



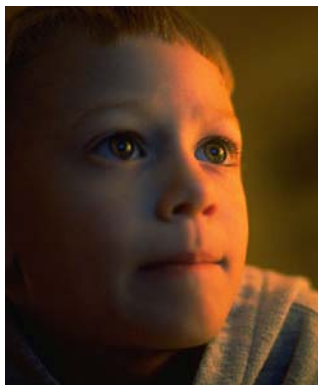
GRANTS & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

STRATEGIC STEWARDSHIP GRANTS

The recently reestablished Grants and Financial Assistance Ministry of the United Methodist Foundation of New England (UMFNE) has the goal of funding strategic stewardship initiatives. In keeping with UMFNE's vision, grants are intended to support ministries and projects that have positive systemic impact, and which provide a significant catalyst for stewardship growth. UMFNE grants are made in a variety of creative ways including matching or challenge grants, scholarships or direct aid.

With support from UMFNE's Board of Directors, "Friends of the Foundation" and the G. Neil Harper Endowment for Grants & Financial Assistance, we have been able to make some initial grants. As you read the following stories, we invite you to celebrate and join with us as we invest in hands-on ministry and strategic stewardship endeavors.

Combating Rural Poverty – 2009



The *United Methodist Economic Ministry* (UMEM) in Salem, ME has served rural western Maine (upper Appalachia) for forty years. Through their mission teams they have helped with a thrift store, employment for small businesses (furniture stripping, local handicrafts), property needs and emergency services. A strategic grant from UMFNE was used for staffing needs that helped implement a new business that marketed local handiwork and "re-purposed" donations (e.g. sweaters into gloves, fabric into blankets, etc.) to support the community and the economy.

UMFNE continues to support this ministry and has assisted the UMEM Board of Directors to establish an endowment policy and launch an endowment development campaign to broaden and expand the ministry and to grow and strengthen their funding base.

Teaching Philanthropy - 2009

Seeking to develop a stronger financial base for their tutoring program, the *Brockton Church & Community After-School Program* (BCCAP Brockton, MA) requested a matching grant from UMFNE to challenge individual donors to step up their support. In less than a month they were able to identify a new donor and another small award supported start-up supplies for the program.

BCCAP already receives support from local churches and other philanthropic agencies, however, their long-term goal is to strengthen relationships and solidify their finances. BCCAP's Advisory Board invited committed supporters to an Afternoon Tea where UMFNE staff facilitated a planned giving consultation. Nine women attended the event, shared their stories and reviewed information about wills, gift, annuities and donor-designated funds. Excited about these creative philanthropic options, the women are generating new ideas for supporting this ministry.





Connecting with Allies in the Community - 2009-2010

In Providence, RI, the *Open Table of Christ* is a pilot project for church transformation. Engaged in significant community outreach, services and activities, *Open Table* wants to conduct a quality “Allied Campaign” to expand their funding base beyond pledges from church members. Reviewing both personal and organizational allies in the community through relationship networks, they are working on a campaign that would broaden community support, income opportunities and other resources.

UMFNE grant funds for this project will support leadership, professional services that could lead to the creation of a future model for other urban ministries. *Open Table* plans to share the effects and lessons from this project with UMFNE and with other congregations.



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Training for Personal Finances - 2009

In 2009, the pastor of Hannah Tenney and Pleasant Street UMCs in Salem, NH, offered the *Good \$ense - Freed Up Financial Living* seminar for their community. *Good \$ense* is a valuable financial resource that teaches biblical principles and offers practical tools for honoring God with the use of our money. This training helps families and individuals to become “diligent earners, generous givers, wise savers, cautious debtors and prudent consumers.”

An invitation to *Good \$ense* was extended to four United Methodist congregations and was advertised in the local community newspaper and food pantry. Seven families attended the training: four from within the congregations and three from the community/food pantry. Attendees appreciated the practical financial lessons they received and were grateful to learn the steps of how to gain control of their present financial reality.

Though they will conduct the seminar again in the future, the ongoing plan is to offer this course as take-home curriculum and advertise its availability through the local food pantry and clergy communication lists. UMFNE was pleased to offer a rebate for those who needed help to offset the cost of the materials for this life-changing event.

Please consider supporting these and other ministries and projects by giving to UMFNE's Grants & Financial Assistance Ministry. You may donate online at www.umfne.org or mail your gifts to: UMFNE, Attn: Grants Program, PO Box 370, Hampstead, NH 03841-0370