



2008 Mission Support Grants

1. HELPING OVERCOME POVERTY'S EXISTENCE, INC (H.O.P.E.)

Formerly know as Mountain Shelter, Inc

Wytheville, Virginia

Last year of a three year grant proposal

During 2007 Mountain Shelter, Inc merged with a like organization to form H.O.P.E. As a result of the merger, this organization is now able to more efficiently offer a broader menu of services along with their traditional housing program.

H.O.P.E was also able to partner with Appalachian Service Project, to learn from their vast experience working with faith-based volunteers, and to buy into their administrative capacity.

They had 175 volunteers during the summer of 2007 in which they were able to do 16 rehab projects, ranging from roofs to wheel chair ramps. Volunteers, both local and foreign, gave over 6,700 hours of service during the summer. Local churches provided dinners for the volunteers, as well as local volunteers and a local restaurant.

GRANT AWARDED: \$15,000

2. GLADE RUN FOUNDATION: THERAPEUTIC ANIMAL PROGRAM

Zelienople, Pennsylvania

Last year of a three year grant proposal

This program continues to prosper, but still runs in the red. The program has not only benefited the residents of Glade Run, but also has had much community involvement in the program.

Beginning February 16, 2008, Glade Run started offering trail rides to the public and various groups. It is their hope that an indoor riding arena will be started by spring, 2008.

GRANT AWARDED: \$10,000

3. CENTER FOR HEALING AND HOPE

Goshen, Indiana

Last year of a three year grant proposal

In 2007, the Center for Healing and Hope served over 1,700 patients and had over 3,500 patient visits. Over 92% of the patients had no medical insurance and almost half of the patients were children. All this was done with the help of over 200 volunteers.

GRANT AWARDED: \$12,500

4. OPERATION OUTREACH

Trinity Lutheran Church, Fresno, California

Second year of a three year grant proposal



In 2007 the Operation Outreach Youth Center (OOYC) solidified its presence in the lives of the children and families who surround our congregation. Matthew 25:35-40 has become the passion of the program. One quarter of the average attendance at Trinity also volunteers at the Youth Center.

The covenant grant allowed for two very significant new programs to be incorporated into the OOYC: the Supplemental Food Distribution Program and the Supplemental Educational Services (SES).

The SES provides a one on one reading tutor weekly for the 28 children in the program who are either Migrant Hispanic or Hmong Refugee – English as a second language learners. This tutoring service is being done by 24 retired members of the congregation

The second program, the Supplemental Food Distribution, is being run in partnership with the Poverello House of Fresno. It was discovered that the families involved in OOYC live below the poverty line, and that adequate nutrition or transportation to the local homeless shelter for food pick up is a real concern. Therefore, OOYC has become a food distribution site for the families in our center and the surrounding neighborhood, providing monthly supplemental food baskets and warm meals on the day of food baskets distribution. This will be increased later in the year.

GRANT AWARDED: \$18,500

5. SOUTH BROOKLYN INTERFAITH COALITION FOR HEALTH & WELLNESS

Brooklyn, New York

Second year of a three year grant proposal

Over the past year, this faith/health partnership of congregations, working closely with Lutheran HealthCare (LHC), has gone from a loosely managed alliance to a coalition which is now professionally/clinically coordinated.

As the first challenge, despite both a total hiring freeze and subsequent 6% operating budget cutback at LHC, senior leadership was so encouraged by the Deaconess Community grant and convinced of the missional need/value of the Coalition that, pending successful hiring of a qualified RN Coordinator and exhaustion of the first-year Mission Support monies, were assured of \$12,500 as an LHC institutional allocation for fiscal year 2009. This support occurred in the midst of the system-wide freeze and cutbacks.

The second challenge was overcome in six months in hiring the Nurse Coordinator for the Coalition. During the short time she has been working, the Nurse Coordinator has established an office base at one of the local Lutheran churches; completed a working directory and database for all Coalition congregations, clergy, and community partners; participated in re-activating and advancing the NYS Department of Health funded COPA Project (Cancer Outreach/Prevention Project); worked with medical residents and the Research Office at LHC to develop a congregationally-based program to screen for MRSA Virus; established ties and alliances with key organizations and people in the community and citywide.



