



Episcopal
Community
Services

Diocese
of Northern
California

Side by Side

Serving Christ by Serving Others

2012-2013

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Serving Christ by Serving Others

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the title says, Episcopal Community Services (ECS) is in the business of helping congregations to serve Christ by serving others. We hope that this booklet will give you an idea of breadth and scope of ministry that is happening in our diocese and inspire you to develop an outreach program in your congregation.

Just to recap some statistics between 2002 and 2009 ECS granted a total of \$250,455 to congregations for their outreach ministry. These funds came out of our Ministry Development Fund and the Anita Weaver Funds for indigent elderly in the Sacramento area. In addition ECS was instrumental in receiving a substantial HUD grant for the Faith Works Project in Redding and a \$20,000 grant from a Federal Healthy Relationships project. Since 2009 we have given away about another \$130,000 in grant money. The funded projects include Homeless Assistance, congregation based food programs, senior help, interns from LEAVN for outreach work, community organizing and various kinds of Health Ministry projects. There have also been several grants from a fund in honor of Bishop Jerry and Jane Lamb for youth projects in and outside the diocese.

The churches receiving grants include over 20 congregations of every size, ranging from Crescent City to Sacramento to Mount Shasta to Paradise. Outreach does not depend on size or financial abilities, but on hearts for justice and mercy and a willingness to serve others. All this would not happen without the support of the whole Diocese.

We are dependent upon donations which go 100% to helping develop congregational based programs and trainings. With your support we will be able to continue the same level of grant funding. Technical assistance can also be offered, especially by people involved in these successful programs.

Requests for 2013 grant proposals are available on our website or by email as of April 26, 2013. Grant deadline is May 24. We look forward to your requests for help with programs for your mission as Jesus' hands and feet in the world around you. ECS stands ready to help you in your mission to the least, the lost and the needy.

Many blessings,

The Board of Episcopal Community Services
The Rev. Lucretia Jevne; President

St. Alban's, Arcata

Living Water Summer Camp



Our camp is one week, ending July 20th, with the 21st a cleanup day and a glorious day rafting on the Trinity River for some staff and counselors.

Camp was very successful this year! All volunteers except the Camp Director (with a \$400 honorarium) it is always a challenge to have

adult volunteers (14), and teenage counselors (7) in place. We had 33 campers, ages 9-15. Camp Living Waters is the only youth ministry on the North Coast, with the exception of the arts and music half-day camp at Christ Church for younger children. We so much appreciate the support from ECS.



St. Paul's, Benicia

Community Hot Meal Bring Kitchen Up to Code

As written in our application for a 2012 ECS grant, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Benicia, on behalf of the St. Paul's Community Meal program, funds were requested to continue to upgrade and move our historical kitchen closer to code as required by the State of California. Our hope was to replace our aging wood cabinets with stainless steel cabinets and add stainless steel panels for the walls behind the cabinets, as required by the Solano County Health department for a food prep area.



With the monies provided by the grant, we have indeed replaced the cabinets and added the steel panels behind the cabinets. We also added some guards above the cabinets to use for storage and a couple of stainless steel shelves have been hung. We still need to replace some wood shelving but hope to do that in the future after more fundraising.

With the grant money provided, St. Paul's kitchen continues to move toward code compliancy and a safer and more efficient work space as we provide healthy meals each week to those in need.



St. Luke's, Calistoga

Hearts and Hands



In 2003 St. Luke's, Calistoga was approached by parents who had a need for a preschool for working families. With the help of Episcopal Community Services, especially the work of the then executive director to help with the extensive organization necessary, it was developed as the only all day, year round preschool in

Calistoga. It serves a mixed population that reflects the population of Calistoga.

The support from the surrounding community has been monumental particularly in the area of providing scholarships for those who most need preschool but cannot afford it.

Over the years its success has been due to the dedication of the teachers, the support of the community and congregation, and ECS in providing advice, help and some funding. In 2011 the preschool was finally able to incorporate as its own 501(c)3 with the name: "Hearts and Hands Preschool, Inc., ECS aided in this process with the help of a board member who acted as the lawyer for the process and with funds to complete the process.



St. Paul's, Crescent City

Assistance Program & Preparation Shelter

The ECS grant was a huge thing for St. Paul's. We do what we do because it is an extension of, witness to, and enactment of core Gospel values of loving service to our neighbors, but having ECS's support re-energized us, and makes it possible for us to do what we do better, more efficiently, and with a view toward expansion. One thing we have only just started to explore is working with the United Methodist congregation in Crescent City to put on a second dinner each month. They do not have a commercial kitchen, but they do have skills, talent, and interest. The discussion so far is that they might be interested in doing a dinner at St. Paul's each month if we mentor them, and assist them, with the goal that eventually they would be on their own, but using our facility to reach out to the community in a similar way. This means that in addition to running our own outreach dinners, we may become mentors, advisors, and supporters of another group in their outreach work, to the benefit of the community. It is one thing to put on a dinner, and a different, but related, skill to mentor others as they learn how to plan and carry out their own outreach meal.



