

# 2005 Thank Offering

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee met in Louisville, Kentucky, February 2005, and approved grants totaling \$834,535 from the 2004 Thank Offering. A committee of five members from the Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women and one representative from each of the General Assembly Council's three ministries divisions—Congregational, National and Worldwide—made the selections. This year, of the 158 proposals received, the committee chose 44 projects to receive Thank Offering grants—23 projects are in the United States and 21 projects are overseas.

Projects must meet criteria established by the committee, including consistency with the mission concerns and policies of the PC(USA), a purpose that meets basic human needs, provides a form of aid that relates directly to the people being served and is a creative project less than three years old or a new direction for an existing program. The committee selects programs based on merit, regardless of their geographic location. At least 40 percent of the Thank Offering funds go to health-related projects.

## 2005 Thank Offering Grant Recipients

### Synod of Alaska Northwest

**APPLE Parenting Program in Spanish**  
Auburn, Washington  
\$7,000

Provide free parenting classes for Latino families

### Synod of Lakes and Prairies

**Bdecan Presbyterian Soup Kitchen and Food and Clothing Pantry**  
Warwick, North Dakota  
\$13,000

Provide food and clothing to a primarily Native American constituency

### Synod of Lincoln Trails

**The Center for Whole Health: Healthy Heart Program**  
Chicago, Illinois  
\$10,000

Purchase equipment to provide 200 African American women with a culturally sensitive health-promotion program

**Project Independence—Learn, Plan, Live**  
Joliet, Illinois  
\$27,600

Provide free health services to persons unable to receive care from other sources due to lack of insurance and money

### Synod of Living Waters

**Arts 'n' Autism After-School and Summer Camp Program**  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
\$30,000

Provide after-school activities and summer camp services to children with high-functioning autism

**Reading Incentive Program**  
Louisville, Kentucky  
\$15,000

Provide computers, software and equipment for the tutoring program at Kids Cafe

### Synod of Mid-America

**Holy Ground Community Development Project**  
St. Louis, Missouri  
\$20,000

Build community by supporting block units and relationships with municipal agencies

**Fight the Blight**  
Wichita, Kansas  
\$29,436

Provide support for the self-empowerment efforts of low-income people

### Synod of Mid-Atlantic

**ESL and SSL Classes for a Multi-cultural Church**  
Durham, North Carolina  
\$5,500

Implement innovative programs in English and Spanish as second languages

**Faith in Action in Appalachia**  
Bristol, Virginia  
\$14,000

Purchase three computers and provide project supplies for recruiting and training volunteers

### Synod of the Northeast

**The NEST Prison Shuttle Project**  
Troy, New York  
\$25,000

Purchase a van to provide reasonably priced transportation for family members to visit relatives who are incarcerated

**Computers for Kids**  
Troy, New York  
\$25,000

Teaching high school students from families with low incomes to rebuild and upgrade computers, which are then given to the students