GRANT AWARDED: \$25,500

This is a substantial increase over last year's award. This was done in light of the great progress shown by this program and the fact that this program was funded so far below the requested monies.

6. DANCING WITH THE SPIRIT

Fairbanks, Alaska

One year grant proposal

Music can bring joy, hope, and love to Native villages struggling with alcoholism, drugs, and suicide. Faith in God can provide the great strength needed for sobriety. Gospel music can be the vehicle; singing God into hearts and minds; dancing and healing communities. Dancing with the Spirit partners with schools, tribal councils and churches to give the gift of music as youth connect with elders in Native Alaskan villages. Elders have a deep faith and can pass on this cultural value to youth away from TV and video games.

Dancing with the Spirit is a new project of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska. Over the past three years – through funding from the Diocese, schools and tribal councils – three summer bluegrass gospel camps and eleven schools and church programs in six villages have been done. The grant monies will be used to continue 4.5 weeks of school programs (includes 2-3 Dancing with the Spirit staff plus local musicians). These programs will be held for three weeks of school programs in two school districts (and school districts are willing to invest money as well)

GRANT AWARDED: \$20,500

7. ETERNAL SPRINGS YOUTH CENTER

Erdenet, Mongolia

One year grant proposal

Eternal Springs Youth Center was opened in 2004 as an outreach center for the youth of Erdenet. The youth of Mongolia are living in a time with many challenges and temptations. They often come from broken or abusive homes. It is a struggle to develop a healthy lifestyle and break away from the bad habits from their background. Alcoholism is a far-reaching problem in Mongolian society.

The grant monies will be used to cover the operating costs of the café. The café, run by 2 cashiers, 2 bakers, 1 cleaner, 1 educational manager and 1 café manager, provides a safe environment for young people to “hang out”. This café offers an alternative to apartment stairways, bars, and nighttime violence. The café is an environment that assists in building moral values and relationship skills for those youth who come. It also provides a place for snacks, informal study, and meeting friends. There are also weekly activities for the youth (games night, English conversation hour, and movie time). The staff at the café also provides pre-workday Bible study/worship/prayer time.

GRANT AWARDED: \$10,000

8. LUTHERAN SETTLEMENT HOUSE

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



One year grant proposal

Lutheran Settlement House (LSH) was founded by the deaconesses in 1902 as a non-profit, nonsectarian, community-based organization committed to providing a variety of services to vulnerable children, adults, and families living in inner city Philadelphia. Over the past century, as the needs of the community have changed, the nature of the organization has also gone through transformations. Yet the core mission of Lutheran Settlement House – “*to empower individuals, families, and communities to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency*” – lives on.

LSH partners not only with agencies and congregations to address the needs of the poor, but with the constituents of the programs themselves: our services affirm the unique gifts of all people and encourage them to achieve success and independence.

The grant monies will be used to fund the “Parenting and Career after Violence Program”. The impact of domestic violence on parenting is well-established. Children who have been exposed to domestic violence had “more adjustment and peer interaction problems than comparison children. Importantly, domestic abuse also affected how the mothers parented: mothers who had experienced domestic violence were twice as likely as other mothers to use physical aggression with their children.

In order to regain their independence and to prevent future abuse, the residents of Jane Addams Place (a comprehensive emergency shelter for single mothers with children in Philadelphia) will participate in the “Parenting and Career after Violence Program”, which will address parenting after violence and career development after violence.

The parenting component’s primary focus is to address the negative parenting issues that may cause a family to become homeless – focusing on raising children in a safe and loving environment.

The overarching goals of the career component of the program are: to serve 30 individuals per year; of whom 70% (21 individuals) will complete the 6 week program; and of whom 70% of those that complete the program (15 individuals) will be placed in jobs; and 50% (8 individuals) will retain jobs for one year or more.