Diocesan Deacons

Equipping Deacons for Community Organizing



Two grants were awarded to the Archdeacon; to aid in the formation of a ministry development community in Semper Virens Deanery and to give grants to deaconal postulants to attend community organizing training. So far, two postulants have taken

advantage of the training grants and will be ordained on June 8th. In Semper Virens, three congregations have begun a ministry to the native American residents of Humboldt County, are teaching sustainable gardening, and are planning outreach in the Pelican Bay State Prison.

They were able to leverage this seed money and obtain a foundation grant for community development of an additional \$7000. This emphasis on ministry and formation in the area has so far lead to 1 postulant for the diaconate, and 5 more people preparing for a discernment weekend.



Christ Church, Eureka

Children's Music Program



Last summer, for two weeks, twenty-nine children made joyful noise at Eureka's Christ Church Music and Arts Camp. The happy campers, entering first through sixth grades, spent their time exploring music, dance, voice, drama and art. This three-year old day camp targets underserved area youngsters.

An Episcopal Community Services grant was vital in making the camp a reality. Church members, teachers and the Redwood Community Action Agency also made contributions. The project team has regularly expressed gratitude for the donor's generosity.

Hands-on experience prevails at the camp. All the kids have a turn playing the organ and piano. Music making extends to rhythm, ukuleles, and singing. The good vibrations continue with dance and movement. Who wouldn't be enthused when creating music and beauty?

Art encompasses an, anyone can do it format. Personal expression begins with self-designed T-shirts. As a follow-up to a visit to the local museum, the teachers talk about artistic styles. Then, prepared drawings are painted or colored according to the vision of each budding artist.

A celebration best describes the Open House on the final day. There is a display of the camper's artwork and group singing. The finale is a luncheon. More than eighty family and friends demonstrated their pride in the children, and the Music and Arts Camp by attending.

Shepherd by the Sea, Gualala

Food Bank of Gualala



We greatly appreciate the \$1500 grant we received from Episcopal Community Services to aid the Gualala Food Bank. We offer twice-monthly food distributions from the Gualala Baptist Church to the residents of our small community. We receive a monthly shipment

of commodities from the USDA, based on the number of recipients in the previous month. We supplement this food in the following ways:

- A volunteer (either I or another member of Shepherd by the Sea) drives to Santa Rosa to pick up food at low cost from the stocks of the Redwood Empire Food Bank.
- The day of each distribution, we pick up food from the two supermarkets in town — day-old bread, recently expired or soon to expire dairy and other products.
- Congregation and community members regularly donate food. The Catholic church makes a special point of donating cereal.

We have a good turnout of volunteers from Shepherd by the Sea, and several community members also help out at each distribution. One of our recipients is an active and invaluable. The local Community Resources Center provides free rides by volunteers to recipients who require transportation.

The grant has helped fund the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables (at a reduced cost) from a local market for each distribution. These are much appreciated by our recipients. We are also exploring with the Gualala Baptist Church the purchase of a small storage building. The storage room we are using for the Food bank contains shelving, and refrigerator and a freezer. It's a great storage area, but it is the only storage area available in the church, and whenever there is a special event, such as vacation bible school, the church needs to move furniture into the food bank storage area, which has often proved very inconvenient.

St. John's, Marysville

Food, Clothing and Outreach

Food. Clothing. Shelter. If someone in Marysville is having a hard time meeting these fundamental needs, St. John's is the place to go for help. Their Community Food Shelf has been extending a hand since 1970. The need for assistance continues and dedicated volunteers strive to meet the demand.

In 2011, the Food Shelf team started providing a free lunch once a month. Sandwiches were served in summer and heartier fare in the winter. With the assistance of a grant from Episcopal Community Services, the program, dubbed Loaves and Britches, is expanding.

Warm hats, gloves and socks were always a staple from the Food Shelf. Now, with help of the ECS grant, a full scale clothes closet complete with proper shelving and hanging racks can provide suitable apparel for those in need. The grant also enabled St. John's to stock personal hygiene items. This initiative has raised awareness of the needs of homeless people in the Marysville-Yuba City area. Donations and volunteers outside St. John's congregation have been attracted to the program.

St. John's, partnering with St. James of Jerusalem in Yuba City, participates in the Regional Emergency Shelter Team (REST) and provides food and shelter for one week in January and again in March.

They are a small congregation, but the commitment to ease the pain of those less fortunate is immense. St. John's performs in the highest tradition of the Church.

