

# **Poverty Directory**

**Ideas, Opportunities, and Resources  
For Poverty Ministry by Your Local  
United Methodist Church**

**Poverty Team  
Western PA Conference of the  
United Methodist Church**

**June, 2009**

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*“Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can.”*

*John Wesley, Founder of the Methodist Movement*

# **Your Western PA Conference Poverty Directory. Created by the “Believe Again” Poverty Committee June, 2009**

This directory can be found on the Conference web page: [www.wpaumc.org](http://www.wpaumc.org). Corrections and supplements should be sent to David Keller, Poverty Committee Chair, [RevDFKeller@aol.com](mailto:RevDFKeller@aol.com). Updates will then be made on the web page.

This Poverty Directory is meant to be a resource for pastors and other congregational leaders for pursuing ministries with and for the poor. This focus on poverty ministry of course is mandated by Jesus. It is also part of our Wesleyan heritage that calls us to balance “works of mercy” and “works of justice,” along with devotion and worship. Neither Jesus nor John Wesley had much patience with the likes of the rich man who ignored the needs of the poor man Lazarus at his doorstep (Luke 16).

Our 2008 General Conference made “Eradicating Poverty” one of the four priorities of our United Methodist ministry for the next four years and, presumably, beyond. We are challenged to address not only the immediate symptoms of poverty but also the root causes of poverty- locally and globally.

Our goal is to inspire and to inform your thinking as you pursue the call to be in ministry with and for the poor. This directory cannot describe all the categories of poverty ministry that are possible. For example, we all know that education and health are fundamental areas of both the symptoms and the causes of poverty. The facets of these ministries are best explored through prayer and through familiarity with your community needs and situation. Any ministry that addresses the health needs and education needs in your community is a ministry that addresses poverty. Your community needs and relies on your church’s concern and involvement in these issues.

A church leader will want to know how to be “able to respond” (i.e., “responsible”) to persons who come to the church needing help. Money is not always the appropriate or needed response. In addition to genuine love and prayer, we need to be able also to give information for referrals and for resources such as food stamps. Every pastor should develop his or her own “reference guide” to the local agencies and associated staff relevant to how to help people in need.. Sometimes it is a huge help just to give that agency’s phone number to the person needing assistance. Usually the Community Action Agency in your county will be the best source of information for “where to turn” to help a person in need. These county Community Action Agencies are listed in this Poverty Directory for your easy reference.

As the church we are called “to get in the way.” Proverbs 31:8-9 says, “Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.” Knowing some of the people in local

government and governmental offices offers us the opportunity to speak for those without a voice.

In all these ministries, may we do it with prayer and God's love, as mandated by Jesus!

## **Poverty Ministries Addressing Economic Injustice and Racism**

There is a legion of ways in which people can be oppressed or “put down” and recognizing this means that we must not think of poverty as only an individual's lack of economic resources. Patterns of historical oppression and social injustice have contributed to poverty in a variety of ways by denying and systematically excluding some groups from access to vital resources including decent education, secure employment, and safe or healthy living conditions.

The prophets shook the faith community to direct their focus to issues of justice and fairness. The prophets urge us to address the needs of the widow, the orphaned, and the poor by (1) helping them in their immediate need and (2) by “helping them help themselves” especially with education and employment. Poverty ministries that seek to “help people help themselves” by necessity will need to build partnerships and create opportunities within communities to address the obstacles that perpetuate economic injustice and poverty.

Racism is a particularly pernicious sin and it affects the lives of all people in multiple and complex ways. Your church's ministry with and for the poor therefore should include examining issues of civil rights and social justice that are at the foundation of enabling all persons to successfully pursue a good education and employment. By building alliances between diverse groups in your communities, you may discover that some local poverty is perpetuated by conscious or unconscious prejudices or discriminatory practices. Fighting poverty can include finding ways that white and non-white communities can join forces to fight economic injustice and racism.

The gospel affirms a God-given dignity and importance of all persons. Clearly we can offer that gospel message to oppressed persons who have become cynical, have lost hope, or have little confidence in themselves. That gospel message of course is given in word and deed, befriending “the down and out” persons in our communities while also learning from them, and partnering with them to eradicate not only their own poverty but the persistent causes of economic injustice throughout the community.

## II.

### **God Calls us to Ministries of Mercy and Justice for the Poor, Grounded in Scripture and Faith**

Do not oppress foreigners in any way. Remember, you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. Do not exploit widows or orphans. Exodus 22:21-22

At the end of every third year bring the tithe of all your crops and store it in the nearest town. Give it to the Levites, who have no inheritance among you, as well as to the foreigners living among you, the orphans, and the widows in your towns, so they can eat and be satisfied. Then the Lord your God will bless you in all your work. Deuteronomy 14:28-29

He will rescue the poor when they cry to him; he will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them. He feels pity for the weak and the needy, and he will rescue them. He will save them from oppression and from violence, for their lives are precious to him. Psalm 72: 12-14

Give fair judgment to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. Psalm 82:3-4

Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but those who help the poor honor him. Proverbs 14:31

Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the orphan. Fight for the rights of widows. Isaiah 1:17

The kind of fasting I want calls you to free those who are wrongly imprisoned and to stop oppressing those who work for you. Treat them fairly and give them what they earn. I want you to share your food with the hungry and to welcome poor wanderers into your homes. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

If you do these things, your salvation will come like the dawn. Yes, your healing will come quickly. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind. Then when you call, the Lord will answer. "Yes, I am here," he will quickly reply.

Stop oppressing the helpless and stop making false accusations and spreading vicious rumors! Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as day.

The Lord will guide you continually, watering your life when you are dry and keeping you healthy, too. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring. Your children will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as the people who rebuild their walls and cities. Isaiah 58:6-12

Away with your hymns of praise! They are only noise to my ears. I will not listen to your music, no matter how lovely it is. Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice, a river of righteous living that will never run dry. Amos 5:23-24

No, O people, the Lord has already told you what is good, and this is what he requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

"Tell us," they asked Jesus, "are you the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you are hearing and seeing: the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor." Matthew 11:3-5

Then the King will say to those on the right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me."

Then these righteous ones will reply, "Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?"