GRANT AWARDED: \$25,000

9. PARTNERSHIP FOR JUSTICE

United States and South Africa

One year grant proposal

The Partnership for Justice will be a collaborative initiative of several ELCA- related groups and community organizing entities in the United States and South Africa creating a new model for people of faith to respond to their baptismal call to empower all of God’s people to create their own future and to co-create a more just world. The goals of the Partnership are:

- To invite more churches into the international arena of Christian interaction and service that moves beyond charity into working to empower leaders and to create a more just society



- To bring together cultures for the purpose of addressing the issue of poverty and injustice in America and South Africa. These two nations with their respective histories of slavery and Apartheid have much to learn and teach one another.
- To enlist our churches and communities as primary agents in the work to address key social issues; to help us maintain the Gospel mission of caring for and empowering the poor and vulnerable of our world.
- To have more trained leaders who are working locally and internationally to promote social and economic justice through democratic action in the public arena

The grant monies will be used to get this project off the ground by hiring a coordinator to focus on building the program and raising additional funding for matching grants to partner projects.

GRANT AWARDED: \$20,000

10. PRISON OUTREACH MINISTRY \$ SOUTHEAST MINISTRY

Washington, D.C.

First year of a three year grant proposal

Southeast Ministry and Prison Outreach Ministry have designed this joint project to slow the time to do recidivism among their harder-to-serve clients – formerly incarcerated persons with addiction and mental health issues. Participants of this project will be identified primarily through the Federal Reentry and Sanction Center located in Washington, D.C. where Prison Outreach Ministry is already serving the mentoring needs of inmates. The Center has 102 beds, currently men only, and recommends inmates who are ready for release to addictions treatment or transitional housing.

Once clients have been identified, they will be assigned a mentor and begin their participation in the project, consisting of education and employment programs. Many clients will need to complete mandated addictions treatment, either inpatient or out before they are ready to take part in the program classes. The mentor will remain in touch with them throughout treatment and for one year following their release from the Reentry and Sanction Center. The classes are held as 3 to 8 week sessions year round. The mentor is a crucial source of support for each client because of the myriad of hurdles each client faces transitioning back into the community.

AWARD GRANTED: \$30,500

11. REJOICING SPIRITS

Exton, Pennsylvania

One year grant proposal

There is a widespread mistaken belief that people with developmental disabilities are not capable or don't desire to live active, faith-filled lives. Rejoicing Spirits is committed to educate both disability and faith-based organization that this is not the case. The ministry addresses the needs for people with developmental disabilities in a variety of ways:

- Serves as a stepping stone for those wanting to take the first step into a faith community
- Offers complementary worship & fellowship opportunities for those who already belong to a faith community



- Provides an inclusive faith community that may fully meet their needs

Churches host the ministry within their own church sanctuary and fellowship area. The core team provides support before and after their launch of a Rejoicing Spirits ministry.

The grant monies will be used to provide funding for part-time employee to assist with the ministry.
GRANT AWARDED: \$20,000

12. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP, NIGERIA

*Requested by the Minneapolis Area Synod Women of the ELCA
First year of a three year grant proposal*

The Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) Women's Fellowship proclaims and furthers the reign of God on the frontiers of the church's outreach. The LCCN Women's Fellowship is active in every congregation, with weekly Bible studies, choirs and mission work, serving a holistic ministry, meeting the basic needs of Nigerian women. Minneapolis Area Synod (MAS) Women participate in a companion ministry with the women of LCCN.

The grant monies would be used in the expansion of ministry programs of three dioceses, including salaries for teachers, more equipment, books, and improved wells, sewing machines, and scholarships for women who cannot afford to participate in the programs.

GRANT AWARDED: \$10,000

13. SUVIA CHILDREN'S HOME, KENYA

*Requested by World Servants, Inc.
One year grant proposal*

Every three minutes a Kenyan dies from AIDS. It's estimated there are 1.8 million AIDS orphans in Kenya. There is an urgent need to provide assistance to these vulnerable children. The Suvia Children's Home project will restore dignity to the children through loving care, a secure place to live, nutritious food and clean water, as well as access to medical care, education and spiritual nourishment.

The ELCA Deaconess Community, working in partnership with World Servants, the African Inland Church of Kenya and the Mbooni community, through the provision of safe, clean water and nutritious food, will change the lives of these children forever.

The grant monies will be used to provide a system for safe clean water and nutritional meals for the children living at Suvia Children's Home.

GRANT AWARDED: \$32,500