



LEADER'S GUIDE

Bulletin inserts and litany inside!

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024

GRACE *upon* GRACE

Because of God's great love we are not
consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are
new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

—LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 (NIV)



American Baptist Home Mission Societies



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AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024

GRACE upon GRACE

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All America for Christ (AFC)
gifts help fund our grants to
American Baptist mission partners.

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American Baptist Home Mission Societies

From the executive director

When we are lost and confused, when the storms of life threaten to overwhelm us, when we are downcast and in despair, when shadows stretch and hope seems a faint flicker, Lamentations 3:22-23 reminds us God's love endures and knows no end. Because of this, we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fails. God's faithfulness is great. God's mercies are new each morning.

In the tangle of life's struggles, it is easy to lose sight of hope. Yet, even in our lowest moments, God's love remains constant, an unwavering beacon in the storm. God's love, a boundless ocean, never dries up, never falters. It persists through trials and tribulations, doubts, and fears. God's love endures and transcends even the limits of our own understanding.

"We must accept finite disappointment, Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "but never lose infinite hope." Each dawn brings with it new possibilities and promise—a fresh canvas for God's goodness, grace, and mercy. Since 1832, God has invited the American Baptist Home Mission Societies to paint our portion of that canvas each day—cultivating leaders, equipping disciples, and healing and transforming communities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

The staff and board of ABHMS seek daily to be faithful to this mission and we thank you for your faithfulness in support. Your prayers and financial giving make possible the program offerings of ABHMS from our Center for Continuous Learning to our MinistrElife platform, from our Co-Creators Incubator for ministerial entrepreneurs to scholarships for American Baptist college and seminary students, from disaster response and recovery efforts to support of neighborhood action programs—these endeavors and more are made possible with your support.

Through the joys and sorrows of life, we rest assured that God's love is a close and constant companion. In the mission field in which ABHMS serves, we witness daily God's enduring, limitless love.

Thank you for your continuing support and prayer which sustains our work and witness.



With gratitude,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey Haggray".

Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director
American Baptist Home Mission Societies

**Because of God's great love we are not
consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are
new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**

—LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 (NIV)

Biblical reflections

Because of God's great love we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. —LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 (NIV)

The author of the Book of Lamentation is unknown, but Jewish and Christian traditions attribute the authorship to Prophet Jeremiah. The Hebrew title of the Book of Lamentation is "Ekah," which can be translated as "How," or "How can it be?" This word evokes sorrow, horror, anguish, and desolation. Like a raw and festering wound, Lamentations portrays loss and suffering with brutal candor. As we survey the atrocities in our world, "How can it be?" reverberates in our minds. Amid heartbreak and agony, we are inclined to believe that God doesn't love us—that God simply doesn't care about our suffering—or that God is simply absent. But prophet Jeremiah interjects and points to God's character, His eternal essence that remains true, and in these truths, we too can place our broken hearts into God's hands.

- God loves us. God's fierce and steadfast love for us remains unchanged.
- God's compassions never fail. God's kindness and care for us is consistent and available with each new day.
- Great is God's faithfulness. God upholds His commitment and covenant with us despite our inconsistency to trust and follow God.

In an ever-changing and conflict-riddled time, God is the only constant, immovable One who holds our tears and restores us in His love, compassion, and faithfulness.



Rev. Dr. Mia Chang, Lead Pastor
NextGen Church
West Windsor, NJ

The underutilized book of Lamentations is a curious place to discover God's grace. Although we often attribute its writing to the prophet Jeremiah, its poetic outpouring of grief and anguish is most likely the work of multiple writers, both female and male. God doesn't speak at all here, but writers are aware of God's presence in the midst of their struggles. The calamities they mourn—the death of loved ones, the fall of the Temple in Jerusalem, are both personal and communal losses understood as their responsibility, not God's. Interestingly enough, nothing that's happening to them is considered God's fault. They take ownership of their sinfulness, having fallen short of

God's desire for faithfulness. It is here, amazingly, in a mess of their own making, that grace breaks through. The writer of chapter three makes this profound declaration of hope: "*Because of God's great love we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*" Tragedy and heartache may come to us, the author proclaims, but God stands beside us, ready to offer grace with each new day.



