

United Methodist Community Ministries Quarterly Newsletter of the Capitol Area Districts

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Our Purpose is to assist congregations in doing outreach ministry in and with the community where God has called them to serve. We serve nine counties of central Ohio including, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Pickaway, and Union counties.

Our Goal is that every congregation becomes involved in life-changing, risk taking service for the transformation of the world, starting with our own local communities. To that end we offer training, hands-on opportunities, and Local Outreach Grants.

This quarterly update is provided to give congregations an opportunity to take advantage of all that our office as part of an effort to provide clear, accurate and updated communication. Please feel free to contact Director of the Capitol area Community Ministries at the district office, Beth Weisbrod for more information or specific details regarding anything in this issue.

Ministry Highlight

Water's Edge Ministry at Buckeye Lake has broken ground for a new addition to their facility. They will be able to increase their ministries with children and youth by adding an Upward Basketball Program for children in the community. Basketball is a great tool for discipleship and developing self esteem. Just ask Tom who was able to make the high school varsity basketball team because of the positive affirmation and support he got through Water's Edge Ministries. If you would like to send a team to help with the new addition call Bob Beyer or Carol Kirk at 740-323-4429 or send an email to jumc@prodigy.net (Jacksontown UMC).

Facilitating Partnerships

Our facilitators have been busy meeting with various churches in six counties to discern how they might partner in new ventures in outreach to their county or community. Here are some examples of recent gatherings:

Union County- north and south are uniting in Marysville to discuss creating a new ministry for the homeless

Marion County- churches across the county are coming together to provide handy helper ministries

Licking County- partnerships are forming in northwest Licking County (youth ministry) and Newark area- (homelessness)

Pickaway County- starting a Furniture Pantry

Grants

This is the season for working on your grant proposal, due July 7th. Go to our web-site,

www.umcommunityministries.org and click on 2010

Community Ministry Grant Application, then copy and paste the word document.

Attend a grant workshop or call us at 877-228-0521 for help. In our brochure you will see the 40 churches who are receiving a grant in 2009- contact them for info.

Training Updates

On April 30, **Understanding Homelessness and the Culture of Poverty** workshop was attended by 40 people from across the districts. The Coalition for the Homeless did a great simulation of homelessness which enabled participants to get a feel of what it's like to spend time on the street. We also learned a lot about the hidden rules of the middle class and poverty and the Circle program, led by Lou Seipel. Both presentations are available to be given in any county in the district. Let us know if you would be interested in a county wide event on Poverty/Homelessness.



UMCM Speakers' Bureau

We have created a list of 20 names of outreach ministry leaders and UMCM board members who are willing to travel across the district to tell the story. They are available for UMW, UMM, Youth, Sunday School and Sunday morning worship. We also have six power point presentations from a variety of rural and urban ministries in the Capitol Area Districts. Contact us to get a copy of these individuals who are ready to serve in all capacities.

Outreach Ministry Consulting

Call us to set up a time for a visit with your outreach/mission committee, leadership team etc as you discern how to reach out in your local community. We can help you with visioning, finding resources/grants, finding volunteers etc.

Networking Local Church Resources

We are beginning a process of connecting local churches with each other in finding resources and people to help them reach out. We plan to hire a mission intern in the fall to oversee this networking tool. Stay tuned for more details!

Connecting with Community Groups

We can help you connect with schools, agencies, hospitals and other groups in your community as you map the assets and potential partners you can work with in creating a new outreach ministry. They will likely be very excited at the ways you are reaching out!

Upcoming Events:

Annual Community Ministry Festival and Mission Fair, September 22, 2009 at North Broadway UMC in Columbus

Theme: Expanding Community Circles of HOPE. Cost \$10

We will celebrate all the new partnering happening across counties, cultures, age, race, religious affiliations etc. We promise a great meal, great inspirational speakers, dancers, music, displays etc.

For more information log onto www.umcommunityministries.org.
Send us an email at bethweisbrod@wocumc.org, or call 877-228-0521.