

## 2012 United Methodist Foundation Grantees

### Children/Youth Ministries

#### 1. **Ashton: Reynolds UMC** – *Praying Hands*

Contact Person – Alan Meyer, [anvil10@hotmail.com](mailto:anvil10@hotmail.com)

Through the use of puppets of all shapes and sizes, church youth present biblical skits and music to worship and praise God. Twelve churches and agencies will welcome the troupe in early 2012. Youth are training to become puppeteers and adult volunteers are sewing large “arm puppets”, including Elvis and Ray Charles for future productions!

#### 2. **Aurora Shalom Ministries** – *Peace Initiative*

Contact Person – Sam Smith, [aurorashalomministries@comcast.net](mailto:aurorashalomministries@comcast.net)

This weekly after-school program integrates traditional program components with activities to encourage respect, peaceful conflict resolution, and the celebration of diversity. Gangs, drugs and poverty are prevalent in this neighborhood. The goal is to teach active nonviolence to the 100+ children and youth who attend the midweek Kids' Club.

#### 3. **Bolingbrook: Friendship UMC** – *Friendship Study Club*

Contact Person – Kandyce DeWitt, [kandydewitt2@yahoo.com](mailto:kandydewitt2@yahoo.com)

This weekly after school program works with students identified by the local elementary school in grades 2-5. Trained mentors/tutors are assigned to work one-on-one with students on homework and school projects.

#### 4. **Chicago: Edison Park UMC** – *MYX Gymnastics*

Contact Person – Noralyn Baroja, [noralynbaroja@yahoo.com](mailto:noralynbaroja@yahoo.com)

This established youth juggling and performance troupe plans to add gymnastics to its repertoire. The grant will fund equipment and training for youth.

#### 5. **Chicago: Maple Park UMC** – *The Seeds Center Out of School Intersession Program*

Contact Person – Antoinette McAllister, [theseedscenter@gmail.com](mailto:theseedscenter@gmail.com)

The Seeds Center is expanding to serve middle schoolers when they are out of school during the intersession periods (one to several week periods part of the year-round school model.) The full-day of programming includes music, storytelling, drama, dance, field trips and games for children in the Maple Park neighborhood.

#### 6. **Chicago: Trinity UMC** – *Days Off at Trinity*

Contact Person – Joseph Johnson, [revjoseph@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revjoseph@sbcglobal.net)

This Chicago Southern District Church opens its doors when CPS schools are closed. A full day of fun, safe activities is available for school-age children. The program piggy-backs on a successful neighborhood Vacation Bible School.

#### 7. **Chicago: West Englewood UMC** – *After School program*

Contact Person – Maevette Allen, [minmaevette@yahoo.com](mailto:minmaevette@yahoo.com)

This after school program partners with Catholic Charities to provide a nutritional meal, homework help and fun for school-age children Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The program launched with trained volunteers and serves up to 20 youth.

**8. Filipino-American UMY of NIC – Youth Servant Leadership Program**

Contact Person – Cerna Rand, [cernarand@aol.com](mailto:cernarand@aol.com)

The program brings together Filipino-American youth to celebrate their heritage while developing servant leadership skills. The annual five-day “Christmas Institute” retreat has grown to 60 youth participants, with adult leadership provided by Filipino-American pastors in the north-central jurisdiction.

**9. Joliet: Trinity UMC– Summer School**

Contact Person – Daniel Davis, [ipastordan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ipastordan@sbcglobal.net)

This free, twice-weekly summer school program offers Spanish-speaking children tutoring in math, reading and English to keep them current in their educational progress when school is not officially in session. Neighboring UMCs in Woodridge and Ridgewood offer volunteers and support for Trinity’s Hispanic Ministry, *Jesus es el Camino*. *The church offers this insight about the ministry: “Success happens when a dying, aging Anglo congregation opens its doors, heart and mind in love and mission to its neighbors of a different color, culture and tongue – and finds a new reason for being.... Success happens when we feed, clothe, educate, organize and love the least of Christ’s family, in His name.”*

**10. Maywood: Neighborhood UMC – After School Tutorial Program**

Contact Person – Debra Patterson, [dpatterson5514@yahoo.com](mailto:dpatterson5514@yahoo.com)

This successful tutoring program is in its eighth year serving third grade students from two neighborhood schools. The weekday program offers transportation, snack and a focus on reading, writing and math three days per week. An optional one-hour “Homework Club” is available after the tutoring segment. A Saturday component offers field trips and computer training.