And the King will tell them, "I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" Matthew 25:34-40

Later on Jesus was having a meal in Levi's house. A large number of tax collectors and other outcasts was following Jesus, and many of them joined him and his disciples at the table. Some teachers of the Law, who were Pharisees, saw that Jesus was eating with these outcasts and tax collectors, so they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such people?" Jesus heard them and answered, "People who are well do not need a doctor, but only those who are sick. I have not come to call respectable people, but outcasts." Mark 2:15-17 (TEV)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come. Luke 4:18-19

You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate. Luke 6:36

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 2 Corinthians 1:4

Now everything is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; certain that God is appealing through us, we plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. -  
2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us. James 1:27

Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone. Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, and you say, "Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well" – but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all – it is dead and useless. James 2:14-17

## **Five-Session Global Poverty Bible Study Created by the Board of Church and Society**

Go to:

[http://www.umd-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.3832787/k.F5AF/Global\\_Poverty\\_A\\_New\\_Year\\_in\\_Go\\_d8217s\\_World/apps/nl/newsletter.asp](http://www.umd-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.3832787/k.F5AF/Global_Poverty_A_New_Year_in_Go_d8217s_World/apps/nl/newsletter.asp)

Since this link is so long, you may want to go to [www.umd-gbcs.org](http://www.umd-gbcs.org) where you can click on the link for Poverty Bible Study. Questions? Call the Board at 202-488-5600.

Another option, contact David Keller who will email the five sessions to you.  
RevDFKeller@aol.com

### III.

## United Methodist Connectional Ministries



### Church World Service

Our Conference benevolence dollars work largely through the ecumenical Church World Service, as well as the ministries of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, the Board of Discipleship, Board of Church and Society, and other ministry agencies of the United Methodist Church. All of these directly or indirectly address the symptoms and root causes of poverty. [www.UMC.org](http://www.UMC.org) Rev. Kathy Clark works particularly with special ministries such as the community-based CROP walks that raise funds for hunger ministries. [kclark@churchworldservice.org](mailto:kclark@churchworldservice.org)



### UMCOR

United Methodist Committee on Relief is our Church's long-established disaster relief ministry. It also sponsors specific enabling ministries to impoverished situations. For details on these great ministries, go to <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/give/gift-catalog>. Or just Google: UMCOR United Methodist. "Flood buckets," "School kits," and even "birthing kits" are among the tangible items churches can assemble to enable these ministries.



### The Advance Advancing hope in Christ's name

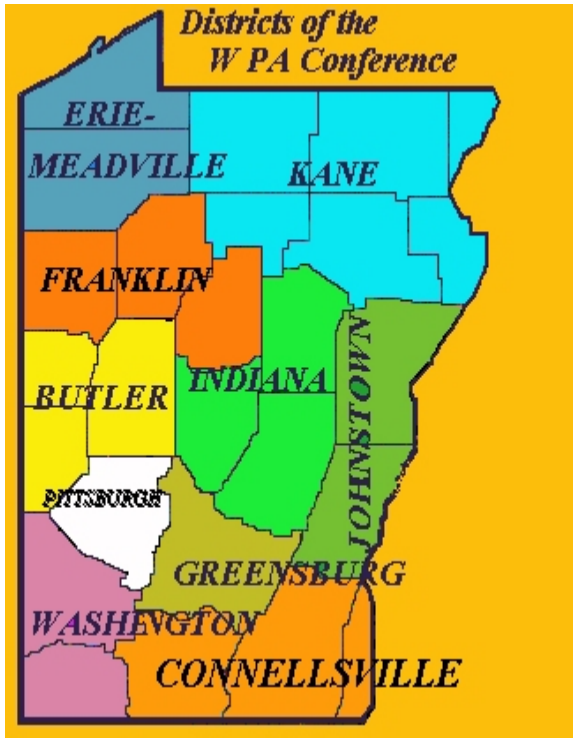
The Advance is an accountable, designated-giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures **100 percent** of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry. **You decide** which program or ministry to support through The Advance.

#### **The Advance: Alternative Gift Ideas**

Alternative Giving through The Advance is really two gifts in one: a gift to the people it helps and to the person it honors. One hundred percent of your gift reaches its intended project.

Visit a listing of projects for alternative giving.

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/advance/index.cfm> or go to [www.advancinghope.org](http://www.advancinghope.org) or write to [advance@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:advance@gbgm-umc.org)



*To help direct a person to available help in one's county, direct them to your Community Action Agency.*

**COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES FOR WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE COUNTIES**

Community Action Agencies change people's lives, embody the spirit of hope, improve communities, and make America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other as they move from poverty to self-sufficiency.

The Community Action Association of Pennsylvania (CAAP) is the statewide Commonwealth association representing the state's CAAs that provide anti-poverty planning and community development activities for low-income communities and services to individuals and families. CAAP is a membership driven organization. Pennsylvania has 43 Community Action Agencies — all of which are members of the Community Action Association of Pennsylvania.

**Allegheny**

**Allegheny Co. Department of Human Services**

Office of Community Services

One Smithfield Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2222

John Litz, Planner

Phone: 412-350-6617

Fax: 412-350-2785

## **Armstrong**

### **Armstrong Co. Community Action Agency**

Armsdale Administration Building

124 Armsdale Road - Suite 211

Kittanning, PA 16201

Kenneth Heilman, Executive Director

Phone: 724-548-3405

Fax: 724-548-3413

## **Beaver**

### **Community Services Program of Beaver County**

1013 Eighth Avenue

Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Lisa Signore, Executive Director

Phone: 724-847-3889

Fax: 724-847-3861

## **Butler**

### **Butler Co. Community Action & Development**

124 W. Diamond Street

P.O. Box 1205

Butler, PA 16003

Janine Kennedy, CSBG Administrator

Phone: 724-284-5125

Fax: 724-284-1063

## **Cambria**

### **Community Action Partnership of Cambria Co.**

516 Main Street

Johnstown, PA 15901

Debra Zimmerman, Executive Director

Phone: 814-536-9031

Fax: 814-539-5813      [www.capcc.us](http://www.capcc.us)

## **Cameron, Elk, McKean, Potter**

### **Northern Tier Community Action Corporation**

PO Box 389

135 West Fourth Street

Emporium, PA 15834

Kenneth Straub, Executive Director

Phone: 814-486-1161

Fax: 814-486-0825

**Clarion, Jefferson****Community Action, Inc.**

105 Grace Way

Punxsutawney, PA 15767-1209

Robert A. Cardamone, Executive Director

Phone: 814-938-3302

Fax: 814-938-7596

[www.jccap.org](http://www.jccap.org)

**Clearfield****Central Pennsylvania Community Action, Inc.**

PO Box 792

207 East Cherry Street

Clearfield, PA 16830

Hugh Daly, Executive Director

Phone: 814-765-1551

Fax: 814-765-4306

**Crawford, Venango****Venango Co. Office of Economic Opportunity**

1238 Liberty St.

PO Box 1130

Franklin, PA 16323

Sally Mays, Executive Director

Phone: 814-432-9767

Fax: 814-437-2338

**Erie****Greater Erie Community Action Committee**

18 West 9th Street

Erie, PA 16501

Ronald A. Steele, Chief Executive Officer

Phone: 814-459-4581

Fax: 814-456-0161

[www.gecac.org](http://www.gecac.org)

