

Outreach Ministry

The logo for Outreach Ministry is centered at the top. It features the words "Outreach" and "Ministry" in a blue, italicized serif font, separated by a purple cross. Below the cross is a green heart with a white dove inside, surrounded by green triangular rays. Two purple flourishes extend horizontally from the heart.

OUR WORK IN THE WORLD



Outreach Ministry works to serve others through the support of your faithful and generous pledges and special offerings, as well as goods and services.

This booklet describes the organizations that we support.



means our support is with financial contributions.



means we participate in the program through volunteering or by collecting and purchasing things that are needed.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

www.nrucc.org

*We affirm that as Christians,
we are called and empowered by God
to use our talents and treasures
to carry on Christ's ministry
to the needy in the local and global community.*

*As members of the Body of Christ,
we seek to feed the hungry,
heal the sick,
clothe the naked,
and offer shelter to the homeless.*



*“. . . Truly I tell you,
just as you did it to one of the least of these
who are members of my family,
you did it to me.”*

Matthew 25:40

OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION



www.ucc.org



Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) refers to the total ministry work of our denomination, the United Church of Christ (U.C.C.), including its conferences, covenant partner agencies and U.C.C. related institutions.

Our financial support of OCWM is through special offerings received at four different times of the year in worship. Special mission offerings include the following opportunities to support specific needs through the greater U.C.C.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED, RECEIVED THE FIRST SUNDAY OF OCTOBER, supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council of American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Witness Ministries.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, RECEIVED THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH, RECEIVED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, grows the U.C.C.'s future by funding the Stillspeaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation – especially among women and people of color. These ministries are carried out by your Massachusetts Conference, Local Church Ministries, and The Stillspeaking Ministry.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND (VETERANS OF THE CROSS), RECEIVED SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS, helps provide pension and health premium supplements to low-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas checks to hundreds of annuitants, as administered by the Pension Board.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

<http://www.globalministries.org/>



Global Ministries is a joint ministry of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.

Their shared vision is to receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation and peace.

They strive toward this vision by living out their core values:

- **Presence:** manifesting God's Love by living in intentional, committed relationships
- **Mutuality:** walking in hope with others in God's mission
- **Community:** building interdependence and unity among all of God's children
- **Justice:** living out God's radical Love by confronting powers that deny the fullness of life and integrity of creation
- **Peace:** Embodying reconciling relationship with God, humanity and Creation

They work with mission partners all around the globe offering a variety of services and projects.

There are multiple ways to support Global Ministries, including financial donations to missionaries, in general or to a specific missionary, and financial offerings for certain types of projects – e.g., children, education, women empowerment, water, micro-credit, medical training and work, environmental protection.

Global Ministries invites supporting churches to pray weekly for their mission work. Your Outreach Ministry will pass along these prayer requests periodically in worship or by electronic communication.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE (CCS)

www.nrfoodpantry.org



Christian Community Service is a North Reading non-profit, ecumenical and charitable organization established in 1978 to provide food and temporary financial assistance for basic necessities to local persons in their time of need. Through the efforts of its dedicated volunteers, CCS works with clergy from the local churches to identify people in need.

CCS runs the North Reading Food Pantry and relies on the generosity of the community at large, the churches and schools of North Reading, as well as other local organizations. Each year, one of these groups ‘adopts’ a month and collects food to ensure the Pantry shelves are never empty. Union Congregational Church’s month has been April, but donations are ongoing. The Food Pantry is located in North Reading Town Hall, open every Monday morning and the first and third Monday evening of the month; all residents of North Reading are eligible to use the Food Pantry.

Other services provided include: “*the Clothes Closet*” situated at Martin’s Pond Baptist Church, “*Dare to Begin*” that offers no interest loans to qualifying applicants for educational and/or entrepreneurial projects, and the Take-a-Tag program of “*the Giving Tree*,” that provides Christmas gifts to local children in need.

CCS has a direct commitment and responsibility to the community it serves, and in cooperation with the Transcript’s Neighbor Helping Neighbor Fund offers food and other assistance to clients who are on the edge financially. This support by CCS provides a bridge to becoming successful, independent members of our community.