St. John's, Marysville 'Loaves & Britches' Clothes Closet

**Awaiting new shelves
and storage.**



St. Barnabas, Mount Shasta

Senior Rides, Driver's Fuel Costs Reimbursement

Faith-Filled Drivers



Grateful Passengers



St. Nicholas, Paradise

Loaves and Fishes Meals

St. Nicholas recognized a need to train cooks for their Loaves and Fishes ministry. A 2012 grant from Episcopal Community Services supported classes for about 25 trainees per month. Not only were volunteers trained, but so were people who receive food from their Blessing Basket Pantry. Volunteers from the community were attracted to the classes and many have subsequently attended services. A bonus all congregations appreciate through outreach activity.

A meaningful aspect of the classes has been on-the-job training to prepare people to become self-sustaining. This program came through collaboration with Butte County Work Experience Center. One of these students will be certified, train others and prepare meals through the summer.

This project has been a win-win-win for St. Nicholas. A talent base for meal preparation has expanded, all volunteer cooks have elevated their skills in planning and preparation and their church family has grown. The frosting on the cake is that their program is creating opportunity for employment.

AND THEN . . .

Sometimes Episcopal Community Services encounters a situation that reminds us that sometimes we must act to “keep the lights on,” or at least provide assistance to operate a project efficiently.

Such was the case with St. Nicholas’ Loaves and Fishes program. They were receiving more perishables than they could store properly. To avoid waste, they were giving large amounts of produce to other churches in the community and even to parishioners. Then, sometimes they found that they had to buy supplies in a few days to fill a short fall.

The project team approached ECS for assistance in submitting an out-of-cycle grant proposal. Their ECS mentor helped them through the process and an award was granted to purchase a commercial refrigerator.

Loaves and Fishes is now able to serve approximately 1500 meals per month and provide 89 Blessing Baskets per month to families in many more cost effective and efficient ways.

Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa

Open Tables Ministry

The hungry and needy in Santa Rosa find a nutritious meal and a warm welcome at Church of the Incarnation's Open Table. An Episcopal Community Services grant assisted this ministry in providing food safety training for nineteen volunteers who in turn train others. Open Table also hands out street kits in backpacks to the newly homeless. The 2012 grant aided in this effort as well.



Open Table volunteers are getting aprons with their nicknames emblazoned on them. They have discovered that as they “work the tables” serving juice or water, displaying their names makes it easier to learn the names of the regular guests. Relaxed conversation encourages guests to ask for what they need and to inquire about community resources they may seek. The project team believes this friendly interaction explains why they have had no misbehavior when helping their unfortunate guests.

The street kits have personal hygiene items and the group maintains a clothes closet. They have several amusing anecdotes to share about outfitting their guests. There are also some street volunteers who make certain their community members get what they need to survive.



Incarnation's members strongly support this ministry. Some seventy members have volunteered to support the program and they contribute



St. Matthew's, Sacramento

Deacon & Intern Support

At St. Matthews, the focus is on outreach. Although a very small congregation in a very poor area of Sacramento, St. Matthews is bustling with activity; Food pantry, parenting classes, clothes closet, after school fitness and nutrition programs, language classes, health check-ups and referrals, and training and empowering people to learn new skills to not only help themselves, but to turn around and help others. In fact members of the local community who were once (and may still be) recipients of the services at St. Matthews form the largest group of workers at their many programs. There are also parishioners, AmeriCorps members, and nursing students. As you can imagine, coordinating all this activity is a lot of work! Two grants from ECS helped provide a small stipend to the program director, and support an intern through the Lutheran Episcopal Volunteer Network.



One of the children who participate in Fit Kids after school program is 9 years old and has been a participant since last year. The child's family has reported to us that she has had a big impact on the way they do things. She began bringing home recipes from the children's cooking class which is a part of the program, and asking her mom to cook with her. Then she started encouraging her older sister and mom to exercise more. They decided to join in the Zumba and kick boxing classes offered at the church and over the past year have become much healthier and energetic. The entire family was impacted by what the child learned. The child was chosen as the poster child for the Sacramento area United Way Drive in 2012!

A woman who first came to the Food Closet 3 years ago was homeless, transgender, a long term survivor of violent abuse which resulted in brain injuries, unkempt, demanding and in general a person who many steered clear of. Over time the people of St. Matthew's Church and all involved in our Community Resource Center have grown to love and respect her. In fact, they set the example for any others who might come with less welcoming attitudes. She comes every day to help in her own ways with the health outreach and food closet. She is the one who can be found crushing packing boxes and setting up tables. She is an unofficial greeter who will gladly speak to anyone and direct them where they can get the help they have come seeking. She is the one who says she never felt welcome in a church before and who on Sunday serves as an intercessor- praying for all in need. Her story embodies what we seek to share — the love of God for every individual.

