

# ANNUAL GRANT REPORT - 2023



**Madison Christian**  
GIVING FUND

# \$1,103,400.00 IN GRANTS SINCE 2014

- In 2023 \$146,700 in grants were awarded to these organizations.

Affordable Dental Care  
Athletes in Action  
Brat Fest  
Care Net Pregnancy Center  
Collaboration Project  
CRU  
Door Creek Church – Northside  
Every Daughter  
FCA - Southern Wisconsin  
FCA Stoughton  
FOSTER of Dane County  
Iglesia Restauracion Y Vida  
Impact Movement - Badger Chapter  
Inspiring Hope Ministry

Jesus' Lunches  
Lighthouse Christian School  
Living Springs International Church  
Madison Area Jail Ministry  
Magnum Opus  
Nehemiah Development Center  
PEBOGA  
Rev. Eugene Small's Prison Ministry Project  
Shelter From The Storm Ministry  
The Evangelical Catholic  
Upper | House  
WI Inmate Education Association  
Yada Fair Trade & Resale Store  
Young Life

## PROJECT: Dental Education Workshops for Underserved Communities and People of Color



Providing dental education workshops to our underserved communities and those with low English proficiency is a manifestation of Christ-like compassion and care. We embody the teachings of Jesus to love and care for our neighbors, demonstrating a deep concern for their well-being and health of our bodies—the temples gifted to us by God.

In nurturing proper oral hygiene and health, we honor the divine principle of stewardship. Our bodies are sacred, created in the image of God, and caring for them, including our dental health, is an expression of gratitude. By imparting knowledge and encouraging individuals to care for their oral well-being, we acknowledge God's grace in the form of wisdom and empowerment.

Because of the financial generosity shown by the MCGF, we were able to hold English and Spanish dental education workshops with the following organizations: One City Preschool, Mariposa Learning Center Bilingual Child Care, Lighthouse Christian School, Countryside Montessori Preschool, YMCA, and Catholic Multicultural Center. Additionally, 650 dental kits were distributed to children in these communities. We have significantly surpassed our goal of impacting 350 people in need by handing out 400 dental kits to children in low income families. We have had continued success in promoting dental hygiene, empathy, and overall well-being. As we forge partnerships with organizations sharing in these charitable virtues like the MCGF, our collective impact is magnified, further exemplifying the love and kindness of our Lord.



ADC is interested in hosting dental education workshops for women who are getting ready to be released from prison and to integrate themselves back into the community. We have discovered after a conversation with Dane County Sheriff, Calvin Barrett, there are dental services available, but there is a need for education to set these women up for success in transitioning back into a caregiver role. Throughout this program we continue to notice God's wonder around us and feel even more compelled to put our compassion into action.



## PROJECT: Gospel Resource Kits 2.0



Our project succeeded in teaching/extending the Gospel in multiple ways. The Gospel Resource Kits are packed with Gospel resources such as the Gospel of John, Bible study materials, Christian books, mental health resources, and information on local churches. The athletes are reading, hearing, and seeing the Gospel as they interact with each resource. The Gospel Resource Kits present opportunities for the athletes, coaches, and athletic department staff to have spiritual conversations with other players, coaches, and faculty. The kits give us opportunities to initiate conversations with athletes at our weekly meetings. One of our staff asked two freshman rowers if they wanted a kit. They responded with an excited “Yes!” After handing them a kit, one of our staff asked how their freshman year was starting off. They responded “It’s going well, but it is going so much better after tonight! Having this space to meet and grow in our faith is awesome!” We are so encouraged by this and the opportunities we will have to build relationships and share Jesus as a result of this outreach.

