

Outreach

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Mission:

As apostles of the Trinity Community, the Outreach Commission reaches out through time, talent and resources to care for those in need — both in and beyond our parish. Keeping the church family informed of the Outreach ministry is a vital part of our mission.

Christ calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Trinity has a long tradition of mission concern and giving. We regularly share our facilities with community groups, and we budget monies to give to people in need. The focus of the Outreach Commission is to administer to the needs of others, beyond the walls of Trinity. We do this to the best of our ability and resources. Our 'giving' also includes the gift of our time and talent; the need for volunteers is often as great as the need for funding.

■ **Resources:** The Outreach Commission is funded through pledge monies, donations, and special events such as the Trinity Auction. In addition to the discretionary giving of the commission, we try also to support the mission and ministry of the diocese of Maine and various seminaries.

■ **Volunteering:** If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact us! Volunteers are needed at a number of organizations we support or have supported in the past.

• **Annual 'In-house' Projects:** In addition to sending money to worthy groups outside of Trinity, Outreach supports the *American Cancer Society* with the sale of daffodils, caters two Thursday evening dinners at the *Root Cellar*, and supports *Project FEED* with weekly donations of food staples, an annual "Brown Bag Ingathering, and the traditional "Soup'er Bowl Sunday" collection of soup-related food items. At Christmas we have *The Giving Tree* to help those in need, and we sponsor "Sock It To 'Em!" — a collection of warm socks and gloves for the patrons of the Soup Kitchen, many of whom are homeless. And the sale of *African Jewelry and Crafts* supports a mission in California.

Trinity volunteers work at *St. Luke's Soup Kitchen* (Preble Street) every month, and at *St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry*, at *Project FEED*, at the *Ronald McDonald House* and once a year a Trinity team works on site for *Habitat for Humanity*. Many hands —reaching out, with love and concern.

• **Current funding:** Traditionally, Trinity's Outreach Commission has funded about 25-30 different, nonprofit organizations —many local to the Greater Portland area and several larger national or international groups. All of the recipients were worthy beneficiaries of Trinity's goodwill, but our available Outreach funds were being spread very thin in our effort to help so many.

In 2006, after careful consideration by the Commission chairs and with the support of Trinity's Vestry, a decision was made to reduce the number of recipients of Outreach funding so that each gift would have a greater impact. Members of the parish also were involved in choosing who would receive funding; nearly sixty persons completed a poll circulated in church. In November of 2006, the following projects were singled out for Trinity support. Three groups in the Greater Portland area, an international organization helping the impoverished and two projects (suggested by parish members) in Africa, have received Outreach gifts from Trinity.

In 2006, Outreach funding benefitted these projects:

■ *In Portland:*

Project FEED (Food Emergency Exchange Depot), was founded in 1975 as an emergency food pantry. Operating out of the Woodfords Congregational Church, it is open part-time five days per week. Project FEED receives no United Way funding. It is supported by the congregations of local churches and synagogues. The pantry could not operate on donations of food stuffs alone and augments such gifts with purchases of \$300 - \$400 per week.

St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry

The Pantry is a place to which people may come to get essentials like diapers, kitchen or laundry soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and other personal hygiene goods. Many of the patrons are from Portland's growing refugee population.

St. Luke's Soup Kitchen

Volunteers from Trinity work at the Preble Street facility on the fourth Saturday of every month. Our volunteers are known to supply extra goodies for these lunches, and have traditionally paid for these out of their own pockets. Outreach will help with this extra expense with a quarterly stipend.

■ *Sudan, Africa:*

High School in the Kadugli Province of the Nuba Mountains

The Kadugli Province of the Nuba Mountains is in need of many aspects of infrastructure in the wake of the war in the Sudan. *A priority set by the Nuba people is for education for children and young people.*

Trinity is helping to provide funds for a new high school to be built in the Kadugli Province.

Emergency Basic Education — Diocese of Mundri, Mundri County

The on-going civil war in Southern Sudan has drastically affected all aspects of life in the Sudan. Children are particularly vulnerable. Going to school is a stabilizing element for a child in this situation. Trinity is providing funds to help renovate and equip the Mundri Parish Primary School.

■ Heifer International

Heifer International has helped millions of impoverished families worldwide become more self-reliant through the gift of livestock and training in their care. Heifer works for the dignity and well-being of all people. A gift of a goat can provide milk for the hungry, chickens provide eggs and chicks which can be passed on to others in need, and so the gift keeps growing and giving. A portion of our international funding went to Heifer International.