



May 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the Madison Christian Giving Fund newsletter. You are receiving this email because either you have donated to us in the past, or that 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.

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 like to have funded but were not able due to lack of funds. We intend to provide you with updates about the various campaigns that we have ongoing 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. Nehemiah's Academic Center for Excellence and Madison Area Lutheran Council's Jail Ministry. These programs are delivering vital services in our community without having to diminish a Gospel message of hope in Jesus Christ

Next month look forward to hearing the story of Jesus Lunches and perhaps, not the one that you heard in certain media outlets, but real stories of how Middleton moms are giving hope in the lives of high school youth. You will also hear about how one developer helped three Christian ministries work together to improve their offices.

We hope that you will find these stories inspiring and 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 Invests in South-Side Children by Supporting ACE Outreach Initiative

The Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership is launching a new gospel centered outreach and discipleship event for twenty five 5th through 8th graders who are participants in the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) program.

ACE primarily serves children from low-income, minority families, the majority of whom are African-American. Almost all of the children who participate in ACE receive free or reduced fee lunch at school. ACE's approach, building healthy relationships with children and their families,



Jail Ministry News

a ministry of presence
serving Dane County

MADISON CHRISTIAN GIVING FUND Supports Lutheran Jail Ministry

The Madison Christian Giving fund is supporting the Madison Area Lutheran Council (MALC) Jail Ministry in 2016. The Jail Ministry, a ministry of presence in the Dane County Jail, serves the spiritual needs of the men and women who are incarcerated, their families and communities. 60-80% of the inmates have substance abuse issues while another 20% have mental health challenges. The Jail Ministry employs two chaplains who function as the

as been successful because they not only concentrate on the key areas of literacy and math, but directly address the critically important issues of identity, value and worth of each individual in God's eyes.

The Madison Christian Giving Fund has granted \$6,500 to help ACE invest more deeply in the lives of the children they serve, ACE graduates and their friends though a three day retreat this summer. The special retreat is designed to build community among the children so they can support one another in standing firm for what they believe and helping each other make choices that honor God. According to Ozanne Anderson, Director of ACE Youth Empowerment Services, "As we are building that community we want to reach out to friends of ACE children, sharing with them the Good News, so our event will be designed as a "bring a friend" experience. There are many children in Madison's south side who don't attend church, so a fun weekend which helps ACE children grow as disciples and model Christ's love is a perfect

pastors of the nearly 800 men and women incarcerated in the jail each day. The chaplain's job is to remind people who are in a restricted, isolated, sterile, hopeless environment that God is present, even in the jail.

The chaplains live Christ's gospel each time they enter the jail... "When I was in prison, you visited me." *Matthew 25:35&36*. The Jail Ministry logo illustrates their mission and how it relates to Christ's gospel. The **blossoming flower** represents hope, perseverance and love for new life. As the **shackles** of past lives and poor choices are broken, wisdom, forgiveness, faith and love grow. The **mosaic hands** speak to diversity. People from every walk of life are impacted by incarceration. This rich diversity of life experience informs the spiritual journeys of every person who is seeking a closer relationship with God. The **handcuffs** represent both the literal shackles of physical confinement and the figurative prisons of self-doubt, shame and self-loathing. The **hands and the flower breaking free** of the circle represent the limitless possibilities when we bring faith,

opportunity to proclaim God's love to their friends."

"This creative project is right in our wheelhouse," says Scott Haumersen, Chairman of the FUND. "The emphasis on evangelism and children, especially in low-income, African American families, is exactly what we think will transform lives. We love projects like this."



hope and love into the challenging process of re-entry.

This unique program (the only one of its kind in the state of Wisconsin) provides funding for the salaries of two chaplains, a part-time volunteer and community relations coordinator, and a part-time administrative assistant/bookkeeper. Incarceration can be a time of deep personal examination and reflection; people may want to make changes, but don't know how. To people who are searching for answers, the chaplains provide spiritual care, conduct religious services, lead scripture readings and reflections, run groups, and distribute Bibles and other spiritual reading materials, e.g. *Our Daily Bread*. The volunteer and community relations coordinator provides outreach to local churches, manages the church liaison program and coordinates and works cooperatively with many other Christian volunteers that visit the jail.

"This kind of collaboration is one reason the Madison Christian Giving Fund is supporting the



Illustrations from Jail House Ministry



Jail Ministry,” says Scott Haumersen, Chairman of the FUND. The MALC is governed by an Executive Committee, comprised of both clergy and laity, from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and United Church of Christ (UCC). These synods and denominations, along with other area congregations and non profits are the primary source of financial support for the Jail Ministry. The ecumenical nature of the organization is also unique. Jail Ministry representatives meet with local congregations, sharing the mission and ministry of the Jail Ministry and seeking financial and volunteer support.

Tina Hogle, Vice Chair, Madison Area Lutheran Council, adds, “It is our hope that in 2016, with hard work and persistence, we will have encouraged additional congregations to support the ministry as well as strengthen the relationship we have with the congregations that currently support MALC. During that time, we will also build and strengthen our partnerships with other



faith-based organizations that share the mission of the Jail Ministry, such as Madison Outreach Ministries, MOSES, Madison Area Urban Ministry, and Nehemiah."

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