## **Fayette**

### **Fayette Co. Community Action Agency, Inc.**

140 N. Beeson Avenue  
Uniontown, PA 15401  
James M. Stark, Executive Director  
Phone: 724-437-6050  
Fax: 724-437-4418

[www.fccaa.org](http://www.fccaa.org)

## **Forest, Warren**

### **Warren-Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council**

1209 Pennsylvania Avenue West  
Warren, PA 16365  
Robert Raible, Executive Director  
Phone: 814-726-2400  
Fax: 814-723-0510

[www.wfcaa.org](http://www.wfcaa.org)

## **Fulton**

### **Center for Community Action**

195 Drive In Lane  
Everett, PA 15537  
Ann Foor, Executive Director  
Phone: 814-623-9129  
Fax: 814-623-7187

## **Greene, Washington**

### **Community Action Southwest**

150 West Beau Street  
Suite #304  
Washington, PA 15301  
Darlene Bigler, Executive Director  
Phone: 724-225-9550  
Fax: 724-228-9966

[www.caswg.org](http://www.caswg.org)

## **Indiana**

### **Indiana Co. Community Action Program, Inc.**

827 Water Street  
PO Box 187  
Indiana, PA 15701  
Lorna Vite, Executive Director  
Phone: 724-465-2657  
Fax: 724-465-5118

## **Lawrence**

### **Lawrence County Community Action Partnership**

PO Box 189  
241 West Grant Street  
New Castle, PA 16101  
Thomas Scott, CEO  
Phone: 724-658-7258  
Fax: 724-657-3619

[www.lccap.org](http://www.lccap.org)

## **Mercer**

### **Community Action Partnership of Mercer Co., Inc.**

75 S. Dock Street  
Sharon, PA 16146  
Ronald J. Errett, Chief Executive Officer  
Phone: 724-342-6222  
Fax: 724-342-6301

[www.mercercountycaa.org](http://www.mercercountycaa.org)

## **Somerset**

### **Community Action Partnership for Somerset County - Tableland Services, Inc.**

535 E. Main Street  
Somerset, PA 15501  
Jeffrey Masterson, Executive Director  
Phone: 814-445-9628  
Fax: 814-443-3690

[www.capfsc.org](http://www.capfsc.org)

**Westmoreland**

**Westmoreland Community Action**

226 South Maple Avenue

Greensburg, PA 15601

Tay Waltenbaugh, Executive Director

Phone: 724-834-1260

Fax: 724-838-9563

[www.westmorelandca.org](http://www.westmorelandca.org)

## V.

### **Western PA Conference United Methodist Ministries of Social Services**

These ministries partner with local churches to provide their services. Financial and volunteer help is a great way to involve your church poverty team.

#### **Volunteers in Mission (VIM)**

This ministry has blossomed into a regional, national, and global outreach of volunteers for our Western PA United Methodists. It connects us to an incredible network of volunteer ministry opportunities. Teams are coordinated for such ministry opportunities as hurricane relief, flood relief, Habitat for Humanity, construction projects abroad (e.g., Russia and Palestine), and Native American Reservations.

Teams are coordinated for such ministry opportunities as home repair, handicap ramp building, hurricane/tornado/flood relief, Habitat for Humanity, construction projects, medical and educational service opportunities locally and abroad, from Western Pennsylvania to Native American reservations to Russia and Palestine.

Diane Miller, Coordinator

136 Decker Dr., New Castle, PA 16105; 724-652-9182; missionvim@wpaumc.org

#### **United Methodist Church Union ... 412-231-4900**

Larry Homitsky, President

With advance notice, Church Union can set up experiences for volunteers in a variety of arenas. Examples:

- Assisting with Vacation Bible School.
- Trash/rubbish clean-up, and grass cutting and weed removal on properties held by the United Methodist Church in 4 locations in Pittsburgh: Bethany House Northview Heights, Bethany House St. Clair Village, Church of our Saviour, and New Hope UMC, West North Avenue.
- Painting projects in the apartment buildings of Methousing North, North Side Pittsburgh.
- Volunteers for the programs of the Bethany House Ministry at Northview Heights and St. Clair Village, Pittsburgh. At Northview Heights, there is an after-school program Monday-Thursday; at St. Clair Village, there is a pre-school program.
- Maintenance and repair projects at the Bethany House Northview Heights, Pittsburgh facility.
- Maintenance and repair projects at the Church of Our Saviour facility, Northview Heights, Pittsburgh.
- Sponsorship and volunteering for Northside meal ministry.

## **BETHANY HOUSE ACADEMY (Church Union)**

**MISSION:** The mission of Bethany House Academy is to prepare the children, youth, and adults of Northview Heights and St. Clair Village academically, socially, economically, and spiritually for lifelong learning, achievement, health, and prosperity.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD CHALLENGES (Church Union)**

Northview Heights and St. Clair Village are low-income, high crime neighborhoods in the City of Pittsburgh. Children and youth living there are exposed to a high number of environmental risk factors, suffering disproportionately from poverty, low education, and lack of general health care. They are also exposed to drug use/abuse, including daily drug deals, as well as other criminal activities. While the criminal element involves a minority of the residents, they are gaining followers. Our role as a respected community service provider is to provide children and youth with healthy, productive, and positive choices.

## **CURRENT OPERATING PROGRAMS (Church Union)**

### **NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS**

- Educational enhancement for children and youth - Serves 50-60 children and youth and provides employment opportunities for four adults and five to seven youth from the neighborhood.
- After school programs – Computer literacy & technology, entrepreneur training, arts & crafts, math/science/reading clubs, resume preparation, business plan development, and accounting software orientation for 50-60 children and youth.
- Adult literacy program – focuses on job preparation.
- Diversity exchange – joint cross-cultural activities with a suburban church partner at both locations.

### **ST. CLAIR VILLAGE**

- Preschool – Serves 20-25 children and provides employment for four adults in the neighborhood.

### **BOTH LOCATIONS**

- P.O.W.E.R. (Positive Outcomes With Excuses Removed) Program – Character building program directed toward the 7 C's: Confidence, Competence, Consciousness, Conduct, Character, Commitment, and Courage.

Call Director Keith Murphy at 412-889-9329, 1500 Chicago Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15214

## **Connellsville Area Community Ministry**

**Connellsville Area** Community Ministries takes seriously Jesus Christ's command to love one's neighbor as one's self. The organization provides food, clothing, shelter and more. Work camp experiences allow local churches to be involved personally with this community ministry.