**11. Outdoor & Retreat Ministries – Environmental Education**

Contact Person – Bruce Nelson, [bruce@niccamp.org](mailto:bruce@niccamp.org)

ORM plans to integrate a “green” component into its camping programs. They will focus on preservation of nature, conservation of utilities and life style changes to cultivate awareness and help campers make conscious decisions to protect our world and reduce our footprint upon the earth.

**12. Rochelle UMC – After School Program**

Contact Person – Jolene Bresson, [jlbresson@gmail.com](mailto:jlbresson@gmail.com)

Connecting with local schools, 20 second and third grade students are served in the weekly program. Volunteer Reading Buddies focus on reading with students. *The church offered this glimpse of the program from last year: “One child recently moved to our community from Palestine. She did not know the letters of the alphabet when she came to the program. With the help of several committed volunteers, and some special books just for her, she made great progress. We also gave her a place to share about home. We encouraged her to speak and write Arabic. We wanted to be sure to affirm what she DOES know, not just demonstrate what she doesn’t know.”*

## Specialized Ministries

**13. Arlington Heights: First UMC – Special Parents Night Out**

Contact Person – Lynn Mikels, [l.mikels@fumcah.com](mailto:l.mikels@fumcah.com)

This program offers a bi-monthly “parents’ night out” for families with special needs children. Quality child care will include dinner for the children, structured activities and storytime. Volunteers are trained for their role in the program, and introductory gatherings are planned for parents, children and volunteers prior to the first “night out”.

14. **Cary UMC – Picnic & Praise**

Contact Person – Joseph Brehm, [pads@caryumc.org](mailto:pads@caryumc.org)

The church is a founding member of the local PADS homeless program. This project will reach out to the homeless during the summer months on Saturday evenings with a hot meal, fellowship and Christian prayer and praise in a local park.

15. **DBSA Alliance – Support Groups**

Contact Person – Cheryl Magrini, [peerwellness@gmail.com](mailto:peerwellness@gmail.com)

The Chicago Loop chapter of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) offers weekly support groups facilitated by a trained leader for persons suffering with mood disorders. An educational component will be offered through local churches in northern Illinois.

16. **Galena UMC – Stepping Stones**

Contact Person – B'Ann Dittmar, [ditty5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ditty5@sbcglobal.net)

A senior social group, especially for those who are facing life as single or widowed persons. Stepping Stones offers chances to connect, have fun and form new social networks as life situations change. The rural and resort communities in Jo Daviess County welcome active seniors, and socialization is important yet limited in the community, especially for singles.

17. **Mt. Morris: Disciples UMC – Mobil Home Ministry**

Contact Person – Beth Taylor, [liztaylor4@frontier.com](mailto:liztaylor4@frontier.com)

This church left its building two years ago to minister with families at the local mobile home park. Their rented trailer is a kid-magnet – offering a Kids' Club mentoring program during the school year and summertime fun, including Vacation Bible School. *The church offers this evaluation of their first year efforts: "Because of the uniqueness of this program, the name 'Lot #12' has become well-known throughout our local communities, the district and beyond. This program was based on the premise that we have to meet people where they are and that means outside the walls of the church. We have not seen people start coming to church yet, but they know we do what we do because WE go to church. Some of the people at the trailer park call our program 'Church School'. We have taken God's love to them and that IS the mission of the church!"*

18. **Schaumburg: Our Saviour's UMC – English Language Learners**

Contact Person – Peggy Burt, [peggy.osumc@att.net](mailto:peggy.osumc@att.net)

This program offers weekly sessions for 12 Latina women and their families in English as a Second Language. A local Head Start program refers families to the program. Each evening session begins with dinner and offers child care and school-age tutoring while adults are in class. This outreach hopes to assist families to gain skills that will be helpful in daily living and increase employment opportunities.