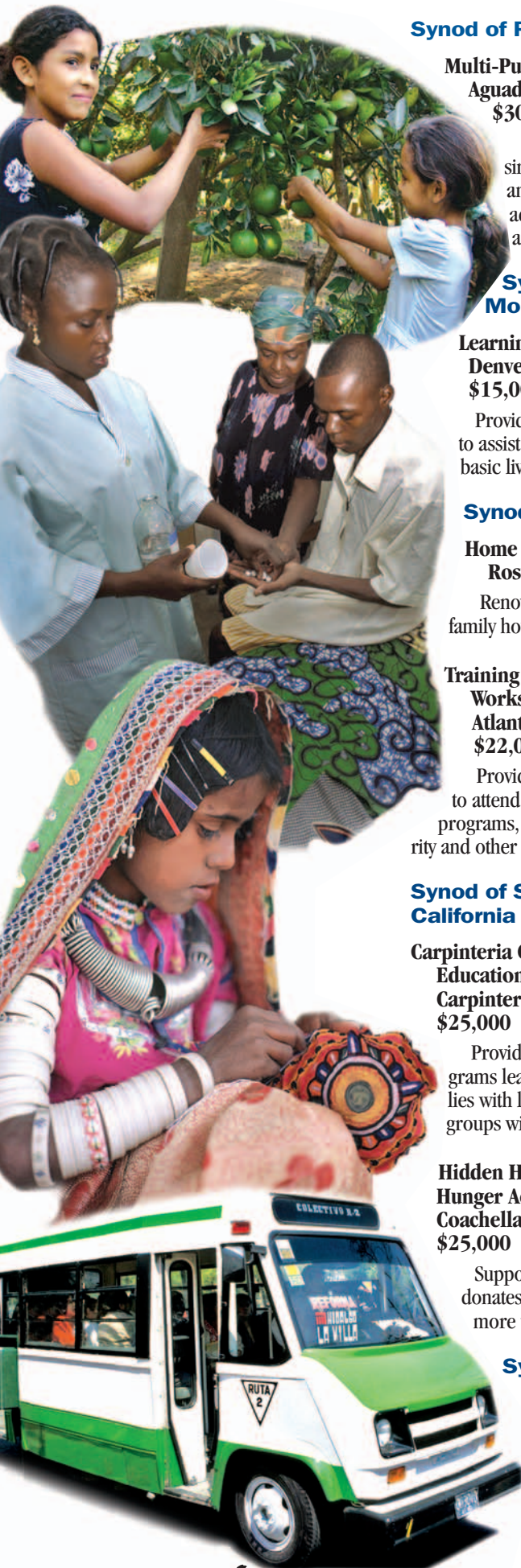
### Synod of the Pacific

**After-School Tutoring Program**  
Fresno, California  
\$18,850

Provide computers for a church-based after-school tutoring program for children in kindergarten through sixth grade

**Community Farm—Harbor House Ministries**  
Oakland, California  
\$30,000

Dig a well and purchase deer fencing to protect the crops grown by a Laotian community for their food and income



**Synod of Puerto Rico**

**Multi-Purpose Service Center  
Aguadilla, Puerto Rico  
\$30,000**

Provide community services for single parents, children and youth, and persons who are elderly, addicted, battered, homeless and/or handicapped

**Synod of the Rocky Mountains**

**Learning Circles—Mother to Mother  
Denver, Colorado  
\$15,000**

Provide a series of classes each month to assist Hispanic families in learning basic living skills

**Synod of South Atlantic**

**Home Stretch Renovation  
Roswell, Georgia \$30,000**

Renovate and upgrade three single-family houses for low-income families

**Training for Transformation  
Workshop  
Atlanta, Georgia  
\$22,000**

Provide support for overseas workers to attend workshops in community health programs, income generation, food, security and other ministries

**Synod of Southern California and Hawaii**

**Carpinteria Camper Park Youth and Adult Education Project  
Carpinteria, California  
\$25,000**

Provide affordable housing and programs leading to self-sufficiency for families with low incomes, seniors and other groups with special needs

**Hidden Harvest—Desert Cities Hunger Action  
Coachella, California  
\$25,000**

Support a gleaning project, which donates nutritional farm produce to more than 4,000 clients per month

**Synod of the Sun**

**WW (M.A.D.)—Women Who Will Make a Difference  
Monticello, Arkansas  
\$18,000**

Assist women in drug rehabilitation and other support services so that they can become productive citizens

**Opening Doors Immigration Services  
Denton, Texas  
\$10,000**

Provide low-cost immigration services to persons with limited income

**Synod of the Trinity**

**Rehabilitation/Renovation of Activity Center  
Charleston, West Virginia  
\$30,000**

Provide support groups, individual counseling and office space for services to persons who have experienced domestic violence

**International Projects**

**Empowerment of Rural Women in San José de los Remates  
Boaco, Nicaragua  
\$20,204**

Develop and implement the Women's Gender Equality Project

**Congo Bush Hospital Safe Motherhood Project  
Kananga, Democratic Republic of the Congo  
\$28,100**

Alleviate and eliminate suffering caused by vesico-vaginal fistulas, and reduce infant and child mortality rates

**Bethel Mekane Yesus Girls' School In-Country Scholarship  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
\$10,000**

Provide scholarship funds for young girls

**Girls' Annex Renovation  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
\$8,000**

Assist with repairs and renovations in order to provide a healthy and adequate living space

**Safe Drinking Water for All  
Mengo, Uganda  
\$8,000**

Install a permanent safe drinking water system to help eradicate diseases among people served

**Project Ruth  
Ayacucho, Peru  
\$7,000**

Provide approximately 500 people with Bible study, workshops and conferences that train them to support the mission of church, society and family

**Giving and Receiving Aid for Training**

**Kampala, Uganda**

**\$5,400**

Purchase a quilting machine to offer mothers and girls a marketable skill that leads to economic self-reliance

**Early Childhood Care and Development**

**Center**

**Hohoe, Volta Region, Ghana**

**\$20,000**

Provide access, equity and learning activities to preschool children

**Leadership Development for Women**

**La Paz, Bolivia**

**\$3,175**

Train and strengthen women to become church leaders and hold church offices with the eventual goal of women's ordination

**Vocational Training for Needy Women in Tailoring Craft for Their Self-Development**

**Andhra Pradesh, India**

**\$2,680**

Purchase five sewing machines and other manual-handling machines for embroidery and knitting, and other tools and implements

**Income-Generation Program for Rural Women Through Manufacture of Vermicompost**

**Andhra Pradesh, India**

**\$5,184**

Teach women an organic method of composting to improve nutrition and encourage economic independence

