

Service/Social Justice report for SEGA executive board meeting, June 30, 2015. This will also serve as the report for Mid-American Cabinet meeting in Jefferson City on August 14 and 15, 2015.

This report is a “snap-shot” of mission/service projects initiated and participated in by all SEGA Disciples of Christ Churches and should be understood as a partial accounting. I feel strongly that our congregations are accepting calls to serve in wider ministry than this document reflects. It feels less necessary to count “beans” than to follow Jesus’ command to serve each other in love in all areas of living.

From Community Christian Church:

August/September: school supplies and food for Circle of Concern
October: BRO-new/gently used toys
November: BRO-disposable diapers (8-14lbs) and stocking stuffers
December: adopt a family/families
January: Project Linus
February: cookies/snacks for college students
March: Circle of Concern; Kid Friendly Foods
April: Church World Services; India Clinic
May: Church World Services
June: End of year picnic

\ These activities remain fairly constant year to year, but in addition the church supports: Katherine Prescott pinnies for peace project; Southside Day Nursery first supplies. On-going projects are: old keys and can tabs for Habitat for Humanity, magazines for St Luke's and Mercy Hospitals, Campbell Soup labels, old eye glasses and box tops for education.

From Webster Groves Christian Church: sewing projects yielded quilts; 12 sleepers, 26 onesies, 1 bib.

From Compton Heights Christian Church:

Support two boys who are students at King's Metriculation School in India (Global Ministries) with \$250 each per year via a donation jar during coffee hour after church each week.

Held a “Six Weeks of Compassion” education and service emphasis each summer with offering for Week of Compassion, collection of Kits for Festival of Sharing/Church World Service, and special donations to Isaiah 58 Ministries.

Create and donate prayer shawls to individuals who are facing serious illness, suffering from grief, or celebrating the birth of a child and other life events. These are blessed by passing them to every person in worship and are given to members and people who members request them for.

Use Equal Exchange fair-trade coffee and tea for congregational events and provide coffee, tea, chocolate and other items for purchase by members of the congregation and guests. A portion of the purchase price benefits Week of Compassion. Our goal for the Red Cherry Challenge (earmarked donations for coffee purchases to support small farmers combating coffee rust in Central America) is 50 pounds of coffee by May 31, 2015. Goal met.

With Isaiah 58 ministries, hosted three community meals that included members, Isaiah 58 clients and Shaw are neighbors during the past year. A fall barbecue on the lawn, a Thanksgiving potluck, and a Holy Saturday dinner. All free.

From Florissant Valley Christian Church:

Collected school supplies for TEAM ministry in Florissant.

Helped fill over 200 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse Christmas project.

Stuffed 20 Christmas Stockings for BRO.

Contributed \$75 to Church World Service Blanket Drive.

Contributed \$157 to a half marathon benefit for St. Jude Hospital.

Collected many bags of toiletries for a St. Louis area women's shelter.

Collected multiple items for BRO layettes.

Collected many bags of snacks and treats for Ronald McDonald House.

Donated \$125 to the DWM Mid-America service project, Women's Round Table microcredit program in Mexico.

Sponsored one of our members with personal donations in Memorial Boulevard CC's Walk for Hunger.

Sponsored a FVCC member in the annual Alzheimer's walk with a donation of \$160.

From Saint Charles Christian Church:

Blood drives twice a year

Food pantry supplies gathered monthly with extra East and Christmas baskets provided.

Woodhaven work day, monetary donations, Campbell bar code labels.

Habitat for Humanity help in builds.

School back packs and coats for our public school district.

Connections to Success once a month labor (an agency focused on successful re-entry into the work for ex-cons.

Emmaus residents birthday parties quarterly.

Oasis reading tutors.

Volunteers in Medicine nurses and clerks work 1 day per week.

Recycling

Hospice volunteers

Precious Memories Gospel Singers (visit 7 different nursing homes each month)

VBS had 90 children in July, 2015. 10 Disciples women worked in VBS.

Weekly Wednesday after school elementary and youth programs.

Communion to shut-ins, hospitalized members and non-member neighbors.

Prayer Shawl ministry.

325 Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse donated last year. That number has grown every year for the past 8 years.

Partial report from Celebration CC: back packs yearly; weekend packaged meals for government meal supported school students; Katie Wodell crocheted a sleeping mat from plastic bags at GA.

SEGA woman's retreat September 11-12, 2015 will support the ministry of Almost Home, a social service agency that houses teen-age mothers and babies. We will supply diapers and wipes.

Please share this information with your congregation and dream new ways to serve. (An aside: I really like that Compton Heights has the congregants bless the prayer shawls before gifting. Great idea!)

Respectfully submitted:

Phyllis Parsons, SEGA and Mid-American Service/justice contact person