fossil-fuel cooking methods to solar cooking methods to save money and improve nutrition.

solarovenpartnersumc.org



Senegal Mission Initiative (Fund #706, Project #12594A)

Supporting pastors' growth in leadership and pastoral care, and providing congregational development is the purpose of the Senegal Mission Initiative. The primary goals of the project are:

1. Develop and implement a process of preparing those called into Ministry that will meet the requirements as laid out by the United Methodist denomination. Begin at least one qualified individual on that path.
2. Provide four training events per year for Lay and Ordained Pastors in the areas of leadership and development.
3. Provide congregational development training to all laity of the Senegal United Methodist Church by the end of 2019.
4. Provide fundamental necessities for Ordained Pastors and their families.

Global Ministries Contact

Jean Claude M Maleka, jmaleka@umcmmission.org

umcmmission.org

3153373358

Missionary : Makobo Nshikala

dmakobo@umcmmission.org

3021869

MISSIONARIES



Learn about these missionaries by visiting umcmmission.org and entering their number in the search box.



Rev. Jonathan McCurley (Fund #705, Project #3021131) serves at the Asian Rural Institute in northern Japan. He serves as community life coordinator. The Asian Rural Institute is an ecumenical ministry that seeks to build an environmentally healthy, just, and peaceful community in which all persons can live to their fullest potential. The institute and Global Ministries are strong mission partners, and the relationship has intensified in the aftermath of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that adversely affected the region. Jonathan is a candidate for elder's orders in the Florida Annual Conference. Send emails to cyz11564@gmail.com.



Sandra Raasch (Fund #705, Project #15075Z) serves as Volunteers Coordinator. She formerly worked in mission finance in Honduras. Sandra was commissioned as a missionary in 2005. She was born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri and attended the University of Missouri in Columbia, earning her Bachelor of Science in business administration and finance in 1987. Send emails to godsplansforme2011@gmail.com.

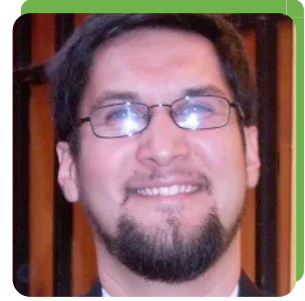


Belinda Forbes (Fund #705, Project #12109Z) serves in Nicaragua, Central America and has carried out her missionary service in different placements. A dentist by profession, Dr. Forbes serves God and the Church by contributing to community dental health programs, coordinating short-term mission teams, mentoring volunteers, and interfacing with international partner organizations. Send emails to belindagbgm@gmail.com.



Rev. Young Seon (Christina) Kim (Fund #705, Project #3021957) serves as director of the Next Generation Ministries of the church in Tanzania, based in Dar es Salaam. Objectives of Rev. Kim's work include preparing pastors and lay leaders with skills in relating to young people and analysis of the youth ministries presently underway in each of the church's districts. Rev. Kim, a native of South Korea, is a clergy member of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, ordained an elder in 1999. Send emails to YKim@umcmmission.org.

Daniel Humberto Contreras Varas (Fund #705, Project #3022778) serves at the United Methodist Mission in Honduras. Daniel is a member of Segunda Methodist Church in Iquique, Chile. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Arturo Prat University and a Bachelor of Theology at Comunidad Teologica Evangelica de Chile (Evangelical Theological Community of Chile), Concepcion. He has served as a pastor and school chaplain in different places in Chile. Send emails to dvarase@umcmision.org.



Guillermo Berman Ramirez (Fund #705, Project #3019612) serves in his home country of Mexico as the Mexican Methodist Border Mission Coordinator based in Reynosa. Serving in a similar ministry since 2001, Willie has worked with VIM teams from annual conferences in Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Ohio, Tennessee and Iowa. Willie's call to mission was inspired by the work of his parents (lay persons) as they received and worked with mission teams in the poor areas of Reynosa, Mexico. Send emails to manosjuntasmexico@hotmail.com.



Sandra Esther Awour Muga (Fund #705, Project #3022758) is an international Global Mission Fellow engaged in a two-year term of service. At John Wesley United Methodist Church, Migori (Kenya-Ethiopia Annual Conference), Sandra attends services regularly and shares the story of God's amazing love. An active member of the youth choir, she is also part of the praise and worship team. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in commerce at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya. She worked as a logistics officer for the Ministry of Health in Nairobi and volunteered with the Homabay (Kenya) Community Development Organization. Send emails to smuga@umcmision.org.



Questions about missionaries?

Please contact
Pastor Pulgar-Hughes,
NIC Global Mission Secretary,
at shirleymph@gmail.com.

UMCOR/DISASTER RELIEF

These projects provide immediate relief during disasters, and they are directly related to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Learn more about UMCOR at umcor.org.