We packed and filled 175 Gospel Resource Kits this summer with the materials purchased with the funds we received. We have approximately 75 Gospel Resource Kits remaining that we will distribute this fall. Each kit has a QR Code which links to a comment card with questions about their spiritual interest and how we can continue to equip and encourage them in their walk with Jesus. We have had 65 students fill out the comment card and that has allowed us to make new connections with many new athletes and build relationships and trust that will allow us to share the Gospel! Last year, we had about 10 students at our weekly meetings. A great lesson learned as we distributed the kits this year was to incorporate a means of more intentional follow-up with the athletes. This year as we passed out the kits, we had the athletes fill out a comment card with prompts such as “I would like a Bible” and “I would like to have a conversation with someone about what it means to have a relationship with God.” As an incentive to fill out the comment card, we distributed Badger Life t-shirts to any athlete who filled out the comment card. The athletes have been excited to wear these shirts around campus, which has created more opportunities to have spiritual conversations and invite teammates to come to AIA events! We know that there are opportunities to distribute these resource kits at Madison College and Edgewood College as well. This year at our first weekly meeting, we saw 36 students attend! The Gospel Resource Kits gave us a reason to chat with the student athletes after our meeting and made them feel welcome in the environment. We believe that students continue to come back because of the truth that is shared about Jesus and how the environment gives them a safe community to be a part of. The Gospel Kits are a huge part of that! As a result of this outreach, we have given away numerous Bibles, connected athletes to many local churches, and built relationships that show the student athletes that we care about them as human beings, not just because of their athletic ability or how they perform on the court. One of our student athletes, DP, received a Bible as a result of the Gospel Resource Kits. After one of our staff gave him his Bible, he asked us to take a picture to send to his mom to let her know how excited he was that he got his first Bible!

# PROJECT: Bratfest



Roughly 1,050 worshiped God at Brat Fest on Sunday morning at our Faith Based Stage. An incredible message from Pastor Jon McNary of Heartland Church, words of wisdom from Bob Lenz of Lifest and all day incredible Christian Musicians playing on the stage to worship all day long. We increased the size of tent for the Ministry Marketplace from a 20'x30' to a 30'x60' to make both guests and organizations feel more comfortable. We invited attendees to learn about the ministries and impact they are making in and around the community and how the public can get involved with them to support their mission and the Lord's work in our community. Over 150,000 people attended Brat Fest over the weekend. We continue our goal to make this a festival for all to enjoy. Thanks to our sponsors and supporters, we can keep our Festival FREE to attend, FREE Parking, and FREE Live music!

We had great feedback from the Ministry Marketplace for those Ministry Partners and the guests. We had a great lineup of Music. People enjoyed the video board, which we borrowed from Lifest. We used it during the worship service for song lyrics and also to promote the Ministry Partners in the Ministry Marketplace tent. We did not have that the prior year. Only issue we had was the sound tent obstructing the view of those who sat behind it. It is something we don't know that we can change, but are looking into it.



## PROJECT: Coordinated Care



Care Net  
Pregnancy Center  
of Dane County

We take an opportunity to have a spiritual discussion with every client we see for pregnancy testing. It's part of our assessment of their medical, financial, social, emotional, and spiritual health. We've been excited to see the number of women who engage in these conversations. Often times we hear from women that they can't bring a child into the world because they don't want them to grow up without a father, or with an abusive father (perhaps as they did). But we talk about a Father who is perfect in their love for them and who is always there to meet their needs. We offer hope when they feel there is no hope. We tell them God has a plan not just for their baby - but also for THEM! And that God wants to connect with them.

From January to Sept 26, we've provided 205 patient appointments on our mobile clinic. Our mobile clinic goes to under resourced areas such as Fitchburg, West Madison, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin Dells and now Janesville. Our busiest locations are Fitchburg and West Madison. We noted in-depth spiritual conversations with 35 of our patients. We have also been able to continue follow up with many of our patients and even provided benevolence funds that have helped them. Many of our past clients call our care coordinator and ask for prayer. Here is one story of a women who counted on that kind of spiritual support when her child was born with a serious illness.

Sandra contacted us for pregnancy and parenting classes after she learned about our programs at a family fair. She and her husband were expecting their first child and were struggling to make ends meet. They made too much money to qualify for most help, but not enough to make ends meet. Sandra shared, "I was so scared of not having things needed for my baby when I found out I was pregnant." She was under tremendous stress and in need of support. Katie, our Education & Care Coordinator, explained that as she took classes, she could earn points to purchase items she needed for the baby, like diapers and strollers. Sandra was grateful for the help, but soon she realized she needed more than that. Sandra's son, Thomas, was born with a congenital defect that required immediate surgery to save his life. Sandra called Katie to let her know right away. When Katie asked if she could pray with her, the answer was an emphatic "Please!". Katie prayed for strength and peace for the parents and healing and recovery for little Thomas. Over the next few months, Thomas would endure many surgeries, and the family's stress grew. Katie remained connected to the family, offering support, prayer, and a listening ear whenever Sandra needed one. She has faithfully worked with counselors and recently sent them a special thank you message.

