

# Beyond Band-Aids Report

One outcome of the Beyond Band-Aid cluster meetings earlier this summer was the responses to:

**"What are some things your Congregation is currently doing in response to poverty and poverty-related issues?"**

## **Alcohol and Drug Prevention Treatment; HIV/AIDS Prevention and**

- Numerous churches host Alcoholics Anonymous chapters in their facility throughout the week. Learn more about AA: <http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org/>

## **Nurturing Healthy Families, Healthy Marriages and Support Systems for Parents and Seniors**

- An example of our quiet ministry: we have a small supply of wheelchairs, walkers, crutches that are made available on an as-needed basis. [Burton]
- We support Community Women's Shelter—the Adopt-a-Shelter Program. Contact is Rev. Tricia Gilbert, 216-479-0020; website: <http://www.charityadvantage.com/mhs/MHSHome.asp> (Archwood-- Learn more about their ministry at: <http://www.geocities.com/~archwooducc/>)
- We have people in our congregation who provide assistance to people working through the process of applications and forms for support services. (Olmsted Community—Learn more about their ministry at: <http://olmstedcommunitychurch.org>)
- We have a mentoring program where a volunteer will work with a family for up to six months in budgeting, finding resources, helping with school problems and getting health care. (Olmsted Community)
- We volunteer at the senior center to provide transportation services for seniors. (Brecksville—Learn more about their ministry at: <http://www.brecksvilleucc.org/>)

## **Prisoner Re-Entry/Ex-Offenders and At-Risk Court Involved**

- No responses in the focus group sessions

## **Youth Programs – Nurturing the Development of the Next Generation**

- Our church has sponsored a youth drop-in center with a coordinator in place. Helps youth with linking to local resources. [Amherst Congregational]
- We assemble school supply and clothing packages for needy students—to be distributed at the school. We identify needy students and the needed supplies through our contacts with the schools. [Burton]
- Kids from the neighborhood have begun showing up on Sunday mornings on their own with no parent or guardian. We make them feel welcome and we have people available to partner with them. [Pilgrim—Learn more about their ministry at <http://www.pilgrimalive.org/>]
- We have a "Love a child" program where the church buys clothes for specific children.
- We provide scholarships to nursery school [Olmsted Community]
- We have volunteers who work at local schools. [Burton]

## **Hunger and Homeless Centers/Shelters and Relater Events**

- We networked with contractors and skilled workers within our community to literally rebuild a house for someone in our congregation. It was like our own private “Habitat” project. There are also other Greater Cleveland area Habitat programs to learn about at: <http://www.gchfh.org/> [Huntsburg].
- We have a “Food Cupboard” that is connected with the Cleveland Food Bank. Clients are sent to us on a referral basis. Referrals are made via the Chardon Info Line [the # is 211] . The Info Line is part of the United Way in our county. Learn more about the Cleveland Food Bank at: <http://www.clevelandfoodbank.org/> [Burton]
- We can quickly put out a call to everyone for donation of furniture or appliances. People pull together to meet a need. [Burton and Huntsburg]
- We have “Good Samaritan Dinners” monthly. These are used to raise funds, and the funds are distributed to various agencies in the community based on need. [Burton]
- Working at the Thrift Shop—St. Paul’s, 45th & Franklin, Cleveland [ Amherst Congregational]
- Our church has sponsored a youth drop-in center with a coordinator in place. Helps youth with linking to local resources [ Amherst Congregational]
- A “Blanket Sunday” where we bring in blankets or contribute to a fund to purchase them for a homeless shelter. A “Souper Bowl”—bringing canned goods to church.
- We have a “food barrel” for people in need.
- We give to “Love, Inc” to help people pay utility bills [ Amherst Congregational]
- Sign-up sheets for Easter and Christmas gift baskets. Christmas gifts for children—purchased for a specific child and delivered to Good Shepherd Church for distribution [ Amherst Congregational]
- Through our Social Concerns Committee we are actively involved in: Local Food Pantry, Youth programs for 12-18 year old youth, HIV/AIDS awareness issues, and we support programs that address concerns for housing. [ Amherst Congregational]
- We have the Bradley Fund—it’s a fund to use of immediate “knock on the door” needs
- We’re a daytime Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) center. As part of that we have a phone bank, a few computers, homeless can use the church as a mail-drop. We’re trying to expand the IHN network of churches [Pilgrim]. Learn more about IHN at: <http://www.nihn.org/>
- We’re doing an Adopt a Shelter program where we volunteer at the location or we do workshops at our church. These are coordinated with Volunteers of America. Learn more at <http://www.voa-nenc-ohio.org/> [Pilgrim].
- We encourage people to bring a can of food for donation—and taped to the can is \$1 bill.
- Once a month our youth help at a food kitchen.
- Our church belongs to Northern Ohio Alliance for Hope (NOAH), an advocacy group. [First Congregational, Lorain—Learn more about their ministry at <http://www.uccwebsites.net/firstconglorainoh.html>]
- We support Church Street Ministries see: <http://www.berea-ucc.org/csm.htm> with clothing, furniture, food and money donations. [Church of the Redeemer, West Park—Learn more about their ministries at <http://redeemerucc.net/> and at <http://westparkucc.org/>]
- We have a “Thrift Shop” and the profits go to missions of the wider church. [West Park]
- A number of us work at a hunger center once a week. [West Park]
- We have a twice a year food drive.
- The Newbury food cupboard is addressing a growing need. Learn more at the Newbury UCC website: <http://newburyucc.org/community.htm>
- The Geauga appliance co-op is a UCC program where used appliances are refurbished and delivered by former prisoners. Learn more at the Newbury UCC website: <http://newburyucc.org/community.htm>
- Habitat for Humanity Program in Chagrin Falls Park—a low income housing development. [Bainbridge]