UMCOR-Global Migration (Fund #708, Project #3022144)

Every day, people are running in fear. Every day, people are looking for safety and new places to call home. Every day, people are looking for hope and ways to rebuild their lives. Every day, we are called to welcome the stranger. From its origins in 1940, UMCOR has alleviated “suffering without regard to race or creed,” starting with the refugees displaced by World War II in Asia and Europe. Since that time, UMCOR has intentionally helped the most vulnerable of this world find hope. UMCOR partners with churches that assist migrants of all types with the right to stay, the right to safe passage, the right to welcome and the right to return with dignity. More than 25 global missionaries and Global Mission Fellows are engaged in migrant and refugee ministries around the world. Now more than ever, the church needs to act boldly not only to welcome the stranger but also to change the structures and systems of power that seek to exclude and divide. For instance, we need to recognize obstacles to the welfare of refugees and work to prevent the government of the United States from dismantling its capacity to resettle refugees and receive people seeking asylum. Caring for the stranger is at the heart of Christian ministry, a part of who we are as a church; it is a transforming, noble service in the name of Jesus Christ.



UMCOR’s Sager Brown Depot (Fund #708, Project #901515)

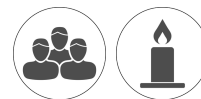
Sager Brown Depot is the hub of UMCOR’s relief-supply operations. Each year, more than 2,000 volunteers prepare \$5 million in supplies for shipment from the Baldwin, La. facility. Sager Brown reaches out to its local neighbors through food distribution and housing rehabilitation projects, engaging volunteers in these projects that help families and the elderly. Depot volunteers also assist with building ramps for the elderly and disabled; work at Chez Hope, a local domestic violence shelter, and volunteer at Matthew 25 International, which conducts outreach work in countries such as Haiti, Peru and India.

131 Sager Brown Road Baldwin, LA 70514 337-923-6238

UMCOR/DISASTER RELIEF *(continued)*

UMCOR-Where Most Needed (Fund #708, Project #999895)

UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. These undesignated funds allow UMCOR to allocate funds to disasters as they arise.



United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF) (Fund #708, Project #982345)

Combating HIV/AIDS globally through prevention, education, support and capacity development is the purpose of the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF). The goal is to Promote HIV Awareness and prevent HIV infection and transmission through counselling, testing and follow up services. This work is part of our denomination's Abundant Health Initiative: supporting work to stop preventable disease and death. Twenty-five (25) Percent of funds raised within US Annual Conferences for global HIV work, can be retained by that Conference for their own local HIV and AIDS programs.



Global Ministries
KGriffith@umcmission.org
4044607483
advance.umcmission.org



US-BASED PROJECTS

These projects are related to work in the United States and correlate with the ongoing work of justice in the Northern Illinois Conference.



African-American Methodist Heritage Center (AAMHC)

(Fund #707, Project #3020514) Preserve, protect and promote the history of African Americans in The United Methodist Church. Stories, sermons, journals and other historical documents will be housed, cataloged, recorded and made available to individuals seeking information about their families or the founding of their respective churches. Provide information to scholars in the U.S. and abroad seeking materials to complete their studies. aamhc@aol.com / 301-908-6501 aamhc-umc.org



Caretakers of God's Creation (Fund #707, Project #3021583)

Raise the awareness of Methodists as to the relationship between Christian discipleship and the care of God's creation and provide various tools by which our churches and organizations can live out their faith, given that connection.

umccreationcare.org



NOMADS Mission Volunteers (Fund #707, Project #982658)

Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service - NOMADS provide volunteer labor for historically Methodist organizations. NOMADS demonstrate God's love through our work and by listening to the people with whom we work. We do new construction, remodeling, and repairs for churches, children's homes, camps, colleges, outreach missions and disaster rebuilding. Team members do maintenance, cleaning, painting, electrical, drywall, sewing, flooring. With God's help, NOMADS pretty much do it all.

director@methodistnomads.org

methodistnomads.org



UMVIM-North Central Jurisdiction (Fund #707, Project #901375)

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) is the official short-term volunteer sending agency of the United Methodist Church. The North Central Jurisdiction office is charged with resourcing individuals, teams, leaders and UMVIM projects within this jurisdiction. The office maintains a future teams list, sends out e-newsletters and maintains the National Project List. It also assists in Emergency Response Training (ERT) and VIM leader training.

ncjeumvim.org

umvim.org

Conference Advance Projects



Abounding Ministries (Fund #709, Project #50000122)

Abounding Ministries facilitates multi-generational worship experiences in our Methodist Churches each weekend, helping congregations reach out with family-friendly worship using traditional source materials and the creative use of Music. Rev. Rich Rubietta helps train local church musicians, making disciples of Jesus Christ through dynamic worship, workshops, retreats and writing. He circuit-rides throughout the NIC to strengthen the spiritual life, mission and evangelism of congregations. Jane Rubietta partners with Rich as an author and retreat leader focusing on women's issues, spiritual formation and strengthening relationships between congregations and clergy families.

847-363-5737 / email: richrubietta@gmail.com / umcalive.com



Arise Chicago (Fund #709, Project #50000142)

Arise Chicago is an interfaith workers' rights organization. They build partnerships between faith communities and workers to fight workplace injustice through education, organizing, and advocacy for public policy changes.

773-769-6000 / email: info@arisechicago.org / arisechicago.org

Questions about grants, missions or ministries with in the Conference and beyond?

Please contact Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Northern Illinois Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, at fgrandon-mayer@umcnic.org or 872-810-0870.

