

Community Mission Grants 2010

The Mission & Social Justice Division of Heartland Presbytery has extended \$500.00 Community Mission Grants to each of the following six applicants:

1. **THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF KANSAS CITY**

The Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas is an interfaith organization of older adults whose purpose is to help provide people with opportunities for finding greater meaning in life after retirement, and to provide a network of supportive services for older adults. The Shepherd's Center provides 15 services that reach more than 1,200 people, focusing on Health Enrichment, Education and Home Services.

2. **LOAVES & FISHES OF ATCHISON**

Loaves & Fishes of Atchison is an ecumenical ministry of seven churches in our community who have come together to see that hot meals are distributed to those who are otherwise unable to obtain nutritious meals on the weekend. We serve people who are homebound, who have recently returned from the hospital, who are disabled, and a variety of others who are unable to prepare food for themselves. Most of these people receive food during the week from organizations who do not deliver food on weekends. First Presbyterian Church of Atchison provides the administrative and logistical support for this ministry while each church in turn takes a Saturday to prepare and deliver food to about 70 clients.

3. **THE LAND INSTITUTE**

The Land Institute over 33 years has produced a flow of ideas and practices for a new agricultural concept. We have published the idea, vetted it broadly, established its feasibility, and promoted it. We found funds to support the plant breeding of first-ever perennial grain prototypes with the ability to live for many years and the potential for high yields through genetic improvement. The ancestors of what will someday be recognized by farmers worldwide as perennial wheat, grain sorghum, and sunflowers are currently flourishing in our greenhouse and research fields.

4. **ARGENTINE AMIGOS**

The Argentine Amigo program serves neighborhood Hispanic children in an after school program. We seek to offer the children a safe, nurturing environment. Much of our programming enriches the community involvement of the children and heightens their awareness of empowerment.

5. **SWOPE CORRIDOR RENAISSANCE/UPPER ROOM, INC.**

Swope Corridor Renaissance/Upper Room, Inc. provides high quality education programs for low income families in the urban core of Kansas City. A 2008 evaluation of our Summer Academic Camp by Johns Hopkins University found that the average student in our eight-week program gained one full academic year in reading.

6. FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

The Fuller Center of Kansas City seeks partnerships within our communities that bring together churches, schools, businesses and civic organizations to build decent, affordable homes for people who are unable to secure adequate housing by conventional means. Under the guidance of the Fuller Center for Housing, the Fuller Center Kansas City works in partnership with other service-oriented organizations and countless volunteers to build and repair homes. All homeowners work hand-in-hand with volunteers to build their own homes, which are then sold to them on terms they can afford – based on no-profit, no-interest loans. With some smaller renovation projects, an innovative payment program, called “The Greater Blessing Program” is utilized, whereby recipients promise to repay the loan amount without an actual mortgage agreement. They decide the monthly amount they can afford to repay and the period of time that it will take to repay the cost of repairs. There is no legal obligation to repay these loans. It is a leap of faith in the basic goodness of humankind and is proving to be very successful.