Terry Guiste, Director 201 E Fairview Ave., Connellsville, PA 15425  
724-626-1120 tguiste@verizon.net

## **Methodist Union of Social Agencies (MUSA)**

Contact : Rev. Jim Cannistraci ... 412-461-1800

1705 Maple St., PO Box 433, Homestead, PA 15120

[jcannistraci@musal.org](mailto:jcannistraci@musal.org)

## **United Methodist Human Services of Greater Johnstown,**

**“Helping Those in Need”**

436 Vine Street

Johnstown, PA 15901

Phone: 814-539-2633

Fax: 814-539-8034

Contact: Connie L. Gossard, Director

Email: [clgossardumhs@johnstownfirst.org](mailto:clgossardumhs@johnstownfirst.org)

Website: [www.johnstownfirst.org](http://www.johnstownfirst.org)

### Mission Statement:

To demonstrate the redeeming love of Jesus Christ by developing and channeling the resources of the United Methodist Churches of the Johnstown District, which help alleviate the human suffering and injustice faced by persons with specific spiritual, emotional and material needs.

### Times of Operation:

Monday through Thursday: 9 am – 4 pm

### Agency Services:

- REAP (Required Emergency Aid Provided) provides emergency financial assistance for housing, utilities, home heating, basic household, medical, transportation and other crisis needs
- Food pantries provide food assistance to qualifying low income area residents. As part of a pantry network, we run two pantries, one located in the City of Johnstown at the Franklin UMC and the other located in a rural setting at New Paris UMC, Bedford County. In total we serve approximately 300 families per month.
- Clothes Closet is a thrift store that offers used clothing at low cost or in some cases free. It operates through the school year, when the greatest clothing need is for children and youth.
- Project Shoes is a children’s shoe project that provides new shoes to pre-school, elementary and middle school age children through the Johnstown District of the UMC.
- Togs for Tots is a program that supplies new baby layettes to low income mothers and is supported entirely by the district UMW.
- The Richland Towers Ministry provides a weekly Sunday afternoon worship service for apartment residents by Johnstown District Lay speakers.

## **Erie United Methodist Alliance**

*Helping hands to meet the needs of those less fortunate with compassion and dignity.*

1033 East 26<sup>th</sup> St.  
Erie, PA 16504

Phone: 814-456-8073  
Fax: 814-456-4513

Contact person: Cheryl Davis  
Email: cheryld@euma-erie.org  
Website: www.euma-erie.org

Mission Statement: The Erie United Methodist Alliance is a group of United Methodist churches, laypersons, and pastors from the Erie-Meadville District organized in the name of Jesus Christ to meet the critical needs of poverty and homelessness in our community.

Times of Operation:  
Monday through Friday: 8 am – 5 pm

### Homeless services:

**The Refuge** emergency shelter for families with children: 814-454-6088, staffed 24/7

**Hope House** transitional shelter/program for families with children: 814-456-8073,  
M-F 8 am – 4 pm

**Liberty House** transitional shelter/program for veterans: 814-874-3687, staffed 24/7

**Project Hope Outreach** 24/7 information and referral, and street outreach:  
814-456-5670 M-F 9 am – 5 pm, after hours and weekends 814-874-3687

### Other Agency Services:

**Rainbow Connection Thrift Store**: 1516 Buffalo Rd., Erie 814-453-4080  
Providing gently used, low cost, high quality clothing and small household goods

## **VI.**

### **Examples of Local United Methodist Church Poverty Ministries**

#### **Open Hands Ministries**

Open Hands Ministries in Ligonier, initiated by several United Methodist churches in the Ligonier Valley, has a three fold-ministry: Layettes for Newborns, P.U.M.P

(People Under Mission to People) home repairs and ramps, and The Clothing Boutique and Resale Shop (furniture and appliances). We are looking at ways we can further help our communities with food and home heating for the winter ahead. We are serving needs in the Greensburg and Connellsville Districts.

We estimate that we have touched approximately some 15,000 lives in the ten years of our ministry.

Richard P. Ziegenfus  
Open Hands Ministries  
PO Box 896, Ligonier, PA 15658  
[rpz@westol.com](mailto:rpz@westol.com)  
724-238-5780

### **South Avenue UMC in Wilkinsburg- Monthly Hospitality Meals**

On the last Sunday of the month (when many folks are low on cash), we offer a well-advertised 8 AM hospitality breakfast. This precedes our 9 A.M. contemporary worship service. After our 11 A.M. traditional worship we have a hospitality lunch that is served at approximately 12:15 P.M.. As designed, both meals create a good mingling of existing members and persons new to the church.

We also have tried at length to work with local banks to create non-check bank accounts that would enable marginalized people to receive electronic government deposits. With a sufficient balance, these accounts could also enable a person to cash checks and avoid the infamously exorbitant fees charged by “Check Cashing” businesses. Although banks have told us for two years that they were very interested in this concept, we have yet to see it in our community. This is an idea that needs to be made real. Ideas?

David Keller, Pastor, 733 South Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221, 412-371-7421  
[RevDFKeller@aol.com](mailto:RevDFKeller@aol.com) [www.SouthAvenueUMC.org](http://www.SouthAvenueUMC.org)

## **After School “Food for Friends”**

We have a trailer in the local trailer park where we share regular weekly ministry in an after-school program with dinner and an evening parenting program for the whole family. We also host a “Food for Friends” program every Wednesday, which is a dinner where many area churches and groups provide a meal every week. Furthermore, we also provide food stuffs for the families throughout the year on a once a month basis.

Deryl K. Larsen, Pastor  
First United Methodist Church of Clarion  
814-226-6660 [Deryl.Larsen\\_fumc@verizon.net](mailto:Deryl.Larsen_fumc@verizon.net)

## **Back Pack Ministry- Greensburg**

Aside from holiday meals to families in need, which many churches do (we feed between 70 and 80 families); and traditional discretionary funds for emergency help; our somewhat unique (is it possible to be “somewhat” unique?) ministry is to provide back packs to children in two of the poorer schools in Greensburg. The back packs are filled with supplies and given to the parents to give to the children... this way the kids believe the gifts come from their parents, not the charity of our church. This year we are distributing 153 back packs. The names are given to us by the principals of the schools. Most of the back pack families also receive holiday food baskets. It’s a terrific ministry, for which our United Methodist Women and Outreach Committee deserve all the credit.

Duane Morford, Pastor  
Greensburg First United Methodist Church  
15 E Second Street, Greensburg PA 15601  
724-834-3111, [d1mfumc@verizon.net](mailto:d1mfumc@verizon.net); [www.greensburgfirst.org](http://www.greensburgfirst.org)

## **FIRST FOOD AND FRIENDS**

First Food and Friends is a ministry of hospitality and sustenance offered by First Charities in cooperation with the First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh. Guests gather at 10:30 for Bible Study; Lunch is served at 11:30 A.M. to between 100 and 150 guests. Our intent is to strengthen our connection with our guests. Blood pressure screenings and health information are provided monthly.

Volunteers are always needed to assist in the kitchen, to serve, and to clean up. A most important responsibility is to be in conversation with our guests.