"Thank you for helping me through this. I've learned so much, and I'm using the tools you gave me. You've relieved so much of my worries and have taught me so much!"

We thought that many people would resist a spiritual discussion. We ask permission: Is it ok to discuss your spiritual beliefs? They respond "yes" 90% of the time! We may only have a few minutes, but seeds are planted. Sometimes they share confused information about what Christianity is and blend it with other religions. We can tell them that Jesus was the only God who ever claimed to leave heaven and come to earth to reach us as individuals, and that He accepts us and loves us as we are. We also hand out Bibles when an interest is indicated.

## PROJECT: Collaboration Project Co-working Space



Collaboration Project  
#soallmayflourish

Our grant was to support the Collaboration Project co-working space. Our space is designed as a place for Christians from different ministries and sectors to connect for mutual encouragement, ministry advancement, and greater collaboration. Since opening less than a year ago, we have hosted hundreds of faith leaders, Christian ministries and Christian marketplace leaders with a mix of intentional programming and casual co-working. A few highlights of extending the Good News of Christ include: a week of 24-7 prayer for our city with a focus on our neighbors knowing the good news of Jesus in both word and deed, a Christian lawyer working onsite and providing Christ-centered counsel for numerous clients who are not Christians, a cohort of local Christian business leaders meeting to discuss how they can be missionaries in their context and live out the Gospel through their vocation, and several Christians holding their meetings in our space to serve both Christian and non-Christian clients. These are just a few examples of the ministry happening out of the Collaboration Project space. We are grateful for the opportunity!

- The area we have found the most traction in our space is around hosting targeted small groups that are unified around bringing Christians together to better understand their context and grow in service to their neighbors (literal or otherwise). These groups include: Neighborhood Networks, School Partnerships, Women in Ministry, Christian Business Leaders cohort, anti-trafficking retreat, prayer groups. We are currently facilitating 2-3 groups/week with average attendance of 10-25/group. These gatherings are equipping participants to express the Gospel in a wide range of situations/settings in our community. Through these groups we have served leadership from 70+ local churches in the last 11 months. - Our co-working model has not met our expectations and we currently have around 20 members. These members have been a part of many of the groups listed above which has created a limited sense of co-working community. However we did not reach our initial goals in this area and discerned that hosting programming described above is more effective in reaching our mission to "gather Christ-followers to deepen understanding of our communities and discern action for the good of our neighbors, to God's glory".
- Some of this is described above but a significant learning is that there is less of a demand for co-working space within the Madison Christian Community than our initial analysis suggested. Part of the reason for this is the number of people working remotely. As a result, the amount of open office space in the Madison area is over one million square feet according to a recent report. However, the need and interest from Christians to come together to connect with each other and learn how to reach our community for Christ is on the rise. Therefore, we are putting more of our energy into creating programming that brings diverse Christian communities together to better understand their community. And through that understanding, to better love their neighbors with the love and hope of Christ.

## PROJECT: Student Gift Bags



We passed out over 150 care packages to our leaders and cast vision to them about using freshmen involved in our ministry to go with them to start spiritual conversations and share the Gospel in the dorms at UW Madison. After the first few weeks of the school year, we have thousands of responses from spiritual interest surveys. But the difficulty comes in trying to get face-to-face with these students so that Christ can be shared. There were numerous examples of freshmen answering their doors and being able to get into a spiritual conversation where the Gospel was also shared. This also really helped our student leaders to think like missionaries on campus, not just gathering Christians, but giving more and more students the chance to relevantly respond to Jesus.

We were able to pass out over 150 care packages to our staff and students that made their way into the hands of freshmen all over campus. These freshmen had varying levels of spiritual interest, but the win was being able to get into conversations with them that transitioned into sharing the Gospel. These gift bags had evangelistic resources and materials, Badger Cru promotional items like stickers and pens, and a few snacks. A lasting image I have of the outreach is when a few of our student leaders led a training of 60 of their leader peers on stepping out in faith to knock on doors and share Christ.

We still have some of the care packages left over that we are planning/hoping to use with this year's incoming freshmen class to bring to their peers. A continued challenge is access to the dorms and the lack of responsiveness of students. We have so many spiritual interest surveys, but we are only allowed access into the dorms if we are escorted by a freshmen who lives there. The key is then getting involved freshmen to have a vision and be willing to meet their peers to engage in spiritual conversations that lead to sharing the Gospel. Already this year, we have an increased freshmen class presence, many of whom seem to be willing to go out sharing with us. We are eager to try again!



