



A Catalyst for Working Together as the Body of Christ for Service, Unity and Reconciliation

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September 2014 Service of Remembrance (credit: Michael Hurst)

IT'S A NEW DAY at your Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis. We have shown our appreciation to Rev. Dr. Angélique Walker-Smith who so faithfully served as our Executive Director for two decades. We have welcomed Rev. Judy Dunson as our Interim Executive Director (and thanked her for her previous service as the Interim Associate Director). Today, with the leadership of Rev. Steve Blanchard, President of the CFGI Board we have envisioned our process for seeking a qualified individual who will lead us into our future, and have sought funding to support that effort. We anticipate having a new Executive Director on board by late summer 2015.

Even through this transition, the work enabled by your Church Federation has continued. In this mini-report, we have highlighted some of these programs. There are more – visit our website www.indyfaith.org, then click on “What We Do” to find those program descriptions.

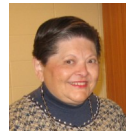
Your support is essential, *now more than ever*, as we:

- strengthen the church’s presence in the community through service that changes people’s lives for the better and helps raise their quality of life such as in our ongoing efforts with the Centennial Village
- provide a visible Christian witness to ways we build bridges among our diverse Christian groups and faith-based groups to more effectively use our time, talents and treasure
- speak on behalf of the Federation churches by partnering with like-minded civic and service groups to promote sustainability in our larger community
- bring youth and adults into forums to discuss ways to make a difference as they respond through their Christian faith to the evils and injustices in our communities and to promote healing and justice
- celebrate and promote unity in Christ through prayer and worship together
- prayerfully stand shoulder-to-shoulder with families, neighbors, and friends of murder victims in our community
- distribute grants to food pantries who in 2013 fed more than 203,400 families, and to church programs who enrich the lives of people of all ages through tutoring for GED and employment skills, rent/utility assistance, and assist with transportation needs—plus many more efforts
- brought the larger community together to perform in and enjoy the Unity of Faith Concert held at The Palladium in Carmel, featuring Katie Stam-Irk, original compositions, local singers, musicians, and other artistic performers

We thank our corporate funders such as the Lilly Endowment, the Gemmer Foundation, and many others. We give thanks for your past and present support as individuals and as churches. Your gifts are essential to your Church Federation’s serving as “A Catalyst for Working Together as the Body of Christ for Unity, Reconciliation and Service.”



Steve Blanchard
 Rev. Steve Blanchard
 President of the Board



Judy Dunson
 Rev. Judy Dunson
 Interim Executive Director

PLEDGE/GIFT

1. Select gift level

\$ _____ Sustainer	\$5,000 and above	\$ _____ Fellow	\$251 to \$499
\$ _____ Patron	\$3,000 to \$4,999	\$ _____ Friend	Up to \$250 (individuals, business)
\$ _____ Leader	\$1,000 to \$2,999	\$ _____ Member	Up to \$250 (churches, Christian organization)
\$ _____ Associate	\$500 to \$999		

2. My gift of \$ _____ will be paid by ☐ check (enclosed)

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-Annually ☐ Annually

3. Name/Church _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Affiliation _____ E-Mail _____

4. Mail this form and check payable to The Church Federation 1100 W 42nd St. Ste 345 Indpls, IN 46208

Thank you for your contribution to our shared ministry throughout Greater Indianapolis



Workshop Participants

Grant Writing Workshops

Representatives from more than 22 groups participated in the first Fall 2014 Grants Writing Workshop to learn how to write quality proposals to The Church Federation for grants from the Benevolence Fund and the Hunger Fund. Good proposals allow the Benevolence Committee to review applications more quickly and fairly when deciding how to divide the limited funds available for grants.

Grants for Faith-Based Community Service Programs

- The Benevolence Fund, made possible by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, helps provide underwriting of up to \$3,000 per grant for larger faith-based community projects such as:
- summer day camps in partnership with the local IPS school
 - supporting family unity through community outreach (positive family building activities, resources, family meals, and prayer)
 - summer program engaging children in wholesome activities and keep their minds active
 - providing bus tickets to enable clients to get to/from work and for emergencies, as well as provide hats/gloves for a clothing closet
 - teaching gardening skills to youth to encourage them to start home gardens



2013 Summer Gardening Project

Grants for Food Pantries



The Hunger Fund, made possible by a grant from Church World Service reflecting a share of the funds raised by the annual Greater Indianapolis CROP Hunger Walk held on the third Sunday of October. (For more information about the Walk, visit www.indycropwalk.org.) According to the 2013 American Community Survey released by the Census Bureau, poverty in Indianapolis continues to rise (17.7% in 2013 versus 16.6% in 2012 and 16.5% in 2011). Causes of hunger are rooted in under/unemployment, loss of housing, income inequality, plus other factors.

Local food pantries help provide food and other services to Indianapolis families caught in the web of hunger and poverty. In 2013 more than 596,000 individuals received help through this network of small to medium size pantries. More than 4,100 meals were served as well. Some pantries are able to incorporate supplementary programs through:

- nutrition classes
- referrals for in-home visits by supportive agencies
- ESL (English as a Second Language) classes for immigrants
- ensuring regular availability of fresh eggs to clients
- community gardens with produce given to a local food pantry

Building Bridges for Youth/Adult Offenders in Transition

The Faith and Fathers Program, funded by general donations with support of special grants, works with youth and adult offenders in transition between the corrections system and life in their home communities in two facilities:

- The Plainfield Short Term Offenders Program (STOP) prepares offenders with life skills development, parenting skill training, and core values mentoring to help bridge reentry to civilian life; Mike Cline is the Federation link to this program
- Through the Faith Holders program at the Marion County Juvenile Center, Brian Carter (the Federation link) encourages youth through core values mentoring to help assure transition to community life that helps reduce recidivism (returning to criminal life). **Volunteers are needed** from local congregations to allow expansion of this program to other units. (Contact the Federation for more information at churches@churchfederationindy.org for more information.



A THANK YOU NOTE . . . What a joy it has been to serve our Church Federation! I am so grateful for the opportunity to have been called to serve, and for the generous way in which you thanked me, especially on August 8 during the Celebration Service! Now I join the many alumni of staff, members, and friends of our Church Federation with a commitment to keep supporting this great work with a minimum of \$500 this year. I invite you to prayerfully consider your gift as I have. No matter what the level, please give generously!

Always in Christ, Angelique