Rev. Dr. Marcia B. Bailey
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Pottstown, Pa
Associate Professor Emerita, Temple University

Many years ago, a band of the Kiowa tribe spent the summer at camping spots in the Rocky Mountains. When it was time to leave this area Chief Black Bonnet, known for his wisdom, made a decision to leave behind a paralyzed very large woman because horses could not handle her weight on the rough terrain. Taw-go (Rescued-from-starvation) was greatly loved by all in the tribe, and they were sorry to leave her to die alone yet they knew she would soon starve and die.*

The story follows an amazing journey of survival and faith Taw-go struggles to stay alive and find healing despite inexplicable circumstances. Her only hope was to turn to the Lord (The Great Mystery) as He was named.

Ultimately Taw-go was miraculously healed of her injuries and, with the help of her two nephews who refused to leave her behind, regained her strength and reconnected with her people.

The Great Mystery did not forsake Taw-go or Indigenous people. He loved us from the beginning, and we were included in His plan since the beginning.

*From the book, *Kiowa Voices*



Rev. Ben Sullivan
National Coordinator for Native American
Ministries, ABHMS

Sample congregational letter

Dear _____,

The 2024 AFC biblical theme is based on Lamentations 3:22-23: “Because of God's great love, we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” God's love for us, even in times of despair, never wavers.

AFC 2024 Goal

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the 2024 America for Christ Offering (AFC 2024) which seeks to raise \$1,500,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministries through our churches and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico. We have set our church goal as _____.

AFC 2024 Promotional Window

ABHMS is allowed three months (January-March) to actively promote the AFC 2024 campaign through visits, phone calls and email communications. However, our church can support the AFC campaign throughout the year.

How to Give to AFC 2024

You can give during your church's weekly service, or you can give online by visiting abhms.org/afc, anytime.

How AFC Funds are Used

Each year American Baptist Home Mission Societies awards grants from the donations that they receive from AFC. Here are some of the areas that are funded by AFC:

- Grants to churches to fund ministry initiatives such as camps, daycare and youth and young adult initiatives
- Grants to American Baptist seminaries and colleges
- Grants to American Baptist Partners training opportunities, funding of learning opportunities that involve travel and housing, repairs, and upgrade to preserve our critical American Baptist spaces
- American Baptist Regional Offices

AFC dollars also fund scholarships for which our own members may apply. Our churches are eligible to apply for ABHMS grants as well! ABHMS does not retain any AFC funds for operations or overhead. One hundred percent of AFC dollars support vital ministries.

AFC 2024 empowers us to provide “Grace upon Grace.” I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year's AFC offering and to help us reach our goal as we partner with ABHMS to provide support and share the Good News!

Your Pastor _____,

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024

Please give today! | www.abhms.org/afc

Promoting the 2024 America for Christ Offering in your church

1. Gather a team or taskforce to lead and promote the America for Christ offering (AFC 2024).
2. Determine a schedule of activities to execute during the AFC 2024 three-month promotional window (January-March).
3. Review the enclosed materials. Display the included poster in a prominent, high-traffic location to encourage giving. Then, visit abhms.org/afc to access all AFC 2024 videos and downloadable resources. If you need more printed materials, please call 610.768.2413 to speak with the friendly staff of ABHMS' Office of Development.
4. Set a goal for your church to assist ABHMS in raising \$1,500,000 that supports home mission throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Gather an AFC 2024 prayer team and meet once weekly before worship for five minutes of prayer.
5. Meet with your pastor and/or church's leadership team to share the promotions schedule.
6. Incorporate "Mission Moments" into worship. Dedicate a few minutes during worship each Sunday for a month to present a Mission Moment. They can include showing AFC videos, reading an insert, or allowing testimony from individuals who have volunteered for a home mission team or participated in any other kind of training or workshop.
7. Consider utilizing your church's social media page(s) and website to reach congregants who still participate virtually. Be sure to include in your postings a link to abhms.org/afcnow to encourage online giving.
8. Invite a home mission staff member to speak at your church. Call ABHMS' Office of Development at 610.768.2413 or 888.79.ABHMS, ext. 2420, to make arrangements.
9. Involve children and youth during a Mission Moment. Instead of placing AFC 2024 inserts in the printed bulletin, ask your young people to hand distribute them during the Mission Moment. Also, try including young people in gathering the offering.
10. Have fun. Design an AFC 2024 bulletin board that includes materials from the offering packet. Encourage the young people to display their artwork that conveys ideas from the "Grace Upon Grace" theme.
11. Record and celebrate your progress. Use a Sunday in March to hold a celebration and to THANK the congregation for their generous support and for meeting the goal!