CAMPUS MINISTRIES



Korean-American Campus Ministry (KACM) **(Fund #709, Project #5000076)**

The Chicago Hyde Park Korean United Methodist Church seeks to be a bridge connecting people to the Kingdom of God. We do campus ministry at the University of Chicago, small group ministry, worship service, and fellowship and care ministry, hoping that many people desire to live in accordance with the value, belief, and hope of the Kingdom of God. For this purpose, we, as a church, strive to connect to the Kingdom and become disciples of Jesus who transform our lifestyle and the world. Hyde Park, University of Chicago. Woo Min Lee CHICAGO.KACM@gmail.com
hpkumc.org



The Inclusive Collective (Fund #709, Project #50000128)

Our ministry isn't perfect. But we're striving to create a relevant, honest, and truly INCLUSIVE Christian community at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) and Northern Illinois University (NIU). No matter who you are - LGBTQ and straight, liberal and conservative, seeker and skeptic, freshman and grad students and young adults - all are welcome and loved here.

Contact: Rev. Anita M. Cobb
Inclusive Collective, Board Chair
pastoramcobb@gmail.com

317-640-7117



CAMPUS MINISTRIES (CONT.)



North Central College United (Fund #709, Project #50000136)

United at North Central College is a radically welcoming student organization exploring faith, life and Christian discipleship per the United Methodist tradition. If you're looking for a United Methodist group or just a fun group of people to celebrate God's love with, come to a meeting and see what we're all about.

Rev. Max Blalock, Chaplain

mblalock@noctrl.edu

630-637-5104

northcentralcollege.edu/faith-action/united



University Christian Ministry (UCM)

(Fund #709, Project #50000101)

UCM is a campus ministry of Northwestern University undergraduate and graduate students who try to make faith relevant in daily life. UCM is an honest, safe, and inclusive community following the example of Jesus. They embrace openness, strive to love God, and serve others to the best of their ability.

Whatever your faith or doubts, you are welcome here.

Julie Windsor-Mitchell

revjulie@U.NORTHWESTERN.EDU

Phone: 847-864-2320

northwestern.edu/ucm

facebook.com/groups/ucmnorthwestern/



University
Christian
Ministry

Open Hearts. Open Minds.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE PROJECTS



Kids Above All (Fund #709, Project #50000011)

The mission of the agency (formerly ChildServ) is to protect, heal and educate children and families so they can build better lives. “Kids Above All” is also an agent for increased advocacy for equal justice, equal rights and equal opportunity for all kids, in every community. In addition, Kids Above All offers home-based early childhood and daycare programs to address a growing need in communities across the Chicago area. Those services – along with its work in foster care and adoption, housing for teens and formerly homeless young adults, and counseling – help kids, youth and families who are at risk in Cook, DuPage, Kane and Lake counties to have the best life possible.

Catherine Inserra, Deaconess

Manager of Faith and Community Relations
cinserra@kidsaboveall.org or 847.224.2870

KidsAboveAll.org



NIC Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund (Fund #709, Project #50000148)

This fund helps to prepare for a disaster before the event and to respond to the disaster, assessing how we can minimize damage and loss in the future. It’s not a matter of WHETHER something will happen but WHEN. Your Connectional Giving commitment will provide training of response teams, education of churches and communities, and both immediate and long term funds after disaster hits. Spiritual care and support are also offered.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE PROJECTS



Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of Illinois (DBOM-IL) **(Fund #709, Project #50000149)**

DOBM connects local UM congregations to those incarcerated through using the Disciple Bible Study. This is a state-wide effort of both the NIC and Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. DBOM-IL sends teams of 3-5 volunteers from local churches into 3 state prisons (Decatur, Lincoln, Stateville) and one federal facility in Pekin to engage Disciple Bible Study with about 15 inmates. DBOM of Illinois % Howard Woolard

1756 Kingsbury Road, Washington, IL 61571

[**disciplebibleoutreach.org/il**](http://disciplebibleoutreach.org/il)



Facing Forward to End Homelessness **(Fund #709, Project #5000007)**

The program serves people who are chronically homeless and who have a disability. The majority of households that we serve are women and families. Our clients are strong, resilient and committed. Unfortunately, there is a long wait for permanent housing with supportive services. There is much more need in Chicago than we can currently serve. According to the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, over 86,000 Chicagoans experienced homeless in 2017, including over 20,000 children. The more capacity we build today, the more people we can serve tomorrow. Marilyn Salazar, Communications and Events Manager marilyn@ffchicago.org

[**ffchicago.org**](http://ffchicago.org)





Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems (ILCAAAP) (Fund #709, Project #5000030)

ILCAAAP /Illinois Churches in Action (ICIA) is a statewide-non-profit organization dedicated to preventing problems caused by alcohol, other drugs, and gambling. ILCAAAP is a voice for churches at the State Capitol and lobbies the Illinois Legislature to oppose the expansion of gambling, the legalization of drugs, and supports the strict regulation and enforcement of alcohol laws. ICIA, a 501 (c) (3) affiliate of ILCAAAP, provides education out-reach to youth, churches, schools, and community groups.