# PROJECT: Men's Homeless Outreach



In 2023 we had a program where we provided a short message, song and a prayer to accept Christ. We have had four men, and one woman receive Christ into their lives for the first time. Pastor David also provides spiritual counselling for any men that need it. Our average attendance is 15 men and 2 women each month. Because the men's and women's shelters are separate programs, our program allows a husband and wife to reunite in a warm environment and share a hot meal together.

Our 2023 statistics so far are:

- We have served over 50 men (and some women). We don't usually have duplication of people. Many times, it's new people.
- We have done testimony sharing at each table during the breakfast program
- We have distributed over 100 hats, gloves, socks, and ponchos.
- We have served a total of 150 meals to the participants.

We have distributed spiritual growth materials to those who desire to receive them. We have learned that it is hard to just offer this ministry to men. The Beacon hosts both men and women and the women are eager to come. That is why we have opened the program to both genders.

## PROJECT: Every Daughter

# EVERY DAUGHTER

MINISTRY TO SEXUALLY EXPLOITED & TRAFFICKED WOMEN IN MADISON

We had numerous opportunities to show the love of Jesus in tangible ways. While the women waited for their cars, they met with the outreach team members from Every Daughter and Yada. We had the chance to talk and pray with the women, continuing to show that the community of Jesus Followers loves in word AND action.

The Car Care Clinic has shown to be a needed step in supporting women who have been sexually exploited. We serviced more than 20 cars throughout this past year and consulted with many of the women on other car issues beyond the Car Care Clinic. The trust being built is necessary in the healing for so many. Having a group of Godly men working on the cars shows that not all men are clients.

We learned ALOT! One of the things we learned is to walk alongside the women in decision making for their car needs. It is better to equip and inform them on what is needed instead of taking over to "fix" their car for them. Involving them in the process gives them a chance to take more ownership and empowerment in their lives. The other lesson learned is to under-promise and over-deliver on what can be fixed on cars. Many of the cars are being held together by a miracle. Setting an expectation of what can be fixed helps to keep expectations realistic.

# PROJECT: Back to School Bash/Ju Ju's Block Party and Street Ball Tournament

More than 1,500 people attended the event. We partnered with Second Peace to provide food, drinks, snow cones and cotton candy. There were many conversations among the participants and families and organizations about what creates food insecurity and the current demands on families. The Gospel of Christ also was shared at this event.

Pre-Mother's Day Brunch (Fountain of Life): More than 125 women attended this event - of all generations, ethnicities, backgrounds, etc. The goal was to give moms and women flowers because they do so much for their families. Through this we showed them love.

Essentials Pantry - provides food and essential to those in need. Based at Fountain of Life - our partner in this work - no questions asked - food, toiletries, hygiene products, gas cards, rental assistance, supportive counseling services are provided.

We have learned that there are many people in our community who are "too young to be old" and "too old to be young" and who are silently suffering because of challenging health conditions, physical limitations, emotional and financial hardships. They are living on a fixed income, inflation is rising, and are a bit short on rent. It is a mess and a significant challenge. This group also does not get the spotlight/focus because they are not youth or young adults who have access to more programming - but they are not old enough to have access to senior programming. They are mostly working or are used to working and being able to support themselves, but now find themselves in need of support. This population, therefore, will be the focus of our next request to the MCGF.

Psalm 72:12-14. "For He delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence, He redeems their life; precious is their blood in His sight."



## PROJECT: Unspoken Documentary



The Unspoken Documentary takes an in-depth look at the Christian heritage in Africa and examines how historical events have shaped today's vastly popular perspective of Christianity. Unspoken was created to dispel the notion of Christianity being an exclusively white man's religion.

This project succeeded in teaching/extending the Gospel of Christ by providing a safe space for Black students to come learn the historical background of Christianity and an opportunity to actually see themselves in it. In general, some Black people have experienced feelings that Christianity is exclusive to White people and/or that through slavery, Christianity was forced upon us. This documentary goes deep into the roots of Christianity, that time, and the Gospel to teach those watching that the Gospel is for ALL and that Christ came to redeem all of His children. In addition to the documentary, because of your support, we were able to bring in a speaker, and provide event t-shirts, the unspoken guidebooks, and Bibles. The speaker shared her testimony and facilitated a Q & A both about the documentary and about the students and their faith journey in general. The event t-shirts allow students to boldly wear/represent that they too are a part of the Gospel. The front of the shirt says "ONE FAITH. MANY FACES" and the back has 1 Timothy 2:3-6 on it.