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024
GRACE upon **GRACE**

Ministries in the mission field

Your Support Helps Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell Open People's Hearts with Artistic Expression

The Co-Creators Incubator invites today's creatives, innovative thinkers, and social entrepreneurs to partner with Jesus to bring hope, healing, and change to our world. Carmelle is one of our Co-Creators, as well as a gifted artist and a Master of Divinity graduate. She uses art to inspire connection and community, thanks to your generous giving.

In Carmelle's painting workshops, she encourages people to express their feelings through art. One lady, named Sam unintentionally represented the female anatomy in her artwork. She was embarrassed when the time came for participants to share and add to each other's artwork. When hers was returned, someone had drawn communion bread and a cup on it. "When I saw that," Sam said, "I wept." A tragic event in Sam's youth resulted in her having her reproductive organs removed. She had always felt guilty about it. "Whoever drew that communion bread and cup saw something in my heart that I didn't," she said. "That even in my old age, I'm still fruitful and have something to offer the world."

Through that experience, Sam rediscovered her wholeness in God's love—a realization that's priceless, but one that you made possible with your generous giving.

Antonio Vargas' Dream of Serving God is Coming True, and You're Helping to Make It Happen

With your generosity, ABMHS has been awarding scholarships to bright American Baptists students for



over 100 years. You're inspiring young people like Antonio Vargas to become the next generation of church leaders. Antonio is stepping back from full-time ministry to pursue a Master of Divinity degree at Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. He's on the ordination track to become an ABC minister.

"Theological education is not just for the individual," Antonio says. "It's an act of community. It's a responsibility to be shared for the slow, steady flourishing of the whole body of God. It's focused on Christ's Kingdom and the building of the commonwealth of love and justice."

He's grateful for the encouragement and support he receives from ABHMS and donors like you.

Because of your generosity, ABHMS awards scholarships for virtually every kind of student, from undergraduate to postgraduate to doctoral candidates, including the prestigious Daniel E. Weiss Scholarship for seminarians. For students like Antonio, it's the realization of a lifelong dream to serve God and His people—a dream that you're a part of and that you're helping to make possible.

Chaplain Alexander Aimette Is Answering the Call, and It's Because of Your Generous Giving

ABHMS Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries take Jesus' love into real moments of people's lives, especially the darkest times. CH (Maj) Alexander Aimette



ministers to the men and women of our military, thanks to your wonderful support.

Alexander is called to help soldiers. Regardless of their faith, service men and women know they can talk with a chaplain about anything, with complete confidentiality. Alexander says, "I was walking back to where I was living one day, and a Marine coming the other way calls out, 'Chaplain!'" Alexander relates. "So I stop, and he says, 'I need you to talk to my soldier. His grandmother just died.' Forget whatever else I was going to do. I went and talked to this kid."

That's the calling. Through your support for ABHMS chaplaincy, you enable chaplains like Alexander to help service men and women in distress who are putting their lives on the line to keep us safe.

Chaplains are there in disasters, sickness, grief, loss, accidents, tragedy, and despair. When everything seems lost, a chaplain helps us see that the spirit of the living God is with us in the darkness. That's what you make possible with your kind, caring gifts.

Graceful conversations for youth

For last year's American for Christ guide, we talked about the word *grace*, defining it as the “unmerited gift of divine favor”¹ and discussing examples. Today, let's discuss ways we know we are either experiencing grace or about to experience grace. We sometimes talk about relationship “red flags” or clues that may show something is wrong with a friendship or other relationships. With grace, we might think about looking for “green flags.” Green flags for grace can be reminders of how we feel God moving in our lives. Because God touches us, we can, in turn, display green flags for grace in our lives.