Anita Bedell, Executive Director, ILCAAAP
1132 W. Jefferson Street, Springfield, IL 62702
office: 217-546-6871 or toll-free: 866-940-6871
Mobile: 217-494-9237
E-mail: ILCAAAP@sbcglobal.net

ilcaap.org



Immigration Law and Justice of Northern Illinois

Formerly Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors NIJFON
(Fund #709, Project #50000140)

Immigration Law and Justice of Northern Illinois provides free high-quality legal services to low-income immigrants, engages in education and advocacy efforts and builds cross-cultural relationships. In addition to legal services provided by skilled attorneys at clinics across Northern Illinois, staff and volunteers provide hospitality and needed childcare, assist with requisite paperwork and offer a free legal consultation for every immigrant who comes to the clinic.

nijfon.org



The Martin Keagy Fund (Fund #709, Project #400000000)

Supporting NIC small town and rural churches is the mission of the fund. Grants are used to train persons in skills useful for effective rural ministry, promote awareness of rural concerns and issues, enhance existing ministries, and develop new ministries in response to the changing rural environment. Contact: Rev. Libby Ritherford, Chairperson of the Keagy Town and Rural Committee, at rutherford.libby@gmail.com.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE PROJECTS



Midwest Mission (Fund #709, Project #50000150)

Since 2000, Midwest Mission has shown God's love in practical ways through the distribution of education, health, micro-business and disaster relief supplies meeting basic human needs around the world and around the corner. Midwest Mission distributes its kits, resources and supplies after receiving a request. Supplies are given free of charge regardless of gender, race or religion. Midwest Mission connects with local aid organizations by providing items that are received that do not meet kit requirements. One of 10 cooperating depots in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Supply Network, Midwest Mission distributes UMCOR supplies in response to disasters within the U.S. Midwest Mission also partners with Christians in Mission, Food for the Poor, Franciscan Mission Warehouse, and U.S. Southern Command.

217-483-7911

office@midwestmission.org

midwestmission.org



MYSI Corporation (Fund #709, Project #50000107)

Strengthening Lives. Providing Help. Creating Hope.

MYSI Corporation (formerly known as Methodist Youth Services, Inc.) was founded by a group of dedicated Methodist Men that envisioned eradicating homelessness by providing shelter care, temporary housing and community-based case management support for homeless children, adults and families that were 'at risk' of homelessness. Today, we continue to embrace our mission "Anchored by God's love for all, we help children, adults and families reach their greater potential by empowering them to achieve full independence and economic success", while promoting our Wesleyan Values that uphold Respect and Compassion for others.

MYSI Corporation - Main Office

3001 W. 111th Street, Suite 103, Chicago, IL 60655

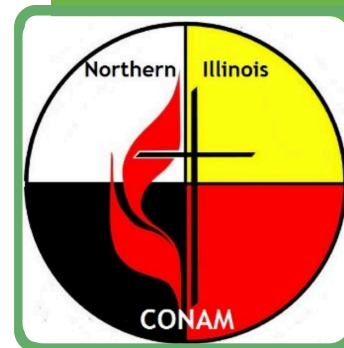
Office: (773) 840-4600 Fax: 773-840-4605

myschicago.org



Native American Ministry of Presence

(Fund #709, Project #50000125) The Northern Illinois region has a high population of Native American people from different nations, many of whom have encountered harm or misunderstanding from the Christian church. The NIC Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) seeks to support their Ministry of Presence with the St. Kateri Center of Chicago, a Roman Catholic Native American community with whom CONAM has had a relationship for over 25 years, through fundraising for educational and cultural programs, participation at events, and teaching cross-cultural workshops. CONAM Chair, Michelle Oberwise Lacock 262-378-4895



Spirit Lake Ministry Center (Fund #709, Project #123616)

Spirit Lake Ministry Center is located on the Spirit Lake Nation Reservation in North Dakota. The Spirit Lake Ministry Center is dedicated to supporting the peoples of the Spirit Lake Nation and is an approved United Methodist Volunteer in Mission (UMVIM) destination. The Spirit Lake Ministry Center hosts volunteer teams to serve people of the Spirit Lake Nation in many ways throughout the warmer months. Spirit Lake Ministry Center coordinates distribution of Shoebox Christmas gifts to over 6,000 children across the reservations of North Dakota, South Dakota and into Minnesota. Residents of the Spirit Lake Nation also worship together on-site at "The Journey", a United Methodist congregation served by Kim, Paulette, and Alex Paulson.

3365 81st Ave NE, Sheyenne ND 58374

701-739-9019 or 701-351-8579

spiritlakeministrycenter.org



Outdoor and Retreat Ministries "Camperships" Scholarships (Fund #709, Project #50000036)

Camp Scholarships help persons from throughout the Northern Illinois Conference attend camps and retreats when they are in need of assistance. Funds are directed to either/or both sites, Reynoldswood and Wesley Woods, as camper needs arise.

niccamp.org.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE PROJECTS



Reconciling Ministries Network (Fund #709, Project #50000111)

Living into our shared baptismal covenant, Reconciling Ministries Network equips and mobilizes United Methodists to resist evil, injustice, and oppression as we seek justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Reconciling Ministries Network is committed to the local church and especially to helping communities discern how the congregation, Sunday School class, campus ministry, or other small group can actively welcome all people.

rmnetwork.org



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK



RefugeeOne (Fund #709, Project #50000133)

RefugeeOne creates opportunity for refugees fleeing war, terror and persecution to build new lives of safety, dignity, and self-reliance. As the largest resettlement agency in Illinois, RefugeeOne has welcomed more than 18,000 refugees since 1982. RefugeeOne walks alongside refugees from the moment they land at O'Hare International Airport—welcoming them to Chicago and providing furnished apartments, English classes, job search support, mental health care, youth programming, and mentors to help them adjust to life in the U.S.

