

The
**Wisdom and
Power of
Storytelling**

Bringing Living Water to Eloheh

ABHMS partners with an Indigenous ministry in Oregon to sustain earth, community, and spirit.

In Yamhill, Oregon, the Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice and Eloheh Farm & Seeds stand as living proof of God's design for harmony between people and the land. Founded by Randy and Edith Woodley, the ministry teaches Indigenous and faith communities to care for creation through earth-honoring regenerative practices that nurture both soil and soul.

For years, Eloheh struggled with a dwindling water supply, its well producing only two gallons per minute. Without a dependable source, the ministry had to buy water at high cost, threatening its efforts to welcome people for teaching and hospitality. In response, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) provided a grant to drill a new well, manifesting God's promise in Isaiah 58:11: 'You shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.'

Today, Eloheh's new well produces 7.5 gallons per minute,

supporting crops, animals, and the hundreds of visitors who come each year to learn about creation care and community justice. A second ABHMS grant funded two large storage tanks, ensuring that Eloheh's mission stays strong—even during summer droughts.



**Your generosity helps living water flow.
Please give today at www.abhms.org/afc.**

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Bridging the Digital Divide: Technology Brings Native Churches Closer Together

ABHMS helps rural Native American congregations stay connected through faith and innovation.

When the COVID-19 pandemic closed church doors, many Native American congregations already limited by scarce resources and poor internet access found themselves more isolated. In response, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) took action to help bridge the digital divide.

Through its Native American Ministries, ABHMS has equipped churches across Oklahoma with essential tools such as monitors, laptops, cameras, and sound systems. These upgrades are transforming how pastors and congregations gather, worship, and serve. "Each church had different needs," explains Rev. Saeed Richardson, ABHMS' chief technology officer, "but all wanted one thing—to connect meaningfully with their communities."

The initiative, led by Rev. Ben Sullivan, ABHMS' national coordinator for Native American Ministries, ensures that rural congregations can now stream services, conduct virtual Bible studies, and host online gatherings. For churches once facing access issues, the technology has created new opportunities for fellowship and learning. "This equipment will help churches provide community access to the internet and host training sessions," says Sullivan. "One of the big hopes and outcomes is showing our communities what is possible."



**Help bridge the gap. Please give today at
www.abhms.org/afc.**

The Wisdom and Power of Storytelling

Feeding the Body, Nourishing the Spirit

In Lincoln, Nebraska, a warm meal becomes a living story of compassion and community.

Every Saturday on K Street in Lincoln, Nebraska, the doors of First Baptist Church open wide for a sacred purpose. Volunteers from First Baptist and other congregations sharing the facility gather to prepare meals, offer kindness, and build relationships with neighbors experiencing homelessness or food insecurity. This ministry, called the K Street Lunch Project, is about far more than food; it is about healing hearts and restoring dignity.

With support from an American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) grant, First Baptist has served over 5,000 meals each year since 2023. “The food is just the beginning,” says Rev. Joy Martinez-Marshall, the former pastor of First Baptist. “The deeper work is building relationships.” Though Martinez-Marshall is now pastoring elsewhere, the K Street Project continues with strength. Through shared

tables and open hearts, volunteers and guests alike experience the nourishment of faith made tangible.

The ministry has expanded to include local businesses, retirement communities, and volunteers from various faith backgrounds, showing how

compassion bridges differences. In a city where many face poverty and displacement, the K Street Lunch Project has become a place of belonging, where everyone is known by name and welcomed as part of God’s family.



Be part of a story where love is served one lunch at a time. Please give today at www.abhms.org/afc.

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Let the Little Children Come

ABHMS helps a refugee ministry give children hope and belonging.

For refugee children, summer can feel lonely. Many families cannot afford traditional camps or enrichment programs, which disconnects these children from friends and increases their risk of falling behind in school. That is why American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) helps support a ministry’s special summer program that transforms months of uncertainty into a time of growth, friendship, and joy.

Founded in 2017 by a Chin-American former refugee, the ministry connects local Burmese, Chin, and American communities through education and service, offering English, math, and Bible study for students in grades one through eight, along with practical learning through a partnership with a leading national university’s 4-H youth development program. Together, they nurture faith, knowledge, and leadership among children who are learning to thrive.

One seven-year-old student, a newly arrived refugee welcomed into the program, began her summer shy and withdrawn. By the third week, she was reading aloud with confidence, and on the final day, she stood before her classmates and recited a psalm she had memorized. Her courage reflects the heart of this ministry, where faith and education meet to form new beginnings.



Help make every child’s story one of hope. Please give today at www.abhms.org/afc.