OUTDOOR CHURCH OF CAMBRIDGE

www.outdoorchurch.org



the**OUTDOOR**CHURCH



Founded in 2003, the Outdoor Church is an ecumenical Christian church for homeless and street-involved men and women in Cambridge, MA. Each week, through worship services held outdoors and extensive programs of street outreach and pastoral visiting, they share a message of hope and unconditional love with those who need to hear it most.

Staffed by clergy from different denominations and supported by over 40 local churches and organizations, the Outdoor Church has become a Cambridge institution. The hallmark of their ministry is consistency: they hold worship services and offer street outreach all year round, in all seasons and all weather.

Our financial support helps the Outdoor Church provide a wide-range of ministries to its street congregation, including three outside worship services, and being out on the street meeting people and offering both spiritual and material (food, drink, socks, hats, gloves etc.) support. The pastors visit local shelters to provide pastoral support, and they offer memorial services as needed. The Friday Café is a partnership with First Church in Cambridge to offer hospitality, food, warmth and conversation, during the colder months

We also support Outdoor Church by periodically providing food and volunteers to participate in the street outreach.

MISSION OF DEEDS

www.missionofdeeds.org



Transforming Generosity into Hope

Mission of Deeds began with a simple dream, and since 1993 its sole mission has been to provide basic home necessities (beds, furniture and household essentials) to those in need. Located in Reading, MA, Mission of Deeds continues to be guided by its founding philosophy to be a place where people could not only receive new beds and donated household essentials free of charge, but also be treated with kindness, respect, and compassion.

Today, with the help of dedicated volunteers and the generous donations of goods and cash from the community, Mission of Deeds serves men, women, and children of all ages, including: veterans, disadvantaged families, the previously homeless, survivors of abuse, refugees, the elderly, survivors of fire and other disasters, and those with disabilities. Over 70% of the households they serve have children under 18, and most live at or below the federal poverty level.

Mission of Deeds works closely with over 200 social service agencies, schools, hospitals, and religious organizations that refer clients from communities in Essex and Middlesex counties for assistance. Mission of Deeds seek to maximize the effectiveness cash donations, and in 2012 reported 88% of donations went to support the programs.

CITY MISSION SOCIETY OF BOSTON

www.cmsboston.org



City Mission Society of Boston (CMS) is the oldest multi-service agency of New England and the second oldest in the United States. Founded by members and clergy of Old South Congregational Church and Park Street Church in response to hardships facing Boston residents, it has served the educational, economic, and social needs of impoverished area residents since 1816. Since its inception, CMS has acted as the conscience of the community, often pioneering key social programs that later became separate non-profit agencies that attracted broad community support.

CMS catalyzes action to root out poverty in our neighborhoods by means of programs and activities that embody the following guiding principles:

- **Empowerment** – CMS inspires and equips participants to directly effect change in their personal lives and to take action for systemic change;
- **Education** – CMS educates and provides participants with the necessary resources to make informed decisions, confront challenges, and understand the larger context of complex social issues; and
- **Partnership** – CMS creates and nurtures connections across disparate groups to broaden understanding and create meaningful, respectful, and mutually beneficial relationships.

ANDOVER-NEWTON THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL



www.ants.edu



DeeplyRootedRadicallyOpen

Andover-Newton was founded in 1807 and continues to be an innovator in theological education: pioneering in such movements as civil rights and social justice, psychological studies, and the ordination of women. Situated in Newton Centre, MA, ANTS has an approximate enrollment of 300 students of diverse backgrounds. While ANTS is primarily a religious seminary for United Church of Christ, American Baptist and Unitarian Universalist denominations, other religious backgrounds are also represented. Our student pastors have been students from ANTS.

Mission

Deeply rooted in Christian faith, and radically open to what God is doing now, Andover Newton Theological School educates inspiring leaders for the 21st century.

Core Values

- **Faithfulness** – Called here through faith, we will work unceasingly to have the impact of our discipleship be the defining mark of our school.
- **Innovation** – Andover Newton has a courageous pioneering spirit that has distinguished our school for two centuries.
- **Joy** – We will strive to be known for our faith-filled joy. Each day in the life of our school will be a celebration of God's presence and our gratitude for all we have received.
- **Sacred Hospitality** – We are committed to being an open and accessible community for all who come here to study or be nourished in ministry.
- **Stewardship** We know that all we have is not ours but God's. We will strive to be good stewards of the sacred traditions.
- **Justice** – We will seek to practice biblically centered justice and compassion.