The scripture verse for this year's offering tells us a bit about God's green flags:

Because of the God's great love, we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
—LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23, NIV

What green flags do you see in this verse? Perhaps you are drawn to the idea of “the Lord’s great love.” God’s love manifests in our lives in many ways. We can see God’s love by spending time in nature, through the care of loving family members and friends, and more. Maybe you are drawn to the word “compassion.” Compassion means being aware of others’ pain and suffering

and wanting to do something about it. God's compassion for us *never fails*, as the verse tells us. In other words, God knows about the things in our lives that bother us and always wants to do something about it for us. Another green flag in this verse is faithfulness, which means being loyal, committed, and dependable. God's faithfulness is great, and new every morning.

Because God has shown us so many green flags for grace through the life of Christ, how do we also show green flags in the world? After all, we strive to be like “little Christs,” when we take the meaning of the word Christian literally. Here are some questions to help you think about your green flags:

1. Where do you feel God's great love in your life? Do you feel this through connecting with people, with nature, or somewhere else?
2. When have you experienced compassion, either from God, people, or both? In what ways have you shown compassion to others?
3. In what ways have you seen God's great faithfulness in your life? How do you live a faithful life?
4. What other green flags for grace do you see in the Bible? How might you share these green flags with the world?

¹ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopedia. "grace." Encyclopedia Britannica, May 30, 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/grace-religion>

Break the Code!

What is the secret message? Use the chart below to figure out which number stands for each letter.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Y	F	I	B	P	O	K	Q	Z	D	H	C	S	T	M	E	U	N	X	R	L	W	J	A	G	V

Diagram showing three rows of boxes with numbers and symbols:

- Row 1: 25, 20, 16, 24, 14, 3, 13, 25, 6, 10, comma, 13
- Row 2: 2, 24, 3, 14, 11, 2, 17, 21, 18, 16, 13, 13, comma
- Row 3: 25, 20, 24, 12, 16, 24, 18, 10, 21, 6, 26, 16, 2, 6, 20, 1, 6, 17, exclamation mark

Solution: Great is God's Faithfulness, Grace, and Love for You!

Frequently asked questions

What is the national goal?

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2024, which seeks to raise \$1,500,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministry across the United States and Puerto Rico.

What is the AFC 2024 theme?

The theme for the America for Christ Offering 2024 is “Grace upon Grace”

Because of God's great love, we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. —Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)

How can I support AFC 2024?

You can give during the congregational offering Sunday at your church, or you can give an individual gift online by visiting abhms.org/afcnow. Also, consider encouraging your congregation's Mission Committee to include an America for Christ Offering contribution in its annual budget.

How is my gift making a difference?

Your generous AFC gifts allows ABHMS to partner with ABC churches, community groups, ABC seminaries and institutions to financially support them in the following areas:

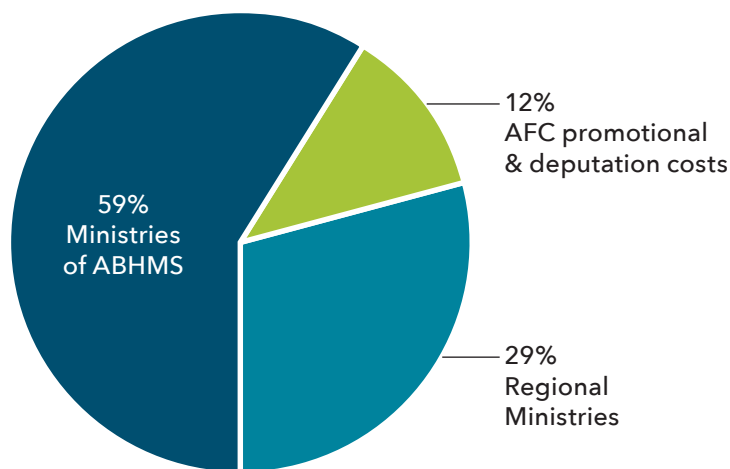
- Cultivating Leaders — strong leaders advance the mission of faith communities.
- Equipping Disciples — broadening the understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- Healing Communities — we believe the power of Christian love can—and will—change the world.

100% of your AFC donation is utilized to support and fund your ministries. ABHMS does not retain any AFC funds for its own purposes. When you support AFC, you support your community and communities across the US and Puerto Rico.

