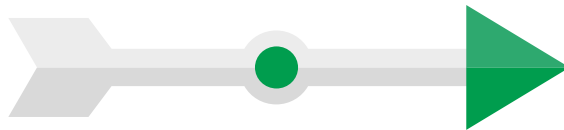


A Way Forward

throughout our country



Participating in God's mission and ministry is where our United Methodist connection may be strongest. Through our participation in programs and projects across the United States by giving to the Advance, we make a difference in the lives of people who need our caring presence.

The "Caring Connection" of National Missions Institutions related to the Missional Ministries Board includes 103 institutions located across the United States such as community centers, schools, colleges, health care facilities and women's residences. Through these ministries we can participate as witnesses to the redeeming love of God in Christ to those in special need: the stranger, the hungry, the broken and hurting. Your gift makes a difference, and 100 percent of your gift through the Advance goes to the project or ministry. The mission and ministries listed below are being promoted by the conference Missional Ministries Board for 2017-2018. For more information about these projects, visit www.vaumc.org/Mission.

National Advance Specials

- 1. District of Columbia: Christ House**
A recovery facility that provides for the physical and emotional needs of homeless men and women. (#381215)
- 2. Kentucky: Red Bird Mission, Inc., Beverly**
Community education and outreach programs in rural Appalachia. (#773726)
- 3. Tennessee: Jubilee Project, Inc., Sneedville**
Leadership development and community organizing in an impoverished area. (#781350)
- 4. Kentucky: Henderson Settlement, Frakes**
Programs for disadvantaged teenagers, parents and the elderly. (#773365)
- 5. South Dakota: Tree of Life Ministry**
A ministry with Native Americans at the Rosebud and Crow Creek Reservations. (#123615)
- 6. USA: Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration Ministry**
Engaging congregations to welcome immigrants and provide free, quality immigration legal services. ... (#901285)
- 7. Southeastern Jurisdiction: Volunteers In Mission**
Assists those offering their skills in this country and abroad. (#901875)
- 8. USA: Response and Recovery to Natural Disaster**
Responds to emergencies such as tornadoes and flooding throughout the United States. (#901670)
- 9. Society of St. Andrew**
Provides direct relief to the hungry through three main programs: Gleaning Network, Potato Project and Harvest of Hope education retreat program. The ministries provide unique opportunities for United Methodists to live their faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. (#801600)
- 10. Mississippi: Choctaw United Methodist Mission**
Progressing towards health and wholeness and developing Choctaw leadership. (#761544)

For more than 60 years, The Advance is an official program of the United Methodist Church for voluntary, designated, second-mile giving. The Advance allows local churches and individuals to extend their reach into the world.

- The Advance works with church leaders around the world to ensure that approved projects are aligned with the goals of The United Methodist Church in the local area, and helps develop partnerships that are mutually advantageous.
- The Advance also communicates with donors, sharing stories about projects and missionaries as well as reporting on how gifts are making an impact.
- Advance funds provide the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) not only a source to meet needs through its programming but also a source of private funds that can be significantly leveraged with other grant funds to scale programs to meet even more needs and duplicate these gifts.
- When there is a disaster, The Advance sets up an emergency Advance number so that churches and individuals can immediately donate to the disaster relief. This provides funding for immediate use and helps plan for long-term response.
- All project leaders complete an application and go through a review process to attain Advance status. Accountability is assured through annual reporting and Global Ministries' audits to ensure that funds are used as described in the application.

Why Should I Give Through The Advance?

- One hundred percent of each gift reaches the project, missionary or ministry you choose. Administrative costs are paid for by the apportionments of United Methodist churches. One Great Hour of Sharing covers UMCOR's administrative costs, as UMCOR receives no apportionment funds.
- All Advance projects are related to annual conferences, central conferences, partner churches or interfaith organizations. They are screened by the General Board of Global Ministries and authorized by The Advance Committee.
- Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world.
- Churches and annual conferences receive Advance credit by having their gifts included in each year's total giving by the annual conference.
- The Advance tracks each gift and ensures that gifts reach their intended recipients. This methodology provides an additional layer of accountability when you give.