BACK BAY MISSION

www.thebackbaymission.org



As one of the oldest and most highly respected organizations within the United Church of Christ and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Back Bay Mission has been a lasting source of hope for families, children and adults since 1922. Today the Back Bay Mission continues to provide innovative solutions and compassionate responses to those suffering at the hands of social injustice and economic hardship. Through innovative leadership and nationwide

support, Back Bay Mission is able to offer services to those in need of homes, stability and opportunity.

MISSION

Back Bay Mission meets the urgent needs of those suffering from poverty and its effects while building pathways to social justice. We lead the way in delivering services, creating collaborative solutions, and transforming lives through mission immersion experiences.

VISION

To eradicate the sting of poverty and its effects on individuals and communities.

CORE VALUES

Integrity Love Passion Justice
Respect Service Hospitality

Back Bay Mission has a history of community development, helping to create a wide variety of programs, including: Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen, Head Start preschool, Coastal Family Health Center, Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence, Gulf Coast Family Counseling, S. Mississippi Aids Task Force, Interfaith Hospitality transitional housing, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, to name a few.

**NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY
GLASSES FOR THOSE IN NEED**



www.new-eyes.org



New Eyes empowers children and adults in the United States and around the world with the improved vision they need to pursue a better quality of life for themselves and their communities. Since its founding in 1932, New Eyes has improved the eyesight of more than 8,000,000 people worldwide.

An estimated 11 million people in the United States struggle with uncorrected vision and have no resources to buy eyeglasses. Uncorrected vision problems can seriously affect a person's life. For children, it's more than poor self-esteem and also includes failure in the classroom, developmental delays, learning disabilities, and social maladjustments. For adults, the lack of corrective glasses can mean the difference between employment and unemployment. For seniors, poor vision can limit their ability to read medicine labels, navigate stairs and perform other tasks required to live an independent life.

New Eyes purchases prescription eyeglasses for residents of the United States who are in financial need and distributes used glasses to the disadvantaged in developing countries. The Overseas Program distributes used glasses that are tested and sorted by trained volunteers. These are then distributed through international charitable organizations and small medical missions.

New Eyes for the Needy is endorsed by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Fight for Sight Inc., the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology and the Optician Association of America. New Eyes is a United Way Agency. It's reported that 100% of individual donations is used to purchase new glasses.

What We Do: We collect used glasses to be used in the Overseas Program. Our collection box is located in Fellowship Hall.

CHILD FUND

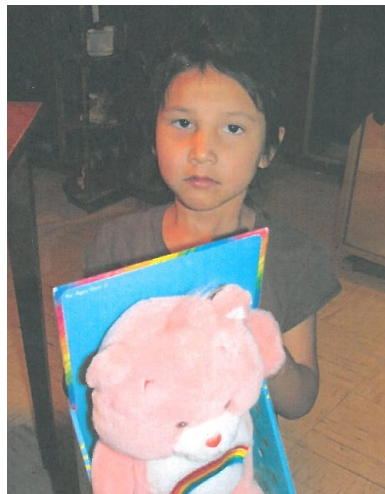
www.childfund.org



ChildFund, formerly known as the Christian Children's Fund, works in 31 countries, assisting approximately 15.2 million children and their family members, regardless of race, creed or gender. Their distinctive approach focuses on working globally with children throughout their journey from birth to young adulthood, as well as with families, local organizations and communities to create the environments children need to thrive.

Through child sponsorships and child development programs, ChildFund cares for more than 2.5 million of the neediest children in the world.

ChildFund focuses its services to meet the needs of starving children; those who live on the streets and those who are forced into armed service at a very young age. A sample of the services includes feeding programs, war counseling programs, and the building or rehabilitation of kindergartens and schools. Through health education programs, ChildFund teaches nutrition methods, and monitors immunization rates of sponsored children. At the centers, ChildFund also offers services for the rest of the family, including programs on health, nutrition, income generation, and functional literacy. We are currently sponsoring Wiconi Whiting, a child from the North Dakota Indian reservation of Oyate Teca.