6008 N. California Ave., Chicago, IL 60659 / 773-989-5647

refugeeone.org



Rosecrance Kinley Patient Assistance Fund (Fund #709, Project #50000132)

The Kinley Fund provides charity care to reduce financial barriers to treatment, and supports special programs including those for veterans, first responders and mental health programs and support for our most vulnerable clients. Contact: Anne Boccignone, Chief of Engagement, 815-387-5636 or aboccignone@rosecrance.org





Sam Mool House (Living Water)
(Fund #709, Project #50000121)

An outreach ministry of the Mt. Prospect Sam Mool Korean United Methodist Church, the Sammool House is a ministry for Asian American women in crisis with various life issues. The Sammool House offers a caring, equipping, and loving place to Asian American women who are suffering economically, emotionally, and spiritually through Bible study, English language school, career training, counseling services, free medical care and federal support services.

1123 Leahy Circle-E Des Plaines, IL 60016
Misook Park, 847-712-0413, mparksamool@gmail.com



United Methodist Homes and Services
(Fund #709, Project #50000121)

United Methodist Homes & Services is the nonprofit, faith-based parent organization of Chicago Methodist Senior Services (CMSS) that supports, improves and enhances the quality of life for older adults by empowering them to live with dignity and respect. Chicago Methodist Senior Services

5145 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60640
773-596-2233

cmsschicago.org



Wesley Willows Good Samaritan Program
(Fund #709, Project #50000144)

Wesley Willows is a nonprofit, senior living community offering independent living homes/apartments, assisted living, personal care services, Medicare-certified rehabilitation therapies, skilled nursing care, Alzheimer's and memory loss care, respite care, and end-of-life hospice care. The Good Samaritan Program provides ongoing personalized care to residents who have outlived their financial resources, enabling Wesley Willows to guarantee a lifetime of care for their residents.

815-316-1500 / info@wesleywillows.org wesleywillows.org



NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE PROJECTS



Wesley Woods Conference Center (Fund #709, Project #50000046)

Wesley Woods provides facilities and staff for Summer Residential Camps, Summer Day Camp, Adult and Youth Retreats, and numerous community service and missional projects. These funds are used to maintain and improve facilities, furnishings and equipment, as well as specific ministry opportunities that sometimes arise outside of the annual programming and budgeting process. These funds function as a site-specific discretionary fund for Wesley Woods that enables the site staff and Board to direct funds where they will have the most impact at the time of need.

niccamp.org



DISTRICT ADVANCE PROJECTS

Bridge Communities, Glen Ellyn (Fund #710, Project #60000208)

Bridge Communities mission is to transition homeless families to self-sufficiency by working with partners to provide mentoring, housing, and supportive services. Their vision is a community where all families are healthy, financially stable, and living in affordable housing by providing housing, case management, transportation, tutoring, life skills mentoring, and job readiness for permanent housing and life-long financial stability. Annually, they serve more than 115 families living and working in DuPage County, Illinois. They inspire and affect change by advocating for homeless families while at the same time provide opportunities that connect them to a better future.

500 East Roosevelt, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 630-545-0610

bridgecommunities.org



Buddy Bags of Dixon (Fund #710, Project #60000236)

Started during the 2013-2014 school year, Buddy Bags of Dixon provides food to identified low income students within the Dixon Public School District. Sacks containing enough food for two breakfasts, two lunches, and two snacks are given to each identified student for the weekend. In 2015, 52.2% of the enrolled students were considered low income, an increase of 5.3% from 2014 (46.9%). As the number of identified students increases, so does the financial need. This ministry utilizes the volunteer and monetary support of local congregations, businesses and individual community volunteers. Contact: Board President Kathy Lane at 815-677-3699 or buddybagsofdixon@yahoo.com.

facebook.com/buddybagsofdixon



Center for Changing Lives (CCL) (Fund #710, Project #60000106)

Founded in 1989 when Humboldt Park United Methodist Church began an outreach ministry, today CCL has a vibrant network of partner UMC churches and individual volunteers and donors. CCL connects people, resources and opportunity so that all may thrive. Too often, lack of resources and opportunity limit participants' choices and capacity to achieve their goals. By providing a suite of innovative, financially-focused services, households build their economic capacity to realize their promise and potential. CCL clients are supported as they develop and mobilize resources, obtain employment and career advances, and achieve short- and long-term financial goals.