First UMC Pittsburgh, 5401 Centre Ave., Pittsburgh 15232.  
FUMC is located near Shadyside Hospital UPMC.  
Every Saturday morning, 52 weeks a year. (9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.)  
Contact: Mr. Patrick Haver, Director, 412.580.1522

## **New Hope Meal Ministry**

New Hope Congregate Feeding Ministry serves meals noon Tuesday, noon Thursday and 4 PM Sunday at New Hope UMC on the North Side of Pittsburgh. This ministry serves an average of 100 people per day. The meals are served by volunteers from various churches who donate the food for the meals. Call the director, Clara Baehr, to find out how your church might participate. W. North Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. 412-321-3343

## **Center For Hope Serving Ambridge and southern Beaver County**

The Center for Hope program provides an outreach and service to a community that has undergone economic hardship and demographic change in what has been designated a distressed community. The Center provides character education, recreation, academic preparation and employment readiness for the community at large. We also provide a free summer lunch program for children, (2600 dinners served,) winter coats (84) and a toy distribution to families in need at Christmas.

**About us:** Envisioned by the founding members of Fellowship United Methodist Church with support of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church for the purpose of seeking the shalom of the community. The Center for Hope is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization that along with its partners provide various services and programs to residents in the Beaver Valley and surrounding areas.

**Mission statement:** The Center for Hope is a faith-based community center committed to creating partnerships that assure the well-being of area residents through education, service and outreach.

**Vision statement:** The Center for Hope, a faith-based community center where people share their talents, skills and resources to strengthen self-sufficiency and community pride.

233 Merchant St., Ambridge, PA 724-251-4899; <http://www.thecenterforhope.com/>

## **West View UMC**

Children at West View UMC collect food and money every Sunday. The food is picked up by men from New Hope UMC and taken for distribution to North Side of Pittsburgh residents. Also, two of our UMW circles volunteer once each fall to feed people at New Hope UMC. We cook the food at our church and four or five of us serve in the kitchen one Thursday in Oct. and Nov. Many other churches share in this long-time service at New Hope. We had about 70-80 persons come the days we were there last year.

Myles Bradley, pastor; 412-364-7454; [ogremtb@aol.com](mailto:ogremtb@aol.com)

## **Hilltop Health Ministries Consortium**

### **Serving the South Pittsburgh/Hilltop Areas**

Mission: People of faith promoting health of body, mind, and spirit.

Hilltop Health Ministries Consortium began when five churches and their health ministry teams came together to work collaboratively. The churches had a twelve year history of hosting a monthly prayer service that was accompanied by a meal. The Parish Nurse offered health education/services at the luncheons. At the time, Mercy Parish/Congregational Nurse and Health Ministries Program provided a Parish Nurse to St. John Vianney Roman Catholic Parish and Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal Church had volunteer parish nurses. These churches, along with Hill Top United Methodist Church, joined in February of 2000, to explore the needs of the hilltop communities, using the Birmingham Foundation community assessment report. In June of 2000, the Birmingham Foundation provided the Ministerium with the funds necessary to plan and implement a development retreat. It was at that retreat that our target populations, home-centered elderly and young adults, were identified. Following the retreat the churches formally began what is now called the Hilltop Health Ministries Consortium.

Hilltop Health Ministries Consortium serves the South Pittsburgh/hilltop communities of: Allentown, Arlington, Beltzhoover, Knoxville, and the borough of Mt. Oliver.

### **Hilltop Active Programs:**

Our **Elder Outreach Volunteer Program** is key in enabling the elderly to continue to live independently in their homes. The program Coordinator assesses the health care needs of persons referred by area agencies, churches, and individuals. After a home visit, the coordinator determines how the Consortium can best assist the individual. Volunteers are recruited and trained by Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers. Assignments are made to the appropriate volunteer/s to work with clients to help meet their wholistic health needs.

By performing activities such as transporting clients to the doctor, delivering groceries, and providing sermons on tape, our volunteers provide access to adequate nutrition, access to health care, and access to a faith community. They also decrease the isolation of our clients and help them maintain their independence. Clients have been very pleased with the work of the Elder Outreach Volunteers. The results of a bi-annual evaluation revealed that 100% of participants rated them excellent in the areas of promptness, dependability, respectfulness, and meeting their needs.

Since its inception in 2000, our Elder Outreach program has retained over 72 active volunteers. These volunteers cross social, racial, and geographic lines to meet the wholistic health needs of home-centered elderly residents throughout the hilltop. During

2008 volunteers have provided over 5,000 hours of service. In the last nine months, volunteers have donated over 2,500 hours of service (valued at \$25,000).

A Low Vision Support Group has grown out of the Elder Outreach program, and is led by one of our volunteers, who has been blind since the age of ten. This group meets once a month to discuss important life issues, share resources, and provide encouragement and support to one another. Speakers provide information on community resources, services, and recreational opportunities. Our Elder Outreach Coordinator helps to facilitate this group and makes sure everyone has transportation to and from the group.

### **Hilltop Parish Nurse Partnership**

Since the late 1990s, we have been in partnership with the Mercy Parish Nurse Program (one of the founding partners of HHMC) to coordinate and provide Parish Nurse services to the hilltop communities. The Parish Nurse provides referrals, blood pressure screenings, fitness programs, home visits, hospital visits, support groups, and health education to members of our Consortium churches and to the community as a whole.

The Parish Nurse Program at Mercy is currently revising their level of service to the community partners and, effective June 30, 2009, they will no longer fund a full time Parish Nurse in the hilltop or the West End. This critical program provides much needed services in a variety of program areas: Individual contact with residents (273 individual contacts serving 84 clients, which represents a 40% increase over 2007); 12 groups (provided 134 sessions) over the year (at two area food banks, congregational blood pressure screenings, exercise groups, health chats at worship services and senior facilities, and the Woman to Woman group) serving 245 unique clients with a total of 922 service units. This represents a growth of 18% over the previous year.

### **Hilltop Congregational Health Teams**

**HHMC Health Teams Pilot Project** (helping establish health teams with in community churches)

In 2006 we began a pilot project of establishing wholistic health ministry teams within four primarily African-American congregations. A team leader or Health Minister from each congregation was trained and supervised by Parish Nurses from Mercy. Each Health Minister is responsible for implementing a needs assessment within his or her congregation and tailoring health promotion activities and programs to meet the needs that are identified.

Although three of the target churches went through the training and did some preliminary work towards establishing a health team, only one congregation continues today. Maggie Miller from Beulah Baptist Church continues to meet with her team an average of once monthly. She visits the homebound, and provides health education through the church bulletin. She attends the meetings offered by the Mercy Parish Nurse Program. She is planning another health fair in mid- 2009.