Wiconi Whiting, our sponsored child

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

www.habitatforhumanity.org



Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Its objective is to eliminate poverty housing around the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people from all walks of life to work together in partnership to help build affordable houses with families in need. Recipients of a Habitat for Humanity house are required to put in 500 hours of sweat equity as the house is being built. Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple decent homes.

The church supports this organization in two different ways.

Our annual Mission Trip supports Habitat for Humanity in different places within the United States. Approximately 35 youth and adult members of our church family participate every summer. Specific fundraising events are held throughout the year to raise both money and awareness of this important undertaking.

We also support our local Habitat for Humanity, Merrimack Valley Habitat which is based out of Lawrence, Ma. We typically sponsor two work site dates per year and also contribute financially to their efforts. <http://www.merrimackvalleyhabitat.org/>

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

www.heifer.org



Heifer empowers families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity – but our approach is more than just giving them a handout. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to

areas with a long history of poverty. Our animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at market.

THE VISION – Together we can change the world.

THE MISSION – To work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the earth.

HOW IT STARTED – Dan West, a relief worker wondered – *what if they had not a cup, but a cow?* The “*teach a man to fish*” philosophy inspired West to found Heifer International, and continues to inspire the work to end hunger and poverty throughout the world once and for all.

HOW IT WORKS – The goal of every Heifer project is to help families achieve self-reliance. Heifer provides training and animals to families, which generates food and reliable income. The core of Heifer International is “*passing on the gift.*” Families share their training and pass on the first female offspring of their animal to a neighbor.

WHAT WE DO – Our Christian Education Ministry raises funds to purchase animals through the “Birthday Bash,” and activity-based coin collection in March of each year.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS)

www.churchworldservice.com



CWS was born in the aftermath of WWII when 17 denominations came together to form an agency “to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do alone.” Their mission at that time was to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged, shelter the homeless. More than 68 years later, the mission remains, though where and how they accomplish it has changed dramatically.

THE WORK

Fighting hunger and poverty. promoting peace and justice.

ADVOCACY

Addressing the policies and prejudices that keep the world’s vulnerable in poverty.

CWS is committed to improving lives for the most marginalized and vulnerable people in the world. Their approach is holistic, advocating for changes to policies that keep the world’s poor and vulnerable in a cycle of injustice and poverty.

EMERGENCIES

CWS provides help in crises, immediately and in the long term. Knowing that the world’s poor are the most vulnerable, CWS continues to work to prevent and responds to calamities.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

Helping communities to address access to food, water and other challenges. CWS recognizes the need to address the most basic needs including community infrastructure as it seeks to promote peace and justice, and to eradicate hunger and poverty.

REFUGEES and IMMIGRANTS

Accompanying those who are searching for a safer, more secure home. CWS serves those who can no longer remain in their homes.

We support CWS through “Blanket Sunday” and disaster donations like relief efforts for Nepal following the 2015 earthquakes.

TATUA KENYA

WWW.TATUAKENYA.ORG



HISTORY: In 2011, Be the Change-Kenya was founded by a small group of visionaries who recognized that real poverty is more than simply a lack of resources; it also means a sense of inferiority to those who have more resources, which leads to a false belief that

someone else needs to solve your problems. The goal of Be the Change-Kenya was to eradicate child poverty by offering the local leaders a chance to create solutions using their own resources. The happy result was children being fed and clothed. In addition, by coming together to eradicate child poverty, the community became more hopeful about its future. Instead of waiting for someone else to offer a solution, they became the solution.

BEING THE CHANGE: Once other local organizations saw the success, they too wanted to the principles of community organizing that resulted in sustainable change. In 2012, the change became Tatua Kenya, which was rooted in the philosophy of supporting a different style of development through deep listening of local community needs and solutions that stem from the ground-up. *Tatua* is the Kiswahili word for solve or untangle works with local initiatives in Kenya to create community based solutions for change.

MISSION: “We build community driven movements throughout Africa by training civil and human rights workers in transformational community models.”