How is the AFC Offering used?

The offering is distributed in three parts:

- 59% supports the ministries of ABHMS.
- 12% supports the offering's promotional and deputation costs.
- 29% supports regional ministries. (ABHMS is the only mission board to share its offering with American Baptist Churches USA regions.)



Who do I contact for more materials or if I have a general question?

Contact personnel in ABHMS' Office of Development:

- Kim Wilkins, Development Coordinator, 610.768.2413
- Vincent Dent, Chief Development Officer, 610.768.2420
- Monique Sadler-Taylor, Director of the Annual Fund and Major Gifts, 610.768.2410

Where do I find the electronic versions of AFC 2024 materials to download?

Visit abhms.org/afc for downloadable items and the opportunity to show the videos directly from the Internet.

Mission Moments: America for Christ Offering Videos
The online videos can be used during a “Mission Moment” in worship or in a small group setting to illustrate how America for Christ Offering contributions impact and transform lives across America and Puerto Rico. Go to abhms.org/afc to download the videos.

Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries, Inc.

Heart Reach was founded in 1988 by a group of area church leaders who were concerned about the children of Youngstown. Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries' Family Assistance program secures resources and mobilizes churches to stabilize and strengthen diverse, low-income families and communities in the greater Youngstown area.

According to the 2020 census, Youngstown, Ohio, ranked as the second poorest city in the country, with 57% of Youngstown's children living in poverty.

The stress of living in poverty is compounded by a struggling school system and the fact that Youngstown is classified as a food desert, with a lack of full-service grocery stores to meet the needs of the residents. Families continue to have to choose between paying for food and paying for utility bills, leaving little to nothing for essential items like school and hygiene supplies and clothing.

When you give generously through your America for Christ offering, your support will be used to train and work with local residents and American Baptist church members to provide direct assistance that includes food boxes, meals for children, clothing banks and commodities distributions that include diapers, school supplies, clothing, and housewares.

Additionally, AFC funds will support special programs like nutritional education and financial literacy training where low-income residents learn how to manage their finances and become self-sufficient.

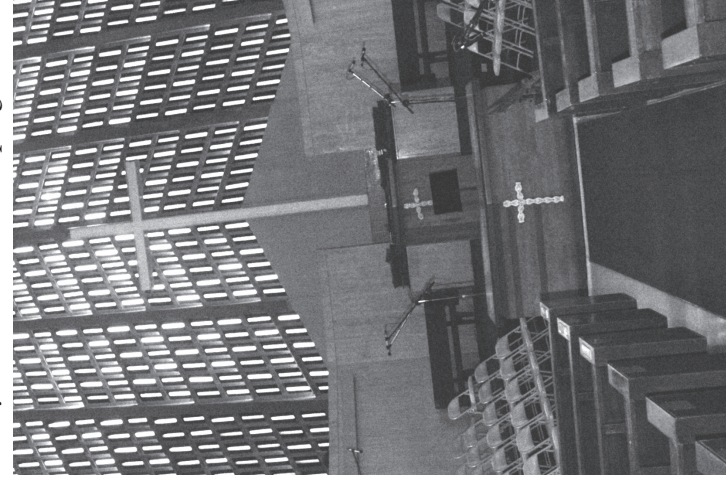
Please make your donation today to the 2024 America for Christ Offering!

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Primera Iglesia Bautista de Caguas (First Baptist Church, Caguas, Puerto Rico)

Primera Iglesia Bautista de Caguas is counting on funds donated through America for Christ to provide Summer Bible School to nearby communities. The program is designed to engage local



children from low-income families in a series of fun workshops that will present the gospel message of salvation in a way that develops their minds and opens their hearts.

Our primary goal is to reach out to the community close to the temple and provide a workshop/health clinic for the community (service activity) where we can reach out and identify children that can participate in a full week of biblical classes, gospel music, service activities, recreation, arts, and crafts.

All the activities will be focused on the gospel of Jesus Christ and the impact on the children's lives.