## **Hilltop Inactive Programs**

### **Young Adult Outreach**

Although Young Adult programming was one of our initial priorities for the Health Ministries, we were not very successful in reaching this population. The needs in this area are so great (education, employment, addiction issues, parenting skills, etc.), we quickly realized that we did not have sufficient resources to meet these needs. Our focus shifted in 2007 to a Teen Girl Squad program.

Teen Girl Squad (TGS) is a program for young women ages 12-18 that utilizes service-learning projects, goal setting activities, bible studies, and mentoring to develop altruism, confidence, and leadership. The purpose of this program is to launch at-risk females into an adulthood that is happy, healthy, and productive. Meeting bi-weekly, the program was staffed by volunteers/mentors who come from the community, Consortium churches, and neighboring Universities. When the Lutheran pastor who conceived the program and the staff person who worked with her both moved from the area, we were unable to secure the funding for this program. It was one of the few 'success' stories we had in seeking to assist some of the young people in our communities. We hope to resurrect the program when resources permit.

Contact Rev. Sue Hutchins, Pastor, 631 E Warrington Ave., Pittsburgh, 15210; 412-431-3846; [srh.walker@verizon.net](mailto:srh.walker@verizon.net)

## VII.

### **Examples of Ecumenical Community Ministries Involving UM Churches**

#### **Circles**

Circles is a mentoring ministry designed to end poverty in our nation in our lifetime. The Circles campaign was initiated by Move the Mountain (<http://www.movethemountain.org>) to provide transformational leaders the structure to engage the community in ending poverty. By bringing together mentors with people in poverty, this ministry is currently in one United Methodist church in Indiana County (Trinity UMC) and is spreading to other counties in Western PA. It has shown great effectiveness in breaking the social isolation that keeps people in poverty and in providing folks with the necessary emotional and social support to move out of the poverty quagmire.

Debbie Graff, Indiana County Community Action Program, 827 Water Street, Indiana, PA 15701, 724-465-2657 [dgraff@iccap.net](mailto:dgraff@iccap.net)

#### **Pittsburgh Project** ... <http://pittsburghproject.savior.com/90.php>

Contact: Patti Ghubril, Volunteer Resources Manager ... 412-321-1678 ... [pghubril@pittsburghproject.org](mailto:pghubril@pittsburghproject.org)

- Volunteer Tutors (1 or 2 hours a day, one day a week for a semester)
- Homeowner Care (visiting vulnerable homeowners to offer a listening ear)
- Volunteer craftsmen (skilled carpentry, roofing, plumbing, electrical, masonry) for isolated, elderly, in-need homeowners
- Saturday work camps

#### **Light of Life Rescue Mission on the North Side of Pittsburgh**

Light of Life Rescue Mission on the North Side of Pittsburgh is a community where broken people are transformed by the hope of Christ that life can be better tomorrow. The organization is dedicated towards empowering the homeless through a structured program which encourages individuals to “re-think, recover, and rebuild” their lives through a year long process. The program provides for physical needs, counseling, life skill training, addiction recovery courses and employment assistance. It is available to both men and women as well as an abbreviated program for individuals who are homeless but not necessarily dealing with the issues of recovery. In addition, Light of Life offers emergency shelter and meals for many others within the community on a day-to-day basis.

Due to the varied nature of Light of Life’s programs, we have a broad range of ways in which your church can be involved with us. 412-803-4161. 10 E. North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212 Contact: Pam Armstrong 412-364-4629; 412-803-4166; [parmstrong@lightoflife.org](mailto:parmstrong@lightoflife.org)

## **Interfaith Hospitality Networks (IHN)**

The Interfaith Hospitality Network program brings shelter, meals, and support services to families without homes.

IHNs are a cost-efficient, effective, and replicable community response to family homelessness. Because they make use of existing community resources, they can be implemented quickly, without major start-up costs.

IHN programs vary from community to community, reflecting local needs and resources. However, there are five basic components to an IHN program.

### 1. Hosts

Hosting rotates weekly among the 10 to 12 host congregations in a Network. In turn, each host congregation provides lodging, three meals daily, and welcoming care.

### 2. Day Center

Guests use a local day center from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where the IHN director, a professional social worker, provides case management services. There, guests pursue employment, tend pre-school children, shower, and do laundry. The day center provides guests with a mailing address and a base for housing and employment searches. Many guests are employed during the day, while older children attend school.

### 3. Volunteers provide various services:

- Cooking and serving meals
- Playing with children or helping them with homework
- Interacting with guests, with respect and compassion

### 4. Social Service Agencies

Local social service agencies refer families to the Network. The agencies may also help guests find housing, jobs, and benefits.

### 5. Transportation

An IHN van transports guests to and from the day center. The van also carries bedding and luggage to the next host congregation.

Interfaith Hospitality Network also operates in the South Hills of Pittsburgh with a Center in Washington, PA and another recently established in Carnegie. Trinity McMurray and Christ Bethel Park are among the churches involved in hosting homeless families for one week about every 8 weeks.

Sandy Danley from Christ UMC described their participation as follows:

We are one of several churches in the network that takes a week and opens our doors up to homeless families that are sent to us through IHN networking system. We provide dinner and breakfast for them the week that we are here. We have different church folks who coordinate food, hospitality, overnight hospitality, driving, shopping for our guests.

Shirley Clark (at IHN) is the contact person at 412-921-2902. Susan Donnan is the executive director. <http://www.nihn.org>

### **Love INC**

Love INC a.k.a. “Love In the Name of Christ” networks area churches in Bedford County to help show God’s love to people in practical and effective ways. This network enables church members to reach out and to mentor to those with needs. It thereby enables lasting relationships through which lives are transformed. In a variety of ways, Love INC serves as the missing link between individuals, agencies, and churches.

Mission Statement: “Love in the Name of Christ of Bedford County connects people in need with churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ.”

Local Christians  
Organized to  
Volunteer their  
Energies...  
In the Name of Christ

Business Line: 814-652-0025; Helpline Monday-Wednesday-Friday 814-652-0020  
[All4jesus@bedfordco-loveinc.org](mailto:All4jesus@bedfordco-loveinc.org) National headquarters in Minneapolis, MN 800-777-5277 [www.loveinc.org](http://www.loveinc.org)

### **Allegheny Valley Association of Churches**

AVAC (Allegheny Valley Association of Churches) consists of 43 churches in the Allegheny Valley. It ministers to those who are homeless, the elderly that need help, those who are living in poverty, and those who are looking for a better way of life. The agency works with Habitat For Humanity in providing homes for those who have successfully traveled through the process from homelessness to home ownership. A food bank has been set up to help supplement low income families. The IHN program houses families in eight churches within the valley providing a warm, safe place with meals. The Arnold United Methodist Church not only serves as a host church for these families, but is now providing a Clothes Closet where our families may come and choose clothing that is in new or very good condition. Many churches from all denominations help to provide the clothing and the women of the church separate and hang the clothes.

