



June 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to the second issue of the Madison Christian Giving Fund newsletter. You are receiving this email because either you have donated to us in the past, or someone on our committee has indicated that you would be interested in hearing more about what we are doing. If you do not wish to receive these monthly communications, simply indicate unsubscribe at the bottom of the newsletter.

Madison Christian Giving Fund was formed 3 years ago, based on a calling on Tom and Barb Hoffner to bring generosity into the hearts and actions of Madison area Christians. The Fund was formed based on an initial gift of \$50,000 by an anonymous donor and continues to grow to a point where \$220,000 has been received and distributed in the last three years. Stories you will read about are the direct result of the generosity of local area Christians.

Over the course of the coming months you will read stories and see pictures from the 22 ministry partners that we funded this year as well as stories about the ones we would have liked to have funded but were not able to do so due to lack of funds. We intend to provide you with updates about the various campaigns that we have going and give you opportunities to join in helping transform philanthropy for Christian Initiatives in Dane County.

This month you will read about two of our ministry partners: Jesus Lunches and Madison Christian Schools. Both programs are delivering vital services

in our community without having to diminish a Gospel message of hope in Jesus Christ. You will also hear how one local construction company helped provide eight workstations to two local ministries.

Next month look forward to hearing about "Lilada's Living Room" and how this ministry is helping girls heal from being victims of incest and sexual assault, and about "Shelter from the Storm" in Sun Prairie, a new shelter for homeless women helping them on the road to recovery.

We hope that you will find these stories inspiring and that they will give you hope in a society that seems to offer very little of this in what we read about each day.

If you want to talk to us more, please email us at info@madisongiving.org.

Blessings to You This Day,

Scott R. Haumersen, Chair

Madison Christian Giving Fund Supports Jesus Lunches in Middleton

Most parents know how scary high school years can be. An "anything goes" culture coupled with intense peer pressure can pull impressionable kids away from the values they are taught, sometimes with disastrous consequences. In 2014 five Middleton High School moms began praying together for their kids: for God's protection, for their faith to withstand the pressures of their high school years, and for their witness. When the kids were

Landgraf Construction Donation of Eight Workstations to CareNet of Dane County and Hope and a Future

The Madison Christian Giving Fund hopes to be more than just a financial supporter of Christian ministries in Dane County but a partner providing all sorts of resources. Recently

asked, "what do your friends think about what you believe?" they responded, "I don't think they *know* what we believe." That response led the moms to begin thinking and praying about ways they could help their kids share their beliefs without being "weird." And the "Jesus Lunch" was born. At first it was called Mama's Lunches, but the students who came renamed it the Jesus Lunch, because that's who they talked about.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTxp hcra008>

In the Spring of 2014, ten students invited their friends to a free lunch and a brief spiritual talk in the open air pavilion in Fireman's Park across from the Middleton High School. The group meets for eight weeks in the Fall, and eight weeks in the Spring. The first week 40 students showed up, then 70, the next week, 100 students came. The five moms make all the meals, set the tables, arrange for the speakers and clean up, every week.

Last fall the word had spread (pun intended) and the first week 200 kids showed up, then 300, then 400-450 every week! That represents 25% of the Middleton High School student body, meeting every week for a free hot lunch and to listen to a Christian message. This year's theme is "Jesus Loves You." During the lunch the students are

a local contractor, Mark Landgraf of Landgraf Construction, contacted us with an offer of eight workstations. We contacted our more than 50 ministry partners and two decided to work together to secure, move and install the workstations in their facilities: CareNet of Dane County and Hope and a Future. They were able to secure the help of the folks at Boomerangs Resale shop, a project of Door Creek Church, to assist with volunteers and a truck to help in the move. It was exciting to see so many volunteers and agencies working together to further the ministry work of local Christian agencies.



encouraged to discuss what they took away from the talk. Relationships are built with each other and with the moms who organize the lunches.

When people hear about the Jesus Lunches they want to help. The Gideons have provided New Testaments for every student, West Side churches help with money and volunteers, and Seacrest Apple Orchard in Door County provided 500 apples for the students.

Now with numbers pushing 500 every week, costs for the food alone reach \$2000-\$2500 every week. The Jesus Lunch fund raising strategy is word of mouth. This year the Madison Christian Giving Fund has granted \$5000 to the Jesus Lunch to help pay for hot home made lunches for these students, and more importantly, to open doors to conversations about Jesus.

High School can still be a scary experience, but in Middleton it's not quite as intimidating as it used to be, thanks to five courageous moms and the Jesus Lunch.

If you are interested in getting a Jesus Lunch started in your High School, or volunteering, please contact Beth Williams at 608-220-2551 or email her at don_bethw@hotmail.com. The next Jesus Lunch series starts on April 12 at the



Madison Christian Giving Fund Supports Madison Christian Schools' Scholarship Program

The Race to Equity report paints a stark reality of educational disparities among ethnic groups in greater Madison. This report has generated much problem-solving discussion among a cross section of leadership within the city. Madison Christian Schools (West and East Campuses) is in a unique position to respond to this real crisis. The Madison Christian

Fireman's Park Pavilion across from the Middleton High School.

Photos of Jesus Lunches



Giving Fund has partnered with MCS in helping solve this problem by granting \$5000 to support scholarships for local underprivileged students.

MCS has a proven track record of academic excellence with a strong biblical foundation. While other schools focus increasing amounts of time, talent, and real money trying to solve student behavioral issues, MCS focuses on values formation and solid academics. MCS also has a strong vision for providing quality, Gospel-focused, Christian education for all students, regardless of ethnicity or economic ability. While both campuses have always served people from all ethnicities, historically some minority students have not been able to enroll because of private education tuition and fees. "The grant will help provide access for minority students" says Diann Cook,



**MADISON CHRISTIAN
SCHOOLS**

Superintendent of Madison Christian Schools.

Diann continues, “As a result of the education crises in Madison, the leaders of MCS have launched a strategic initiative called “You Have a Choice.”

The goal for this initiative is to offer four new seats to students of color at or below the poverty line in each of the following classrooms for the 2016/17 school year – kindergarten and first at both campuses, and 9th grade at East Campus. This means offering a potential of 20 students who live at or below the poverty line full-scholarships to receive a quality education based on Christian values.

In addition,

1. MCS will provide access to transportation.
2. MCS will provide free or low cost breakfast and



*An athlete cannot receive the winner's crown
except by competing according to the rules.*

2 Timothy 2:5



lunch to those students who qualify.

3. MCS will provide mentors to the students and their parents and additional after school tutoring support for kindergarten and first grade students.

4. MCS will partner with a local daycare provider, parents from the school, or a community center for after school care as necessary.

One of the key features of the 'You Have a Choice' initiative is the partnership between students, parents, churches, and Christians in the community," according to Diann. This kind of partnership is highly valued by the Madison Christian Giving Fund.

Diann concludes, "Christians in Madison who are people of means can help solve the educational crises we are now facing. A relatively modest investment will go a long



way toward empowering students of color to be successful in school and in life, and some will become Christ-followers and go on to make a Kingdom difference in the world.”

To donate, volunteer, or for more information about the “You Have a Choice” initiative, contact:

- Doug Butler, Principal, Abundant Life Christian School (MCS East Campus): dbutler@mcs-wi.com, 608) 221-1520.
- Chuck Moore, Principal, High Point Christian School (MCS West Campus): cmoore@mcs-wi.com, 608) 836-7170.



