The Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming

Mustard Seed Mission Projects
The Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming &
The Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming
• Our Mustard Seed Project was . . .

The Mustard Seed Project!

31He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." Matthew 13 (NIV)
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• Prior to the George Storer gift, the Foundation had very little work to do:
  – We helped with Sargent grants
  – We administered a few small funds
  – We were assisting Wind & Wings on financial matters

• After the gift, we were immediately faced with understanding our new role in Diocesan Life.
Our Board began to work on how the Foundation would fit into Diocesan Life.

After reading “What Can One Person Do?” we learned of the great needs within the world. “Three Cups of Tea” taught us that we must first listen and then act.

We sought advice from our congregations at regional meetings.

We heard how our parishes struggled; some to keep the doors open, but all to fund ministry ideas.
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• We concluded: the Foundation is a Servant Ministry

• But how could we serve? How could we join in the Diocesan objective of increasing vitality in our churches?

• Would some in our family think their needs too small? Too large?
The Board looked at the Storer gift as a blessing to be used to promote Christ’s kingdom.

After studying other trusts and foundations we learned that we must avoid creating dependencies; instead, we must promote healthy church growth and vitality.

The Board concluded one strategy would be to make gifts that stimulated mission within the Diocese.
How Can The Foundation Serve the Diocese?

We are not the **Branches** that bear fruit. This is reserved to our People, our Churches.

We are not the **Trunk** steadfastly supporting the work of the Church. This is the Diocese and its Bishop.

We can be like the **Roots** – gathering and providing nourishment during periods of growth, and storing reserves during the winter in preparation for the next Spring, the next Easter!
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• It was suggested by one of our Board Members that we needed to encourage new thinking; to sow seeds of ministry.
• In August 2008 the Board embraced the Mustard Seed concept.
• Through the Mustard Seed Mission we hoped to stimulate voices responding to this question:
What can *we* do to help God’s Kingdom arise in our communities?
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• The Foundation had several objectives in mind:
  – To *free the Spirit* to work throughout the Diocese
  – To *encourage new attitudes* in those who might not otherwise apply for a grant
  – To *energize congregations* into action within their communities
• The conditions were simple:
  – Reach outside of your church walls
  – Share your story with us at this convention as we explore how we were moved by the Holy Spirit
Our Goals were also simple:

– Serve the Lord in our communities
– Celebrate Bishop Bruce’s 12 years with us
– Share our stories with our Presiding Bishop
– Learn from each other as we share our experience
But we hoped for a series of outcomes:

- Develop a team approach to identifying and solving local problems; develop partnerships
- Implement sustainable ministries
- Engage local resources in community ministries
- Encourage future grant applications in pursuit of new ministries.
Today, around this room you see the results of those tiny mustards seeds, planted across the Diocese of Wyoming, such as:

- Feeding the hungry children in Cheyenne
- Educating seminary students in Tanzania
- And many, amazing stories of community building across Wyoming and in the world.

As you pass by these posters recall the collaboration that brought forth each project; how each project spreads the Kingdom of God.
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Feed the Hungry
Clothe the Poor

Our Little Roses
Orphanage, in
San Pedro Sula, HN

Where young girls abandoned on city streets are given a chance for shelter, education and family.

In short, given a future.
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Caring for the Sick

The Hyperbaric Clinic of Dr. Elmer Mejia in La Ceiba, HN

Serving all people, with God’s Help.
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Spread the Good News

St. Andrews in the Pines, working in Africa

A small child is baptized in Tanzania

While another awaits help; an orphan in a poor country

These children attend the school, some with tuition from Wyoming.
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| Discern          | What is God’s prayer for us?  
|                  | What are we called to do?     |
| Dedication       | Who will answer the call?     
|                  | How will they be supported   
|                  | when barriers are encountered?|
| Action           | What must be done?            
|                  | What is needed to get it done?|
| Outcome          | Behold the wonder of God’s    
|                  | Kingdom!                      
|                  | Observe how we are blessed.   |
| Celebrate!       | Share your Good News.         
|                  | Give Thanks and Be Joyful!    |
Lastly:

Here is why we serve:

Can you see Christ in this picture?
THANK YOU!

• Contact us:

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WYOMING

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