We believe these local organizations know their needs better than anyone else and that stronger local organizations build stronger infrastructures and therefore stronger countries.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

www.samaritanspurse.org



Each year, our Christian Education Ministry coordinates collecting shoeboxes filled with small toys, school supplies, and other small gifts. The shoeboxes are wrapped and then sent to places around the world via Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child is one of many ministries offered through Samaritan's Purse: a nondenominational evangelical

Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through Jesus Christ. This organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoe box gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse works with local church and ministry partners to deliver gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ.

REFUGEE IMMIGRATION MINISTRY

<http://www.r-i-m.net>



Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM) was founded in 1986 as an Interfaith Ministry whose purpose was to offer spiritual care in the detention facilities. As RIM has expanded to other services, the collaboration between faith groups has brought volunteers together from many cultures and faiths to

provide community-based services to uprooted and often isolated persons.

Currently RIM's programs include: Spiritual Care Givers, English Classes (within the communities), Job Placement Assistance, Training for Certified Nursing Assistants, Community-based Resettlement (Clusters). Our church is involved in the North Shore Cluster and supports one family seeking asylum in the U.S. financially, spiritually, and relationally.

The faith groups who participate in RIM services include: American Baptist, Buddhist, Episcopal, Hindu, Jewish, Lutheran, Muslim, Roman Catholic, Sikh, Society of Friends (Quakers), Unitarian Universalist, United Church of Christ, United Methodist, and United Presbyterian.

By bringing uprooted people into a community they are able to build trust and can begin the process of rebuilding their lives. Community-based support helps clients to prepare for employment and to make the cultural adaptation necessary for success. Not only does the community welcome provide friendship, acculturation opportunities and support for clients, at the most vulnerable time of their lives, but it is enriching for volunteers. By sharing faith practices, and cultural customs RIM volunteers are enriched and inspired.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MISSION TRIPS

Summer mission trips have proven to be a popular hands-on- outreach opportunity for our church family. High school age youth and many adults go to various locations throughout the country to work on building and refurbishing houses. This is a weeklong trip. Information on the summer mission trip is announced in September to allow time to raise the necessary money to fund the trips.

BIRTHDAY BASH FOR HEIFER

On a Sunday in March, the Christian Education Committee provides 12 birthday cakes during the coffee hour, one representing each month. The congregation is then invited to buy a slice of birthday cake at a cost of a penny per year of their age, or \$1.00 a slice if you do not wish to reveal your age. The proceeds go to support Heifer Project International.

BROWN BAG FOR HUNGER

Every April, we support our local food pantry by asking church members to bring in a bag of groceries to donate.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: LOCAL WORK DAYS

We sponsor two work days, one in the fall and one in the spring, for a group of 20 adults and teens at a local Habitat for Humanity situated in Lawrence, MA.

TAKE-A-TAG

Each year CCS (Christian Community Service) sponsors a program that provides Christmas gifts for children in need in North Reading. We support the program through a Giving Tree, which is decorated with tags indicating a requested gift and the age of the child. Members of the congregation are invited to take a tag and then bring the specified gift (unwrapped) the following Sunday. CCS then distributes the gifts to the various families.

BLANKET SUNDAY

Every November an offering is received to support a Church World Service program, which provides blankets to refugees around the world. The heavy wool blankets provide shelter and warmth for the refugees and greeting cards are available to send if you wish to purchase a blanket in honor of a loved one.

YOUTH MINISTRY BREAD BAKE

This annual event is held during Lent. The youth ministry bakes loaves of bread, which are sold to the congregation. the proceeds are given to the North Reading Food Pantry.

Random Acts of Kindness

Where a need was presented and met.

- One Simple Wish, an organization that supports children in foster care with a wish that is not covered by regular foster care allowance. We've bought bunk beds and bicycles for foster children.
- Diaper Drive to collect diapers for Neighbors in Need of Greater Lawrence. <http://www.neighborsinneed.net/>
- Alzheimer's Dolls that were donated to local nursing homes for Alzheimer patients.
- Walk for Wellness to raise money for cancer research.
- Project DEAR book drive to collect books for homeless children in hotels
- Disaster Relief Donations
- Kraft Family Bloodmobile Drive for Dana Farber and Brigham and Women Hospitals



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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