Please support this vital ministry in Puerto Rico by contributing to the 2024 America for Christ Offering today.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024

Please give today! | www.abhms.org/afc

Bethel Neighborhood Center

Bethel Neighborhood Center opened its doors on April 11, 1911, as a community center of The Women's Baptist Home Mission Society. The Bethel Neighborhood Center's (Bethel) mission is to empower individuals to achieve a renewed sense of hope, wellness, and self-sufficiency. Bethel primarily serves the vulnerable communities in eastern Wyandotte County, Kansas, targeting populations that qualify as low-income. 98% of the youth come from ethnic minority groups, 69% Hispanic, 26% Asian (Burmese and Bhutanese), and 3% African American. Most of our youth are first generation immigrants whose parents speak little or no English.

With your generous support, Bethel will continue to deliver hope and help to people in need that may be without resources due to social, educational, and economic barriers. In addition to our Youth Education and Enrichment Programs, Bethel also provides Senior Services providing lunch, health education and socialization, a Food Pantry, and other services. These are hardworking people who are economically challenged.

Bethel's programs and services are designed to support student comprehension, improve academic abilities, and promote understanding of material content, improving understanding and academic achievements. Our program provides educational coaching and activities for children, youth, and young adults, as well as after school and summer programs.

There is no charge to families to participate in the Bethel Youth Education programs.

Please make your donation today to support Bethel Neighborhood Center through the 2024 America for Christ Offering!

SoCal Asian-American Churches: Fellowship and DiscipleMakers Project

In the aftermath of COVID-19, Southern California Asian-American churches were shrinking and in need of revitalization, finding new ways to connect with each other and the denomination, revitalizing leaders, and equipping faith communities.

Born of a collaboration of three organizations; Gardena Valley Baptist Church (GVBC), Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles (EBCLA), and Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches (AAABC), the project focuses on:

Bringing Southern California (SoCal) Asian-American pastors and leaders together regularly for deepened fellowship and training.

Developing and launching an Asian-American DiscipleMakers program, an intensive 6-month "train-the-trainers" coaching and mentoring program that builds community in personalized cohorts and empowers lay leaders to share the gospel of Jesus Christ—evangelism and justice—in their churches and communities in culturally sensitive, structured, empowering, transformational ways.

It is the program's goal to heal and empower leaders to share the good news of Jesus Christ. With all participating coming to Christ for a new, revitalized life that includes healing, restoration, and a call to a life that is faith-filled and justice-oriented, we are bringing forth a slice of God's kingdom on earth.

With your support through the 2024 America for Christ Offering, you too can be part of this vital ministry of uniting American Baptist Asian churches in Southern California. Please donate today!

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Race Track Chaplaincy of America PA Division Inc.

The ministry of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Pa. Division is based upon the belief that it is God's desire that every person, including those in the horse racing industry, have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, resulting in a life that is full and abundant in its nature and eternal in its scope. Built upon that belief, our work is holistic in its approach, ministering not only to the spiritual needs of those in the horse racing industry, but to their physical, emotional, and social needs as well.

Recent statistics state that the horse racing industry in the United States employs over 450,000 people, many of whom have non-traditional work schedules which do not allow them the opportunity to attend traditional church services. These closed communities present a great need for the message of God's love. Our chaplains follow Jesus' example by following the need and taking the church to the people.

In the Pennsylvania division there was a need for a technology center as it has become increasingly necessary for those we serve to use the internet and computers to apply for social services, to attend classes, to apply for jobs and upload resumes and so much more. We provide transportation to social services offices and classes, but now this is done primarily online.

Since COVID, the high school population of our community has been dropping out at a much higher rate. The youth are also using these services to do schoolwork and homework and we see them increasingly engaged in school and thriving. With your generous support through America for Christ offerings, we can meet the increasing needs to maintain and increase the resources we provide.

Please make your donation today to the 2024 America for Christ Offering!

The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain

The Food Justice Program of the First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, operated through our non-profit The Centre for Faith, Art & Justice is a vital community ministry serving thousands of our neighbors who face food insecurity.

An effort that began as small sit-down meals on Wednesday and Saturday grew exponentially during COVID to serve 700 meals and provide groceries for over 340 households a week. And, most amazingly, this food was delivered to recipients' homes by hundreds of volunteers.