19. **Skokie: Jesus-Love UMC – Northwestern University Campus Worship**

Contact Person – Kookjin Yun, [yunkj97@gmail.com](mailto:yunkj97@gmail.com)

This project will launch a mid-week worship service on Northwestern's campus for Korean American students. About 40 members of Jesus-Love are also NU students. The students will spearhead the outreach ministry to other students.

## Community Outreach Ministries

### 20. **Albany UMC** – *Connecting Community*

Contact Person – Melody Williams, [pastormelodyw@gmail.com](mailto:pastormelodyw@gmail.com)

The church is intentionally reaching out to this rural community, with a variety of different efforts and a long range plan. The first phase includes the launch of two programs: Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* and a support group for those who have lost loved ones called *Grief Share*.

### 21. **Elmhurst: Faith UMC**– *Connections to Care*

Contact Person – Laura Saelinger-Shafer, [lsaelin@lumc.edu](mailto:lsaelin@lumc.edu)

This is the second year for a Community Health Fair. The event gathers more than 20 community-based health care providers and nonprofits and provides information, screenings and connections to providers for specialized needs. Representatives from immigrant services, crisis pregnancy and senior citizens' agencies join more traditional health care-providers. They hope to welcome 300 to this year's event.

### 22. **Elmhurst: First UMC** – *Service Learning Community Partnership*

Contact Person – Norma Lee Barnhart, [normalee.barnhart@umcelmhurst.org](mailto:normalee.barnhart@umcelmhurst.org)

A collaboration with Elmhurst College's Learning & Success Academy (ELSA) offers volunteer opportunities in the church's Clothing Center and Breakfast Ministry for ELSA students. ELSA is a four-year certificate program for students with special needs. The partnership offers practice in job and people skills through this hands-on experience.

### 23. **Glencoe: North Shore UMC**– *Chamber Arts Concert Series*

Contact Person – Jenny Weber, [jennyweber@att.net](mailto:jennyweber@att.net)

Situated in an affluent Chicago-area setting, this church hosts a community concert series to offer hospitality and welcome to its neighbors. This unique outreach invites the community to experience spiritual nurture and the "open doors" of United Methodists through these non-threatening, low-threshold events.

### 24. **Oak Park: St. John's UMC** – *Faith In Action*

Contact Person – Darlene Rodriquez, [dmo623@yahoo.com](mailto:dmo623@yahoo.com)

This weekly drop-in program offers the community's homeless a safe place to connect for immediate help – a cup of coffee, a winter coat, toiletries, phone-access, community referrals. This church is part of the local PADS ministry and sees the need to extend the reach of PADS as part of the community safety net.

### 25. **Princeton: First** – *Our Table*

Contact Person – Tom Ostrander, [sailtogo@msn.com](mailto:sailtogo@msn.com)

A weekly supper program, *Our Table* offers a free, hot meal to all who come. In addition to helping families stretch their food budgets, the program also welcomes the lonely and alone for a time of community as they break bread.

### 26. **Sterling: Wesley UMC** – *Shepherd's Café*

Contact Person – Frank Rausa, [frankrausa@comcast.net](mailto:frankrausa@comcast.net)

The Shepherd's Café welcomes community residents, especially low income families to a midweek free, hot meal. The Café plans to open on the first Saturday of each month to host a Birthday Party for children (K-5). Working with local township and school personnel, families will be identified for participation. Last year the café served 800 adults and 225

children. The project uses the celebration of birthday milestones with younger children to model Christian hope and hospitality.

## Social Justice Ministries

### 27. Oswego: Church of the Good Shepherd – *Genesis Ministry*

Contact Person – Rob Rodriguez, [Romans.16@att.net](mailto:Romans.16@att.net)

Partnering with neighboring churches, the Genesis Program will offer weekly worship services and bible study at the Kendall County jail. Those founding this ministry see this opportunity to serve people often marginalized by society, and the ministry as a “new church” congregation where God’s grace can be experienced.