773-342-6210

cclconnect.org



NIC DISTRICT PROJECTS



Dupage United (Fund #710, Project #60000230)

Begun by The United Methodist Church and supporting the UMC Social Principles, DuPage United is made up of member institutions (congregations, nonprofits and associations) who identify and develop leaders to effectively act in the public arena to solve challenges in our communities such as increasing access to training, job placement and English classes; identifying government waste, saving taxpayers \$35 million; advocating for county board approval to build a mosque; and preserving more than \$7 million in county grant funding for non-profit human services. Current activities include working to reduce incarceration of mentally ill and increasing resources for homeless populations. For more info, contact Adrienne McCauley at adrienne@dupageunited.org North Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

dupagenited.org

Empowering North Korean Refugees (ENoK) (Fund #710, Project#60000235)

For many years, dozens of young lay members of Hyde Park Korean United Methodist Church (HPKUMC) have volunteered their time and resources to provide resettlement support to North Korean refugees living in America through ENoK, a 501©3 nonprofit organization, founded by one of HPKUMC's lay members in 2011. In addition, many Korean and non-Korean United Methodist churches serving communities in the greater Chicago area have participated in this ministry with faithful in-kind donations as well as organizing house services and cultural activities with North Korean refugees served by ENoK.

enok.org

Faith Community Homes-Affordable Housing (Fund #710, Project #60000220)

Faith Community Homes was established by the Ministerial Association of Arlington Heights, with the mission to help families avoid homelessness and move out of poverty and into financial stability in the Arlington Heights and Palatine communities. The program consists of case management, mentoring and financial assistance, and provides assistance for budgeting, goal setting, encouragement and finding ways to increase income, along with rent support for two years. Several local United Methodist Churches actively provide Board members, volunteer mentors, financial support for family rents and significant in-kind donations of food, furniture and gift cards for gasoline and food.

info@fchomes.org / 847-342-0846 / **fchomes.org**

Fox River Valley United (Fund #710, Project #60000231)

The Fox River Valley Organizing Initiative is a broad-based group of non-partisan, everyday citizens dedicated to resolving pressing social problems facing communities along the Fox River Valley in Kane and surrounding counties. United in the belief that people working together have the power to change their communities, they are a broad-based, non-partisan organization made up of churches, nonprofits and others institutions. Together with relational power, they take collective action on social and economic issues to benefit the people of the Fox River Valley. Their current focus is on expanding affordable housing and diverting persons with mental illness away from the criminal justice system.

Contact: Adrienne McCauley frvbbo@yahoo.com

dupageunited.org/fox-river-valley-initiative



Habitat for Humanity Lake County (Fund #710, Project #60000184)

Members of United Methodist churches support Habitat for Humanity as volunteers who build, rehab and repair homes on their construction sites. Many support the Habitat for Humanity ReStore through donations of building items, furniture and appliances and by volunteering their time at ReStore. Others assist as behind-the-scenes volunteers and donors. You can also participate in their Neighborhood Revitalization Program as they target specific blocks for physical improvements and support through community action.

info@HabitatLC.org / 847-623-1020

facebook.com/Habitatlakecounty.org



Hemenway Soup at Six (Fund #710, Project #60000216)

Soup at Six, a weekly hot meals ministry, is the oldest soup kitchen in Evanston and is operated out of the Hemenway UMC kitchen and gym. Weekly serving from 100 to 150 diners, Soup at Six provides 'food with dignity' in the form of a salad, an entree, a bread, a soup, coffee or hot chocolate, milk and a bag lunch once a week. Originally at six o'clock, Soup at Six soon moved to serving meals beginning at 4pm due to local shelter schedules.

hemenwayumc@gmail.com



NIC DISTRICT PROJECTS



Hesed House (Fund #710, Project #60000017)

Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc. dba Hesed House is a comprehensive homeless resource center working to end homelessness one person—one family—at a time. Hesed House equips 90 area churches to:

- provide food, shelter and services to their homeless neighbors
- provide the opportunity to hope again (job training, mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling, legal services, veteran's services, etc.)
- work for systemic and societal justice on behalf of the least of these

United Methodist Churches support Hesed House, both financially and with volunteers. 630-897-2156 hesedhouse.org

Housing Forward (formerly West Suburban PADS) (Fund #710, Project #60000180)

With the mission of transitioning people from housing crisis to housing stability, Housing Forward is the primary provider of service-supported housing in west Cook County. The PADS Emergency Shelter is at the foundation of their solution to homelessness, which spans six program areas (including housing, prevention, outreach, employment, and supportive services). The PADS Emergency Shelter provides overnight shelter to homeless men, women and families. The shelter operates through broad ecumenical support from the community, involving more than 1,000 volunteers and 40 support congregations at 10 rotating sites (including two sites at United Methodist congregations).

housingforward.org

Jennings-Lyon Day Home (JLDH) (Fund #710, Project #60000119)

Located in a rural community, JLDH is a modern day learning center open 6 am to 6 pm, Monday-Friday, for children 2 -12. Preschool and preschool with extended care nurture children educationally and socially in a safe learning environment. For public schoolkids, JLDH provides before- and after-school care, exciting adventures on no-school days and summer fun days engaging these active minds in socialization and learning adventures. Your donations help provide a nutritious breakfast to start their day and provide special enrichment activities for these growing minds. JLDH is an outreach ministry of Sheridan UMC. Contact: Jen Becker, JLDH Director (815-496-2782 or JLDHkids@yahoo.com).