- “The Christmas in April” project is a national program where the congregation searches out a project such as painting a house and then provides the effort to do that. Learn more about it at: <http://www.christmasinaction.org/>
- The Food Bank—serves 2 days per week and receives referrals from United Way and other churches. Learn more about Greater Cleveland United Way: <http://www.uws.org/>
- We help Middlefield United Methodist Church that serves a community meal each month and delivers to shut-ins. 150-200 meals are served each month.
- Good Samaritan Fund at Newbury and Old South receives referrals from County Department of Human Services and helps with emergency needs.
- We support Project Hope for the Homeless—it’s an ecumenical shelter. See: <http://www.projecthopeonline.org/> [Bainbridge]
- We create Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for families. We have found that school bus drivers can be a great source of referrals.
- We have an “Adopt a Family” effort at the holidays.
- We’re part of the Chagrin Valley Council of Churches that collects food and money to support a food bank and a sojourners fund for folks passing through town. Pastors are linked to this to provide the best support and to watch for abuse. [Bainbridge]
- Food and gas vouchers are available at the church to help people with transportation needs.
- We support the Brookside Hunger Center which is part of the West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM). See: <http://wsem.org/>
- We participate in “Manna From Heaven,” an organization serving the homeless men’s shelter at E. 21st and Lakeside. [Imani]
- We participate in the “Loaves and Fishes” ministry at Calvary. [Faith]
- We help serve Thanksgiving meals with St. James.

### **Jobs and Economic Opportunities**

A section of our bulletin board is used to post notices about job opportunities. It’s a place where people can network about jobs. [Burton]

### **Engagement/Partnerships with Political and Service Organizations within the Community; Events Involving the Local Community**

- Developing and keeping strong local networks. Doing effective work requires strong personal ties with service providers in our immediate area. There are some great organizations here: Women-Safe: see <http://www.womensafe.net/> Child and Family Services, Child Advocate Network: see <http://www.childadvocate.net/> There is a county task force that can be a source of information for us. It’s a great point for networking. [Burton]
- We work with others in our “program district,” the Geauga Cooperative. This is a great source for networking and working together on these needs.
- We have developed packets to give to those who come to us asking for help. The packets provide information about available services. [West Park]
- Church Street Ministries provides information and advocacy by connecting people with agencies, organizations and people who can support them. [West park]
- As part of renewing our ministry we are working toward a strategy of strengthening our ties to the community. Part of this vision is to host community events and nurture

community partnerships. [Redeemer] Learn more about a model for community engagement at: <http://communitypartnership.us/>