Contact Karen Snair, the director,(724-226-0606). She is a member of the Center United Methodist Church. Rev. Jim Gascoine (724-226-2300) is the president of the board of directors.

**Pittsburgh Habitat for Humanity ... <http://www.pittsburghhabitat.org/>**

Contact: Jackie Reynolds ... 412-466-6710

- 1) Individuals: Call at least one week in advance prior to the day you wish to volunteer. You will be assigned to the work site that needs you the most. Although volunteer time is a valuable asset, it still takes money to buy materials to build a house. It is not required to make a donation in order to volunteer on the construction site, but we do ask all individual volunteers to consider making a donation to our organization to pay for materials that will be used on that day. Any person who makes a contribution of \$25 or more will receive a t-shirt.
- 2) Groups: Contact the Habitat office at least two weeks in advance of the day that you want to volunteer. We will check availability and schedule you for the house that needs you the most. We ask all groups to make a donation of \$50 per person to pay for the building materials that will be used on that day, if possible. The inability to donate does not prohibit someone from volunteering on site. Every member of the group will receive a Habitat t-shirt.

**Pods of H.O.P.E. Allegheny County Jail**

HOPE, an acronym for “Helping Open People’s Eyes,” is a Christian pre- and post-release program for male and female inmates sponsored by the Allegheny County Jail’s Chaplain’s Office. The Foundation of HOPE is a 501(c) (3) non-profit with the sole purpose of raising funds for and operating the program.

HOPE’s mission is to provide intensive discipleship, practical resources, and one-on-one mentoring to the men and women incarcerated in the Allegheny County Jail. Through choice awareness and spiritual enhancement training, the program will help offenders rebuild their lives, reconcile to their community, and restore their relationship with God and their fellow man.

This revolving cycle of crime, called *recidivism*, threatens the safety of our communities and drains public resources. Sadly, an estimated 60% - 70% of ACJ inmates will recidivate within three years of being released. They will victimize thousands of people in Allegheny County with robbery, assault, murder, rape, property offenses, and drug-related crimes.

High jail recidivism is largely the result of inmates not being prepared to re-enter society as “good neighbors.” First, inmates lack services to address addiction, poor education, and other root causes of criminal behavior. Second, they lack time to receive services, if they are available. Third, once they are released, offenders have difficulty acquiring support and resources to maintain positive life changes.

### ***Post-Release Mentoring – “Welcome Home” – A Continuum of Care***

Upon release, HOPE graduates (mentees), are matched with mentors who make themselves available to support inmates in making a healthy transition to society. This may include joining the mentee at recovery meetings, encouraging him with his job and housing search, meeting with the mentee’s probation officer and family, and inviting him to fellowship with a faith community. Right now, because the demand for mentors exceeds supply, about 26% of released HOPE graduates have dedicated mentors. Recruiting more mentors and establishing a pre-release mentor relationships are major program objectives. Mentors receive at least 6 hours of comprehensive training.

For more information about how your church can become involved in helping ex-offenders lead productive, happy lives contact **Chaplain Lynn Yeso, Director of Chaplaincy Services, 412-350-2057 or email: [faithbehindbars@comcast.net](mailto:faithbehindbars@comcast.net)**

### **Wilkesburg Community Ministry (WCM)**

More than ten Wilkesburg churches work together through this ministry to provide social referrals, “Meals on Wheels,” Angel Food Ministry, a food bank, and other social services.

Participating United Methodist Churches are South Avenue and Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Churches.

Contact Ann Greider, Director. 702 Wood Street Pittsburgh, PA 15221. 412-241-8072; [www.wcm15221.org](http://www.wcm15221.org)

### **East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM)**

Through the supportive work of 46 churches and synagogues, EECM provides food for the hungry through our Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, and Meals on Wheels programs. We provide housing assistance to the chronically homeless through our Bridge Housing, Penn Free Housing, and Safe Haven programs. The Orr Center is available for people to recuperate after hospital discharge. Our Children and Youth programs provide educational support and prevention programs for at-risk youth. Also provided are job training and a night men’s shelter.

Participating United Methodist Church is First United Methodist of Pittsburgh.

Contact: 250 N. Highland Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15206; 412-361-5549; [www.eecm.org](http://www.eecm.org)

## VIII.

### **Examples of Recommended Ecumenical National Ministries**

#### **Oikocredit micro-loan ministry**

"Oikocredit, as a worldwide cooperative society, promotes global justice by challenging people, churches and others to share their resources through socially responsible investments and by empowering disadvantaged people with credit."

For individuals, congregations and other institutions interested in INVESTING IN OIKOCREDIT USA, please contact Terry Provance, Executive Director, at PO Box 11000, Washington, DC 20008, or phone at 202 265 0607 or fax at 202 265 7029 or email at office.us@oikocredit.org. The informative web site is <http://www.oikocredit.org>.

Also, Western Pa has an Oikocredit Support Association which seeks to share info about Oikocredit locally. Their e-mail address is westpenn.sa@oikocredit.org.

#### **Heifer International**

**Heifer International** is a non-profit ministry whose goal is to help end world hunger and poverty through self-reliance & sustainability. It is perhaps best known for its gift catalogue of various animals and even trees that can be given to initiate family farming around the world. The catalogue can be a great source of ideas for church groups to raise the money for a specific gift such as a pig, sheep or heifer. Families also can use the catalogue to redirect Christmas giving to these very tangible alternative gifts. Contact them to receive their bimonthly magazine, World Ark and the gift catalogue.

Heifer International

1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202

[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) worldark@list.heifer.org 877-448-6437

## **Health and Education**

### **Education**

Addressing education is a major poverty ministry of many local churches. Mentoring and tutoring are excellent person-to-person ministries in many churches that help persons climb out of poverty. Some churches have conducted or provided space for classes on “English as a Second Language.” Scholarship programs are also very effective in enabling persons to pursue a better education.

### **Health Ministries**

We all know personally how our health is a foundation for our welfare and our ability to be self sustaining. Ill health and poor medical coverage are major causes of poverty.

“Stamping out Killer Diseases of Poverty by Improving Health Globally” is one of the four areas of focus for our ministry in this quadrennium. It is of course closely correlated with the Focus Area to “Eradicate Poverty.” See the “Advocacy” section of this Poverty Directory.

**“Nothing But Nets”** has been a highlight of our Western PA Conference ministry in the last few years. Bishop Bickerton has been a national leader mobilizing not only Western PA churches but churches throughout the United Methodist Church. This ministry has immense personal appeal in offering the opportunity to pay \$10 to provide a medicated mosquito bed net that will protect particularly children in Africa where malaria threatens nightly with the onslaught of mosquitoes. [www.nothingbutnets.net](http://www.nothingbutnets.net). [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) Contact Rev. Sarah Roncolato for creative ideas on how to engage your congregation in this ministry opportunity [sroncola@allegheny.edu](mailto:sroncola@allegheny.edu)

Our Conference’s Sierra Leone Net Project is a new and important phase of this ministry.