JLDHkids.com

Journeys | The Road Home (Fund #710, Project #60000221)

JOURNEYS | The Road Home of Palatine walks alongside residents facing housing crises, helping homeless residents secure housing and preventing near-homeless residents from losing their housing. They accomplish this through three foundational programs:

- Emergency Shelter Program consisting of 18 faith-based PADS sites (including three hosted at United Methodist congregations)
- HOPE Day Center’s case management and counseling resources and services meeting basic human needs
- Pathways Housing Readiness Program, the agency’s affordable supportive housing arm

JOURNEYS | The Road Home serves residents from 37 communities of northwest and north suburban Cook County.

journeystheroadhome.org

JUST of DuPage (Fund #710, Project #60000101)

JUST (Justice, Understanding, Service, Teaching) is a nonprofit organization working to meet the needs of inmates in the DuPage County Jail and their families. JUST’s mission is to share God’s love and provide a range of programs to incarcerated men and women in order to empower them to make positive changes in their lives. JUST empowers inmates to pursue rehabilitation and make positive life changes by offering a broad range of services, including addiction recovery, education, spiritual enrichment and social services.

justofdupage.org

Lake County United (Fund #710, Project #60000228)

Consistent with United Methodist social principles to support basic rights to equal access to housing, education and medical care, the Lake County United Housing Team is working with developers and the Village of Mundelein to build 40 units of affordable housing, including accommodations for differently-abled residents. The team continues to look for land to address the housing shortage. The Education Team draws attention to challenges regarding high school education in the county’s largest city. The Mental Health Team is meeting regularly with county officials to address the problem of the incarcerated mentally ill by increasing CIT training and establishing a Crisis Center.

lakecountyunited.org



NIC DISTRICT PROJECTS



Morning Star Mission (Fund #710, Project #60000143)

Since its beginning in November 1909, Morning Star Mission has had one main goal—to help people in need. Today it is a non-denominational organization dedicated to relieving the spiritual and physical hunger of the poor by providing food for the hungry, clothes for the needy, shelter for the homeless and the gospel of Jesus Christ for all. Through their Christ-centered programs and services they help people in need by getting to the core issues of what has caused their homelessness. Whether the problem stems from alcohol, drugs, mental health or family matters, their services are developed to reach a way to make a real change in their lives.

morningstarmission.org



Mujeres a Mujeres (Women to Women) (Fund #710, Project #60000222)

Mujeres a Mujeres was birthed at Humboldt Park UMC in 2003 to help meet the holistic needs of Latinas. Through ministries such as free professional counseling, domestic violence survivors support group, workshops tailored to help Latinas grow in power, and health and wellness opportunities. Rooted in the congregation, Mujeres a Mujeres continues to flourish because they reveal Christ's love in practical ways without forcing anyone to be a part of the church. For HPUMC, Mujeres a Mujeres is one way to truly reveal open hearts, open doors, and open minds to the most vulnerable of their neighbors.

hpumcchicago.org



The Night Ministry (Fund #710, Project #60000223)

The Night Ministry compassionately provides housing, health care, outreach, spiritual care and social services to adults and youth who struggle with homelessness, poverty and loneliness. The Night Ministry accepts individuals as they are and offer support as they seek to improve their lives. The Night Ministry invites others to join this hope-filled work.

thenightministry.org



PADS of DuPage (Fund #710, Project #60000324)

Since 1985, DuPagePads has remained a beacon of hope for those with little or no support while experiencing homelessness. Our mission is to end homelessness in DuPage County, Illinois. Our signature year-round programs feed and shelter individuals and families who are homeless, connect them to case management and other services that can address the underlying cause of their homelessness. 1/3 of our approximately 300 guests at our Interim Housing Center are children, predominantly under the age of 5. Another 1/3 are seniors over the age of 60. All of them dream of a home of their own, and DuPagePads is committed to helping them make this dream come true.

630-682-3846

dupagepads.org

PADS of Elgin (Fund #710, Project #60000224)

PADS of Elgin has helped create a place of safety, warmth and caring for Elgin area homeless men, women and children for over 30 years. The mission of the organization is to provide emergency shelter while helping the homeless develop a sustainable future. The shelter is open, 365 days a year, from 7pm to 7am and has a current capacity for 96 guests per night.

847-608-9744

padsofelgin.org



Ridgewood United Community Ministries

(Fund #710, Project #60000203)

The Ridgewood United Community Food Pantry is a ministry initiated by Trinity United Methodist Church now engaging volunteers from five other United Methodist Churches (New Lenox, Hope—Joliet, Grace—Joliet, Ingalls Park, and Plainfield UMC). The Pantry serves residents of two zip codes on the East Side of Joliet. Open weekly, clients receive services once a month. Food is supplied primarily through the Northern Illinois Foodbank. Funds are used to purchase food from the Foodbank and support the utility budget of Trinity in order to defray the costs of operating freezers.