We had about 45 students attend. About 25-30 of them stayed until the very end where we had a altar call for prayer to receive Christ and to move away from doubt and forward in our new understanding that the Gospel is also for us. All students were fed a catered meal. We did have left-overs and students were happy and grateful to take food home. As students left the event, so many stopped to share with us how grateful they were for the event. They shared how necessary it was and how they are happy to have this space on campus. Students even requested 1 on 1 prayer with the speaker and sought out 1 on 1 conversations with Impact staff regarding their faith.

Here are a few comments from our students on how this event was beneficial to them:

"It was impactful and powerful to see so many young people of God joining on a Saturday to learn more about the Lord."

"Learning about the African origins of Christianity was very beneficial."

"That real Christianity is based on following Christ not on a race."

# PROJECT: Journeys of Faith and Hope



We just formally launched online. This took more funds than our grant received but we have accomplished a Vimeo account where we will be highlighting stories of those of our population (adults with disabilities) and their challenges and how they have overcome them through faith.

Visit our website [www.inspiringhopeministries.org](http://www.inspiringhopeministries.org) to see our first published video, one of many. We link to the Vimeo site and will be releasing video casts approximately every 2-4 weeks. We will likely interview new people once per quarter. Each interview is at least a \$1,000 investment -- probably \$2,500 per person- as it is video editing website/promotion etc., plus other needs. We are hoping that the cost will decrease over time, but media is expensive to get started.

We are excited with what we have learned. We are finding many of our population are excited to share their stories of hope and can't wait to participate. We are looking forward to many stories. However, with their disabilities, filming takes time and coordination. This is the costly part along with needing equipment and services of those who are skilled in this work. Also, some people we are waiting for are working hard within their challenge to be able to be interviewed -- for example Josiah of Josiah's Fire- an amazing young man was bedridden for over a year and was unable to manage being able to come and interview him and his family . He is now making progress and we are looking forward to a future interview with him.

We took longer to get on our way, but Jeff Pohorski comes weekly and within that schedule we will be interviewing, editing, vision casting and releasing video casts to encourage those who are somewhat invisible to people. They may be home bound, they may be in countries that don't have our United States opportunities and resources. They are certainly in our neighborhoods. We are just beginning. We would love for you to continue to support us in an ongoing way to encourage us with your faith and financial support.

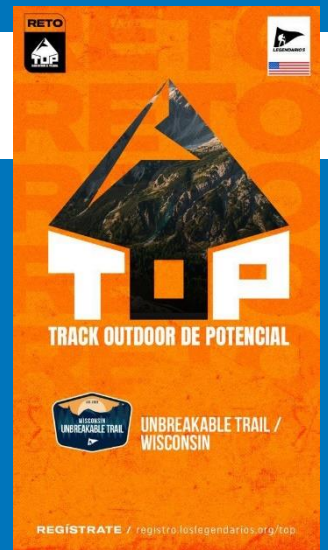
# PROJECT: Legendarios, Wisconsin

Legendary Wisconsin, is men who are unbreakable to sin but are broken by the Legendary #1 Jesus Christ; to fight for family, ministry, and community. Always live life as a story worthy of being told, broken before God and unbreakable before sin. Always looking for an AHU+ A new level of **Love**, a new story of **Honor**, and a new level of **Unity**. Legendary Wisconsin, is a ministry that helps men redefine their call for family, marriage, and the local community. Legendary Wisconsin ministers to men to overcome their fears and to achieve their goals. Also, to meet Jesus Christ, the Legendary #1, our Savior and Leader.

We invite men to become Legendary by challenging them. It is a 4-day event of real connection with God through nature, far from civilization. It is an opportunity for the participants to rediscover the original configuration that the Creator designed for men. At the end of the event, they are known as “Legendaries” because, from that moment on, they know they can impact the history of their family and nation. We began with twelve hikers who became servers “Legendaries” about three years ago. Most of the congregation servers have become part of Legendary ministry. We now have over 70 servers who are part of Legendaries ministry mainly from our local community, but also from Minnesota, Chicago, and Milwaukee.