Trinity, Sutter Creek

Support for Faith Community's Help for Suicide and Depression Programs

Trinity Health Ministries has a mission "to help people care for one another and live life more abundantly in body, mind and spirit." A crucial need is preparing faith communities to address suicide prevention. Recent statistics from the State of California rank Amador County as 8th highest in suicide rates.

Trinity has entered into a partnership with Amador County Behavioral Health Department and other churches to establish a training program to gear Faith Lay Leaders and Clergy in the county toward providing support to troubled residents. The two programs selected for training are Mental Health First Aid (building skills for assessment and urgent intervention in a variety of mental health challenges), and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

A fundamental agreement among the stakeholders was that in order to help those who are troubled or desperate, it is critical to be balanced oneself. *The Living Compass Program* was the vehicle proposed by Trinity Health. With funding from Episcopal Community Services two 6-week Support Group sessions were provided as well as one 4-week Living Compass Educational Program.

With a prepared cadre in place, the community is ready to proceed with implementation of the ASIST and Mental Health First Aid programs. To enhance the program, a workshop, Morning of Hope, an exploration of depression and grief, will be presented.

In order to insure that mental health and suicide prevention efforts are sustained in the community, Trinity Health Ministries plans to expand a Counseling Scholarship Fund for Amador County.



**LIVING
COMPASS™**
heart . soul . strength . mind

Church of the Epiphany, Vacaville

Community Dinners

In 2000, the Vestry of Epiphany decided to start a hot meal program for the homeless, the underemployed and those simply seeking companionship. By drawing on the experience of Episcopal Community Services, nutritious hot meals were being served in less than a month.

With this successful beginning, again relying on expertise from ECS, planning was launched for a modernized, ADA compliant kitchen. The goal was to serve large crowds and become a licensed commercial kitchen.

In the beginning meals were served on regular dinnerware. Early on it was apparent that volunteer burnout was highest among the dish washing crew. The immediate solution was to switch to disposable products. Serving an average of 300 meals per week created an expense of \$200 a month. This change resulted in an institutional ambience plus there were the environmental impacts of depletion and waste disposal.

In 2012 ECS came to the rescue again with a grant to purchase a commercial dishwasher. The efficient new appliance reduced costs, helps meet responsible environmental goals and returns to a homelike feel for guests. Most importantly, the update is complete and the kitchen is now certified by the County.



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Your Donations at Work

2012 ECS Ministry Development Grants

SUPPORTING CHURCH	MINISTRY	APPROVED
1	St. Paul's, Crescent City. Assistance Program and Preparedness Shelter.	\$3000
2	Christ Church, Eureka. Support for Children's Music Program	\$2100
3	St. Alban's, Arcata. Scholarships for Living Waters Summer Camp	\$800
4	Holy Family-Rohnert Park. Relocate NOAH office/distribution center	\$1500
5	Shepherd by the Sea,Gualala. Support Gualala Food Bank	\$1500
6	St. Paul's, Benicia. Bring Kitchen up to Code, to Continue Community Hot Meals.	\$4800
7	Incarnation, Santa Rosa. Expand Open Table Ministry	\$1000
8	St. Barnabas, Mt. Shasta. Support Senior Rides	\$1700
9	St. Andrew's, Monte Rio. Support for St. Andrew's Hot Foods Ministry	\$1500
10	St. Luke's, Calistoga. Expense assistance for Pre-School Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) status	\$2200
11	Trinity, Sutter Creek. Assist in Expenses for Depression and Suicide Prevention Services	\$4000
12	St. Nicholas, Paradise. Support Expansion of Loaves & Fishes hot meal/education	\$2500
13	St. John's, Marysville. Redo Rehab Facility to use for Emergency and Crisis Care.	\$5000
14	St. Matthew's, Sacramento.	\$5000
	St. Martin's, Davis.	\$5000
	Support an Intern through the Lutheran/ Episcopal Volunteer Network (LEVN) to do outreach	
15	St. Matthew's, Sacramento. Stipend for Director of Resource Center	\$5000
16	Grants for Diocesan Deacons. To Support 2 Postulants to Attend P.I.C.O. Training	\$1200
	Fund Deacon's Discretionary Fund for Discernment Process Expenses	\$5000
17	Epiphany, Vacaville, Expansion for Hot Meal Ministry, a Dishwasher.	\$4419

LAMB GRANT

18. **Incarnation, Santa Rosa.** Travel expense for youth to Camp for children, Quito Ecuador **\$1000**

2012 TOTAL

\$58,219

MAIL DONATIONS TO: **EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES**, P.O. 162242, Sacramento, CA 95816
 You can also donate online at www.norcalecs.org

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