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With Help from ABHMS, a Mustard Seed Grows
In Chicago, community investment redefines ownership and hope.

On Chicago's South Side at the corner of 79th and Cottage Grove, a once-abandoned strip mall with boarded-up windows and cracked pavement previously symbolized decades of economic neglect in a neighborhood lacking basic services. But today, that same property is being transformed into a story of renewal thanks to a collaborative effort between American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and The Chicago TREND Corporation, a social enterprise focused on revitalizing urban commercial corridors.

Through catalytic funding from ABHMS, TREND empowers community members, many from historically marginalized backgrounds, to become co-owners of neighborhood shopping centers. For as little as \$1,000, investors gain both financial literacy and a tangible stake in their community's future. "Now people have a real connection," says TREND co-founder Lyneir Richardson. "You can say, 'Let's grab coffee at the shopping center my family owns.' It makes a difference."

Since 2016, TREND has acquired six shopping centers with 384 investors—67 percent of them Black and nearly half women.

Each project transforms neglected spaces into thriving centers for local businesses that become economic anchors and shining sources of community pride.



Help more mustard seeds grow. Please give today at www.abhms.org/afc.

The Wisdom and Power of Storytelling

A Second Family for Myanmar's Young Refugees
ABHMS partners with a church offering safety, faith, and community for youth in South Asia.

In the wake of escalating violence and political turmoil in Southeast Asia, thousands of young people have fled their homes seeking safety. Many have made their way to the United States, some arriving with little more than faith to guide them. On the West Coast, a church-partner of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has become a sanctuary for these newcomers.

With support from ABHMS, the church provides the youth with essentials such as care packages, transportation, and scholarships. Beyond fulfilling physical needs, the ministry offers spiritual and emotional support, including Bible study, counseling, and community meals where young people find strength in faith and a sense of belonging. "Sometimes, the youth gather at my home," says the church's associate pastor. "We cook together, eat together, and talk about whatever they're carrying on their hearts."



For one student who arrived alone to study in the U.S., that compassion was life changing. "I almost cried that God gave me this miracle," she says, recalling how a church member drove two hours to pick her up from the airport and provide a place to stay.

(Names have been omitted to protect vulnerable communities and those serving them.)

**Be part of the story of refuge and renewal.
Please give today at www.abhms.org/afc.**

The Wisdom and Power of Storytelling

Amid Horses, Prayer, and Community, Ranchers Learn to Thrive

At Rainbow Acres, lives are transformed through compassion, confidence, and connection.

In Camp Verde, Arizona, a special community named Rainbow Acres has been helping adults with developmental disabilities discover independence, purpose, and a sense of belonging for over 50 years. Affectionately called “ranchers,” residents there experience joy through meaningful work, friendship, and faith.

Michelle, one of the ranchers, spends her days caring for horses, donkeys, goats, and bunnies. She also works in the campus kitchen and at a nearby hotel while preparing for her upcoming move to independent housing. “Working is my favorite activity,” she says with a smile. Her friend Kelly, a kennel technician and artist, weaves colorful poncho-style fashions in her spare time. “I don’t have to feel pressure from the outside world,” she says. “Here, I can just be me.”

Through prayer circles, shared meals, and caring staff, Rainbow Acres creates a nurturing home where residents set personal goals, learn new skills, and grow in faith. With support from American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), including gifts from the America for Christ Offering, the ranch provides scholarships, safe housing, and life-enriching programs to those who might otherwise face isolation or uncertainty.



Your gift helps stories like Michelle’s and Kelly’s continue to unfold. Please give today at www.abhms.org/afc.

The Wisdom and Power of Storytelling

Healing Amid God’s Love at Tu Refugio Seguro

Faith, compassion, and advocacy bring healing to Latino survivors of abuse and trafficking.

A ministry in the Midwestern United States is offering hope and healing to Latino survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking, helping those who have endured unimaginable harm rediscover safety, dignity, and faith. “You can go to a psychologist or a social worker,” says the ministry’s founder, herself a survivor, “but to really heal completely, the Holy Spirit needs to be involved. God needs to be involved.”

With support from American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), the ministry offers crisis intervention, counseling, and education on abuse prevention, focusing on both trauma and the cultural barriers that stop many Latino survivors from seeking help. Through its training program for community advocates, the ministry prepares survivors to become sources of strength for others. “As soon as people know you are preparing to be an advocate, they start coming forward with their stories,” says the founder.

Each testimony shared and every survivor supported becomes part of a larger story of transformation.

(Names have been omitted to protect vulnerable communities and those serving them.)



Help sustain this refuge of healing and hope. Please give today at www.abhms.org/afc.