### **Crossing the Jordon Christian Health Center** in Washington, PA

Crossing the Jordon Christian Health Center seeks to provide quality health care to all people in a loving Christian environment. Our vision: to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness by joining with Him in creating an environment where all people, especially the poor, are loved, respected, and given high-quality Christ-centered health care as we seek to love God and to love our neighbors. Sliding fee scale payment system.

100 Ridge Ave., Washington, PA 15301 724-222-7159. Contact Rev. Larry Wiltrout, one of its founding directors, for information: 724-225-4105. Rev. Terry Saughnessy is currently on the Board: [pastorterry@firstchurchwashington.com](mailto:pastorterry@firstchurchwashington.com)

Grace UMC (Coal Center), Crossroads UMC and many other UMC churches on the Washington District give support to this ministry. Advance Special # MS00-4800W

## **Addictions**

Our Wesleyan heritage has put us in the vanguard of society's understanding of the pernicious evil of addictions that create poverty. We have historically addressed the dangers and evils of addictions using alcohol, drugs, and gambling. In addition to referring people to appropriate addiction treatment centers, many churches have valuable poverty ministries in hosting Alcohol Anonymous (AA) groups, Narcotics Anonymous groups (NA), and Gambling Anonymous groups.

For details on ministry relating to gambling addiction, see the description of "No Dice" in the "Advocacy" section of this Poverty Directory.

## **X. Ministries Advocating for Just Laws Relating to the Poor**

### **United Methodist General Board of Church and Society**

This Board challenges United Methodists to work in areas of important social concern and develops resources to inform, motivate, and train United Methodists on issues of social justice in society.

100 Maryland Ave., N.E. Washington, DC 20002  
202-488-5600, [gbcg@umc-gbcg.org](mailto:gbcg@umc-gbcg.org) [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org)

Our Western PA Conference Board of Church and Society is led by Debra Rogosky, 32 Main St., Sykesville, PA 16335 814-894-2742; [mother\\_superior@email.com](mailto:mother_superior@email.com)

### **UM Witness**

Mission: Based upon the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, our Mission is to advocate for social justice by informing church members and government officials about concerns and issues that affect the church.

216 State St, Harrisburg, PA 17101 Contact: Stephen Drachler, cell: 615.417.9284;  
[sedrachler@umwitnessPA.org](mailto:sedrachler@umwitnessPA.org); <http://www.umwitnesspa.org>

Valuable web site to locate your legislator and to learn about past and upcoming legislation: [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us)

### **"No Dice" Addressing Gambling**

Imagine that you're trying to raise money for a good cause. A friend offers you an exclusive franchise on a drink that 97 percent of people love—and that makes the other 3 percent permanently ill. Would you accept the deal?

Unfortunately, our state government has done roughly the same thing by legalizing and promoting highly addictive forms of gambling that provide short-term government revenue at enormous social cost. One-third of slot machine revenue comes from the 3 percent of adults with serious gambling problems, who typically run up debts of \$20,000 or more before seeking help. The arrival of casinos causes gambling addiction rates to nearly double. Other results include white-collar crime, shattered families, bankruptcy, suicide, and the siphoning of revenue from legitimate businesses. The cost to society of each addicted gambler is estimated at \$13,000 per year. And legalized gambling is the most regressive tax available, preying disproportionately on the poor.

The United Methodist Social Principles firmly oppose gambling and the Methodist Church opposes further proposed expansions of gambling in Pennsylvania, such as video poker and table games. We encourage the one sure way to keep yourself and your loved ones from becoming victims: don't gamble.

If you need help with a gambling problem, you can contact the Gamblers Anonymous Pittsburgh hotline at (412) 281-7484 or No Dice ([www.nodicepa.org](http://www.nodicepa.org)) at [nodicepa@aol.com](mailto:nodicepa@aol.com) or (412) 835-0614

## **Bread for the World**

"Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live."

### Why We Do It

God's grace in Jesus Christ moves us to help our neighbors, whether they live in the next house, the next state or the next continent. Food is a basic need and it is unjust that so many people go without enough to eat. We can end hunger in our time. Everyone, including our government, must do their part. By making our voices heard in Congress, we make our nation's laws more fair and compassionate to those in need.

### How We Do It

Bread for the World members write personal letters and emails to and meet with our representatives in Congress. Working through churches, campuses and other organizations, we engage more people in advocacy. Bread for the World works in a bipartisan way. We enjoy the support of many different church bodies. Bread for the World collaborates with other organizations to build the political commitment needed to overcome hunger and poverty.

### How You Can Help

Every year, Bread for the World invites churches across the country to take up a nationwide Offering of Letters to Congress on an issue that is important to hungry people. Year after year, Bread members have won far-reaching changes for hungry and poor people.

Local churches can become partners with Bread for the World. Speakers and printed resources are available.

©2007 Bread for the World & Bread for the World Institute · 50 F Street, NW, Suite 500 · Washington, DC 20001; 202-639-9400 · 800-82-BREAD ·: <http://www.bread.org>

## **PA Hunger Action Center**

208 N. third St., Suite 200

Harrisburg, PA 17101 717-233-6705

[www.pahunger.org](http://www.pahunger.org) [info@pahunger.org](mailto:info@pahunger.org)

## **The Consumer Health Coalition**

The Consumer Health Coalition (CHC) is committed to making sure the voices and stories of the consumer and the most vulnerable in our society are heard and listened to within health care reform, access, and quality. We work with faith communities to join with us in the movement: "Faithful Reform in Health Care" which "envisions a society where each person is afforded health, wholeness, and human dignity. That vision embraces a system of health care that is inclusive, accessible, affordable, and accountable."

In doing this work, CHC provides:

- Materials and Resources
- Speakers and Workshop Leaders
- Community forums
- Campus events
- Vigils
- Rallies
- Advocacy workshops
- Educational events

For more information and to be involved, please contact:  
Rev. Sally Jo Snyder, Community Organizer, (412) 456-1877 x 203  
CHC, 650 Smithfield St, Pittsburgh, PA15222

# Poverty Team

## Western PA Conference of the United Methodist Church

David Keller, Chair

Glenna Wilson, Secretary

Judy Bailey  
Pat Cleary  
Terry Guiste  
Paul Schradling  
Jan Emblidge  
Gretchen Hulse

Audrey Bell  
Cheryl Davis  
Dick Monheim  
Melanie Hidebrandt  
Pamela Armstrong

- **Do No Harm**
- **Do Good**
- **Stay in Love with God**

*John Wesley*