The Greater Boston Food Bank estimates that 1.6 million citizens of Massachusetts do not get enough to eat. While some aspects of the pandemic have subsided, food insecurity is not one of them. With little publicity we have a waiting list of 100 households and there are people still signing up.

We focus on serving individuals who are historically marginalized populations disproportionately impacted by food insecurity and unhealthy diets, including low-income families, seniors, and members of the Latinx community. Our goal is to collaborate with partners across our city and state to provide as many people as possible with access to healthy food because we believe that good food heals.

Funds received from grants provided by America for Christ will allow us to sustain the work of distributing healthy food to our neighbors. Please give today!

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Rainbow Acres: EMPOWERing "Ranchers" With Developmental Disabilities to Become Independent

Rainbow Acres is a faith-based residential community with a wide range of programs for developmentally disabled adults. These programs serve residents (called "Ranchers") who hail from more than 15 U.S. states and represent all types of faith backgrounds. Rainbow Acres serves adults with a wide range of developmental disabilities that may commonly include autism, Down syndrome, autism spectrum, and other developmental delays from various causes. Ranchers range from 18 years of age to well into their 80s's. Core programs address the immediate and long-term needs of the Ranchers in vital developmental areas: cognitive, vocational, physical/health, spiritual and social. Our professional educators and staff members are passionate about helping Ranchers develop to their full potential.

Rainbow Acres EMPOWER project provides persons with developmental disabilities with the tools needed to change their lives by focusing on developing life-transforming habits; and will assist employers to create a positive environment for employing these individuals.

Kelly, one of our Ranchers, gained direct experience caring for a diverse range of animals onsite. She dedicated several years of volunteering at the Humane Society and worked at a local animal clinic. The culmination of her extensive and diverse experiences ultimately led to a position as a kennel tech/veterinary assistant trainee at a renowned animal hospital in Sedona, Arizona. Her role includes paid Veterinary Assistant Certification training as part of her responsibilities, making her journey even more rewarding.

"This is my forever job! This is what everything was leading up to. This is what I always wanted to do, and I love it here!", enthuses Kelly. Her success story is a testament to the positive impact of Rainbow Acres' programs in fulfilling dreams and aspirations.

BraveMaker Film Festival

The BraveMaker Film Festival is in its fifth year. The vision for BraveMaker initiated by Tony Gapastione, an ordained minister and a ABHMS Co-Creators Incubator graduate and mentor, was to create space for change and bring hope and healing to communities through the arts. With a mission to educate, entertain and create community experiences for justice, diversity and inclusion, BraveMaker is connecting thousands of people in its film festival experience that incite conversation on our cultures' most meaningful subjects like mental health, racial and gender equity, LGBTQ+ inclusion, spirituality and how to create societal impact at a global level. A grant from ABHMS would continue to support BraveMaker's efforts to empower and lead, what we believe to be, some of our world's most influential change makers: storytellers. The BraveMaker Film Festival hosts mentors and makers together in workshops and panel discussions poised to elevate brave stories and storytellers to level up their work, make connections in their industries and find funding for sustainable careers.

BraveMaker primarily serves students, marginalized communities and those historically excluded from performing arts through internships and student filmmaking programs from four different high schools in the San Francisco Bay Area.

BraveMaker is prioritizing the work of film artists in partnership with nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, faith communities, individuals, and companies who prioritize and value matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We believe film is one of the most influential change agents, facilitating empathy, and awareness, in our culture.

Your generous donation through America for Christ will help sustain this important project. Please Give today!

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Because of God's great love we are not
consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are
new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

— LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 (NIV)

LITANY

ONE: Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed.
MANY: Not by death and not by life.

ONE: Because of the Lord's great love, we are not conquered.
MANY: Not by angels, or demons, or any other powers.

ONE: Because of the Lord's great love, we are not overwhelmed.
MANY: Not by the present, nor by the future.

ONE: How can this be?
MANY: Because God's compassions never fail.

ONE: Let us never forget: They are new every morning.
MANY: And neither height nor depth...

ONE: Nor anything else in all creation!
MANY: Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

ALL: Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.

Written by Rev. Rebecca Irwin-Diehl, PhD, based on Lamentations 3:22-23 and
Romans 8:37-39, NIV.

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