815-723-1387



Rockford Urban Ministries (RUM) (Fund #710, Project #60000151)

Founded in 1962, RUM (as Rockford Urban Ministries is affectionately known) is the outreach of 18 United Methodist and four other churches. RUM works on supporting the member congregations in missional outreach, social justice and establishing new ministries.

Contact 815-964-7111 or rockfordurbanministries@gmail.com.

Rockford Urban Ministries, 1404 Brooke Road, Rockford, IL 61104

rockfordurbanmin.org



Saturday Kids' Club of Centennial (Fund #710, Project #60000201)

With over 30 years of ministry to the underserved children in the Rockford community, this multicultural arts-based program meets Saturday mornings year-round and provides children, ages 5 to 15, with breakfast, lunch, games and activities. The program aims to help children develop respect for themselves and others of different backgrounds. Through positive relationship building, they are actively working toward social transformation, one child at a time. Contact: Carol Risenhoover (815-494-4960) CentennialUMC.Rockford.org



NIC DISTRICT PROJECTS



The Seeds Center Community Development Corporation (Fund #710, Project #60000225)

This faith-based ministry of Maple Park UMC is dedicated to growing the community by planting and nurturing programs that contribute to the educational, economic, social, and spiritual growth of area residents.

- The Park Café addresses food insecurity, social isolation and poverty by providing a welcoming place where individuals fellowship and “dine with dignity.”
- Josephine & John’s Place offers Bible study, exercise and cultural programs for seniors.
- Community Garden (new) will facilitate food security, community involvement and sustainable urban land-use by providing education and locally grown organic fruits and vegetables.
- Let’s Go to Work Job Readiness Program
- CyberPark Café.

seedscenter.org



United Church of Rogers Park Community Feast (Fund #710, Project #60000178)

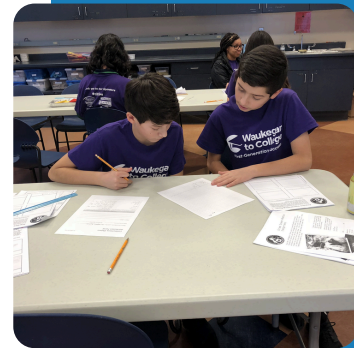
In 1984, a group from United Church of Rogers Park felt the church space could be better used to serve the community, so they launched a weekly meal for their neighbors in need called “Community Feast.” Each meal was lovingly prepared and served and each week was an adventure in their journey of faith regarding resources for food and people to help prepare and serve. Other church and community groups came with offers of food, cooks and people to help; local businesses supplied some food; and the Greater Chicago Food Depository came into existence to assist programs such as ours. Many people provide hours of service, food and funding for supplies so that once a week nearly 100 people can sit and enjoy a restaurant-style meal with friends while being served by volunteers from all over the Chicago area and beyond. As volunteers serve, they become knowledgeable advocates for changes in the world to bring about justice for those who live in poverty or with limited resources.

ucrogerspark.org

Waukegan to College (W2C)
(Fund #710, Project #60000233)

W2C creates brighter futures for students, families and the community by preparing students to enroll in and graduate from college. WTC helps fill a crucial gap in the financially challenged Waukegan public school system by preparing motivated first generation college students for university admissions and beyond. They accomplish this through a robust variety of resources and an extraordinarily dedicated corps of volunteers, all devoted to helping students get on and stay on the road to a 4-year degree. Their holistic approach mandates the family's close involvement alongside of and in support of the W2C student. W2C's broad and deep programming prepares students (and their families) for the academic, financial, social and psychological realities of a four-year degree program. Year-round programming includes counseling and advocacy, coaching, tutoring, ACT prep, math skill-building with Khan Academy, Read to Achieve programs, college visits, cultural enrichment, one-on-one help with admissions applications and essays, and family workshops (topics range from Life Skills to College 101). Their intensive Envision Corps programming is focused on the pivotal needs of their highest-potential high school juniors and seniors. Finally, college persistence programming assists students throughout the college journey.

waukegantocollege.org





**Living the Beatitudes Advance Projects and Connectional Giving
Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church
Version October 2025.**

Gifts should be directed only to the funds and projects listed. Please note that credit toward a church's Mission Links giving is applied only when donations are submitted through the Conference office. Contributions to other ministries or projects outside the Mission Links booklet are to be sent to those ministries or projects directly, but will not be counted as part of the Mission Links giving program.

This book may be freely photocopied for educational purposes without royalties or fees. Photos from agencies other than NIC are used by permission of the organization or a licensing partner. Photos used in this booklet may not be sold, however, without the express written consent of the copyright owner.

Questions about apportionments, Second-Mile Giving, advances or specific projects? Please contact David W. Quinn, Northern Illinois Conference Apportionments Administrator, at dquinn@umcnic.org or 872-810-0895. You can also visit umcnic.org/apportionments or umcnic.org/missionlinks.

Questions about grants, missions or ministries with in the Conference and beyond? Please contact Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer, Northern Illinois Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, at fgrandon-mayer@umcnic.org or 872-810-0870.

Questions about missionaries? Please contact Pastor Shirley Pulgar-Hughes, Northern Illinois Conference Global Mission Secretary, at shirleymph@gmail.com.