



# HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Through your generous gift today, you strengthen community outreach and empower at-risk youth.



Courtesy Photo: Cheryl Reagan

“Being a community developer gives me the opportunity to live my faith and help my church connect with the community.”

– CHERYL REAGAN, COMMUNITY DEVELOPER, WESLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, SAN DIEGO



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## YOUR GIFT HELPS CARE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Lifelong United Methodist Cheryl Reagan set out to be an ordained elder, earning a Master of Divinity degree in 2010. But she soon found herself in a different role as the community developer for Wesley United Methodist Church in San Diego. Her parish – Wesley Community Services Center – consists of Hispanic and Somali immigrants in one of the poorest areas of this city of 1.4 million.

"Our community is very diverse," says Reagan, whose days are devoted to meeting a variety of needs. Clients/guests receive prepared, hot meals three days a week at The Co-Op Cafe and visit the Patio Pantry for a bag of food and basic necessities. Think Dignity offers showers, and a free clinic addresses other concerns. Patient-advocacy services accompany people through the health-care system.

Reagan believes she is exactly where God wants her to be. "I found my true calling to be more active with people in the neighborhood," she says. "Every day is different. Often, when we don't know how a problem will be solved, God provides a donor or a volunteer with just the right skills to help us."

She loves the way the community owns this ministry, supported by United Methodist gifts on Human Relations Day.

"Though they may not attend worship or Bible study," Reagan says, "many of our client/guests speak of Wesley as 'my church' and clearly have developed important relationships here. People don't just come for food or showers. They also come because it's safe and they feel welcome and cared for. This is vital to me."

YOUR GIFT TODAY MATTERS

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