**Clothing Factory—Building Citizenship and Quality of Life**

**Itapiúna, Brazil**

**\$2,406**

Purchase sewing machines and fabric, improving economic stability for women

**Mattresses for Hospitals in Africa**

**Malawi and Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**\$25,000**

Purchase 300 mattresses for mission hospitals in Malawi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Bicycles for Home-Based Care**

**Volunteers in Malawi**

**Malawi, Africa**

**\$10,000**

Purchase 150 bicycles for HIV/AIDS home care workers' transportation

**Van for Nursing Sciences School**

**Leogane, Haiti**

**\$30,000**

Purchase a van to transport students and staff to the Nursing Sciences School, hospitals and two universities

**Matete Women's Center**

**Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**\$20,000**

Purchase a maize mill, tools, seedlings and 70 sewing machines for agricultural and vocational activities

**Charity Care for Patients at**

**Holy Cross Hospital**

**Leogane, Haiti**

**\$30,000**

Provide quality medical care to an impoverished population

**Vehicle for the Presbyterian**

**Community Center of the**

**Congo Women's Guild**

**Kananga, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**\$30,000**

Purchase a vehicle for transporting women to gatherings, seminars, conferences and training events

**PRODEK (Development Program of the East Kasai)—Women in Development**

**East Kasai Province of**

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**\$20,000**

Purchase a maize mill, enabling groups of women to join in community development projects

**Society for Nurture, Education, and Health Advancement**

**Dehradun, India**

**\$22,000**

Purchase sewing machines, basic medical supplies and furniture for a new schoolroom

**Interchurch Medical Assistance**

**(IMA) Medicine Box Program**

**New Windsor, Maryland \$52,000**

Purchase medicine and pay shipping costs for 173 IMA medicine boxes for five mission hospitals in Malawi and four mission hospitals in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



# 2005 Thank Offering

## Service of Dedication

### Call to Worship

Leader: As we come into this place, let us glorify God's name.

People: As we come into this place, let us worship Christ the Lord.

Leader: As we come into this place, let us lift up holy hands.

People: Forget about ourselves and concentrate on Christ.

All: Worship Christ the Lord!

### Hymn Suggestions

\*PH#469 "Morning Has Broken"

\*\*SF#2061 "Creator of Mountains"

### Scripture Reading

*Lamentations 3:21b-23*

### Meditation

"Called as partners in Christ's service, Called to ministries of grace."

Presbyterian woman Jane Parker Huber, in the beginning words of her hymn, "Called as Partners in Christ's Service," challenges us to reach out to the world. The 2005 Thank Offering projects come from the United States and throughout the world. We wish to share two of many stories with you.

The Bdecan Soup Kitchen, Food and Clothing Pantry, in Warwick, North Dakota, is a joint ministry of the Bdecan Dakota Presbyterian Church and Children of the Harvest, Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church, providing for some of the fundamental needs of Native American families at Spirit Lake Reservation. The \$13,000 grant will be used for food, refrigeration equipment and the

expense of delivering those items to people unable to visit the soup kitchen. "Men and women, richer, poorer/All God's people, young and old/Blending human skills together/Gracious gifts from God unfold."<sup>1</sup>

For decades, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has supported hospitals in rural areas of Malawi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. International Health Ministries asked Presbyterian Women to provide new mattresses for hospitals replacing mattresses that are in deplorable condition. A grant of \$25,000 will improve the level of patient care in these mission hospitals.

All 44 projects selected by PW's Creative Ministries Offering Committee this year have moving stories to share. PW has given millions of dollars throughout the years, but the needs are greater than our offerings.

"We respond with deep commitment."<sup>1</sup>

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee challenges every Presbyterian woman and members of Presbyterian congregations to respond by increasing their giving this year.

Scripture calls to us and challenges us, saying, "And therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, [God's] mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (*Lam.* 3:21b-23).

### Suggested Hymn

\*PH#276 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

### Offering

#### Prayer of Dedication

We come to you, O God, as the One who created us, who so loved your world, who has given us gifts and given us purpose. We thank you. We give our gifts of thanksgiving to be used for those whose lives are challenged, exploited, broken and oppressed. Lead us day by day that we might continue our journey with joy. Amen.

#### Suggested Hymns

\*\*SF#2241 "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"

\*PH#430 "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

#### Charge and Benediction

God sends us into the world, to discover the joy of discipleship and to share God's steadfast love. Therefore, go—with great faithfulness, hope, God's love, the peace of Christ and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>"Called as Partners in Christ's Service," 1981, Jane Parker Huber; from *A Singing Faith*; PH#343.

\* Hymns marked PH are found in *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 1990).

\*\* Hymns marked SF are found in *Sing the Faith* (Louisville, Ky.: Geneva, 2003).