### 28. University Christian Ministry – *Christian-Hindu Students' Interfaith Cooperation Initiative*

Contact Person – Julie Windsor Mitchell, [revjulie@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:revjulie@u.northwestern.edu)

UCM joins the Hindu Students’ Interfaith Group “Om” to focus on Christian and Hindu faith learnings in this year’s global social justice ministry. UCM and Om students will travel to India next spring to work on local justice projects hosted by a Hindu Ashram. *UCM’s report on last year’s activity included this vignette: “This program is a long-term educational initiative intended to encourage students to work on social justice issues they feel passionate about. A UCM graduate (Class of 2010) who had been on 4 previous UCM trips, organized and led a trip to Guatemala for a local middle school church youth group. Through these trips and the witness of others, we hope that current students know the lasting impact of how they can make and really work toward bringing the kingdom of God to earth.”*

### 29. Zion: Memorial UMC – *Strangers No More*

Contact Person – Kwando Ntim, [pastor@mumczion.org](mailto:pastor@mumczion.org)

In collaboration with BENNU, a legal aid agency, this program offers education and low-cost legal consultations to immigrants. The program also seeks to promote tolerance and understanding toward immigrants in the community.

## Church Start & Turn-Arounds

### 30. Chicago: Resurrection UMC – *Saturday Night Live @The Rez*

Contact Person – Dwayne Grant, [mystrogrant@yahoo.com](mailto:mystrogrant@yahoo.com)

This edgy, contemporary worship service targets youth and young adults who are looking for non-traditional ways to experience God’s love and grace. The service launched in October 2010 and 60-100 join in weekly worship and praise.

### 31. Chicago: Urban Village Church – *Site #3 Launch: Andersonville*

Contact Person – Trey Hall, [trey@urbanvillage.org](mailto:trey@urbanvillage.org)

Urban Village continues to replicate its strategy to offer young adults a relevant relationship with God. Andersonville will be the third site for weekly worship and discipleship nurtured in small groups, using the models established in the West Loop and Wicker Park areas. *UV defines its ministry like this: “You are welcome here, just as you are. We are all invited to grow. Wherever we are on the journey of faith, whether seasoned seekers or brand-new believers, God calls us to go deeper, (and) the spiritual journey is better with traveling companions”.*

32. **Wheeling: Journey Community Church** – *2nd Site Launch*

Contact Person – Daniel Park, [danielpark@journeytogether.org](mailto:danielpark@journeytogether.org)

Journey launched ministry in April 2011 and plans a second worship site in the Evanston area during 2012. The church targets nominally religious young adults and will begin meeting in current members' homes as small groups dedicated to social action and community service. When critical mass reaches 50 persons, the site will officially "launch".

### Other

33. **Elgin: El Mesias UMC** – *Electrical upgrade*

Contact Person – Mario Mayer, [mariosmayer@gmail.com](mailto:mariosmayer@gmail.com)

This congregation worships in an aging building and has raised about one-third of the funds needed to upgrade the electrical power to the sanctuary. The upgrade will allow the use of fans and window air conditioners.

34. **Greater Chicago Broadcast Ministries** – *GCBM programs*

Contact Person – Lydia Talbot, [lydiatalbot631@earthlink.net](mailto:lydiatalbot631@earthlink.net)

In partnership with Chicago area churches, GCBM begins its 56<sup>th</sup> year of television broadcasting to amplify the church's voice of justice, peacemaking and community healing. The ministry offers a variety of religiously grounded programs, including Emmy award-winners *Different Drummer* and *Sanctuary*.

A Few Photos from Our Grantees



Disciples UMC Mobil Home Ministry



Neighborhood UMC Tutorial Program



Rochelle UMC After School Program



University Christian Ministry Work Camp



Urban Village Church



Trinity UMC Days Out Program