

2020.07.01 – 2021.06.30 Circles of Care Ministries Report

“Outreach and Justice”

We thank God for all those who have been engaged in Circles of Care ministries; from the membership of Sanctuary UCC as well as thousands of community members and hours invested in our effort to “*feed those who are hungry, clothe those who are naked, and spread love and justice to all.*”

The following report reflects our financial and spiritual mission efforts.

Sanctuary UCC is a 5 for 5 UCC Church and have donated through our mission commitment to:

- UCC One Mission Fund (formerly referred to as OCWM/Denominational Dues) in the amount of \$ 2837.34;
- Neighbors in Need (NIN) in the amount of \$ 226.18;
- The Christmas Fund in the amount of \$ 200.00;
- Strengthen the Church in the amount of \$ 200.00, and
- One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) in the amount of \$ 200.00

Sanctuary Discretionary Mission Grants reflect our commitment to a minimum of 10% of our revenue to outward facing mission. This year discretionary grants were awarded to:

- In recognition of Juneteenth and in the spirit of making reparations, the outreach team determined to donate our discretionary grants to local organizations that are invested in Black freedom and liberation and antiracism; and made gifts in June 2021 as follows:
 - West Medford Community Center in the amount of \$ 400.00
 - The Royall House and Slave Quarters in the amount of \$ 400.00
 - The Mystic Valley NAACP in the amount of 283.36
- We also made a congregational gift of 1250.00 to the legal expenses of an immigrant family facing deportation (through the pastor's discretionary fund and business expenses)
- In addition to the discretionary grants, Sanctuary also donated an annual budgeted gift of 500.00 to City Mission, Boston.
- Sanctuary also raised money and distributed \$ 250.00 of holiday gifts cards for Medford Teens living in Medford Housing for the third year.

Sanctuary's Fiduciary and Administrative Support of Mission Organizations continued as we facilitated and supported Safe Medford, Medford Overcoming Addiction, and Mobilize Medford (which also benefits our budget through a percentage of fundraising retained).

Sanctuary's Food Ministries - Pandemic conditions kept us from physically participating in the bi-monthly Bread of Life Meals, quarterly Outdoor Church Sandwiches, and annual Meals for Medford packing event (with Tufts FOCUS and other partners). Nonetheless Sanctuary was able to serve in the following ways through these and other food distribution programs:

- **Bread of Life** – with the leadership of Julie Roberts and Charlene Carle and the support of many members and friends, we deliver a carload of “backpack ready” foods each month for the BOL people to pack and distribute to the client that typically came for a meal three times a week. Watch for news about going back to “make” the meals and meet new friends!
- **Outdoor Church Sandwiches** – City of Cambridge worked with restaurants to provide meals to those served by Outdoor Church. Watch for news about making sandwiches again for Outdoor Church!

- **Meals for Medford** – the joint program of fundraising and meal packing with Tufts FOCUS was cancelled in 2020, but plans are afoot to bring the program back this summer! Meanwhile The Outreach Meal Project continued to safely pack meals in their warehouse and Sanctuary was recipient of approximately 40,000 servings/meals which were distributed through the micropantries and other food distribution sites;
- **Medford Food Security** This year saw a huge increase in need and a significant increase in community commitment to food security through many programs. We raised over 10,000 for food this past year and spent 6,300 so will have 3500.00 in seed money for this year’s food mission. These are the places we served:
 - Micropantry mission, which now numbers 17 pantries (with 2 more to be installed by September) has grown exponentially through the past 18 months, Needless to say the pandemic left many more people food insecure while the visibility and engagement of the pantries through our leadership has made them more visible and used even more. Most of the pantries need to be filled more than once per day and the community shows up to do so!
 - Our social and web based micro pantry mission helps to guide and support all who are involved in the mission;
 - Our food mission also included (with the help of Hillside’s annual Thanksgiving Food Drive) a huge Thanksgiving food pantry and over one-hundred \$25.00 stop and shop gift cards distributed at the holidays and beyond;
 - Free Organic Summer Vegetable distribution through Plough and Stars partnership;
 - Rev. Wendy serves on the Medford Food Security Task force which is working to develop a Food Policy Council as a permanent organization to consider equity and access in food security for our city.

Sanctuary and Hillside’s Leadership in Social Justice and Racial Reckoning

- Organize with Mobilize Medford / Movement for Black Lives – Antiracist Education Rally at Dugger Park with 300 people
- Organize and Deliver Black History and Culture (6) Film Series with Crystal Chandler for 40 people
- Organize and Deliver How to Be an Antiracist Book Study for 60 people
- Organize and Deliver Caste Book Study Group for 20 people
- Rev. Wendy and Aaron Olapade (Medford Health Matters) leads Big Table series and Community Conversation on Resilience, Racial Reckoning, and Restoration (ongoing) for 300 people
- Rev. Wendy facilitates Strategic Planning Process for Safe Medford for 25 people
- Rev. Wendy initiates Strategic Planning and Antiracist Structural work for Medford Health Matters as board president

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