We would like to expand and grow our ministry to other communities around Madison. Therefore, we need better logistics to grow our ministry to other communities. We also hope to grow our ministry to other states around Wisconsin. The biggest lesson of all this is to partner with other churches to be able to expand and build relationships that can help the expansion of our ministry.

We will continue to work hard side by side with other churches. The same way we have been working. The project will remain and will continue to be a ministry in Casa De Fe, as one of the most significant ministries that has helped men and families to stay strong and together. The outreach to other churches and the sharing of testimonies has been a great asset to our ministry and a great way to add other ministries to become part of this new lifestyle for men.



# PROJECT: Back to School Fair



About 500 people, including children, attended our back-to-school event. We had Christian music playing throughout the event, a prayer team praying for people, and also members of the evangelistic team sharing the Gospel. At the same time, we gave everyone a postcard with information about Lighthouse Church along with the plan of salvation written on the back. Hundreds of people were prayed for, given the Gospel, and were encouraged to come to church. We have contact info of 28 people who prayed to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We know that many more received a seed that will eventually produce fruit.

More than half of the people in attendance received prayer and heard the Good News of salvation one-on-one. Several families have started attending Lighthouse Church. 300 children received backpacks, school supplies and many of them received free haircuts ahead of the start of the school year. 126 families were able to receive food from the food pantry. It was a fun family event that exalted Jesus.

We believe the event was a success. The presence of God was evident, and many families were blessed to receive help and to be encouraged with prayer and love. For the families in attendance, this event removed a financial burden that they often face before the start of the school year. The challenge that we faced was that we ran out of supplies and food; many families did not get a chance to receive help. Also, because of the size of the group, our parking lot is becoming too small for the event.



# PROJECT: Living Springs International Church

Since January this year, LSIC has embarked on numerous evangelicalism projects which have changed a lot of lives. Our “Madison Food Christ” ministry has led a lot of people to Christ in this year alone. “Madison For Christ” was started in June 2015 and we can confidently say that we have seen a lot of success this year due to the support. We have made a lot of impact on campus and have a lot of young International students willing to fellowship with us. Our challenge is how to transport them to and from their locations to church. Our hope is to purchase a van to help transport them to church and activities and also to train more people to reach out.

In February, about 40 couples (80 people) met at the Sheraton Hotel with the aim of strengthening marriages through sharing with how Christ sees the church. This event was open to the community especially the African community which brought in non-Christians. This gave us the opportunity to minister Christ to them and share the love of God. We then followed with a Women’s Day Celebration. The Women’s department hosted women from a local women’s shelter as their special guests/attendees. They blessed them with care hampers as well as the Word of God and prayer.

In June – August of 2023, LSIC engaged in our annual “Madison for Christ” event. “Madison for Christ” is a boots-on-the-ground effort aimed at winning souls for Jesus through sharing of the Word of God and prayer. After that event, we held a Single’s night as well as our annual picnic where we invited the local community to fellowship with us through games and food with the purpose of sharing the Good News of Christ.



© HenreeObeng 23



# PROJECT: Living Springs International Church

The efforts continued with an annual event that they call “Madison Give” where we provide gently used household and clothing items as well as non-perishable food to the African college community. As we do this, we invite the students to the church, pray for them, and share the Gospel. Two of LSIC main events this summer were the African Fests held here in Madison. For these events, LSIC bought thousands of water bottles to give to the community for free along with a Gospel message. We set up a two tents with our name “Living Springs” and offer people free water as a way to connect with people, pray with them, share the Good News, and invited them to church. Our young adults held an event from September 5 to September 10. They invited Lawyers to talk about immigration, a Police Office to teach about identity theft, held community services and had some evangelism events. They crowned the event on Sunday, Sept.10<sup>th</sup> with various activities including Bible recital and reaching out to the international students. My congregation and I are grateful to God for the provision of finances that has enabled us to continue our evangelistic efforts without putting a strain on our finances. Thanks to the grant received from the MCGF, Living Springs International Church was able to reach the Madison community and beyond.



## PROJECT: Magnum Opus School of the Arts



Our Christian School of the Arts has incorporated Christ-like principles to all of our dance, theatre, and music classes. Modest costumes showing our bodies are a temple, appropriate movement and music protecting the innocence of children and implementing Gospel focused lyrics and movement. The quote below is from a parent of how we have impacted her children.

"Magnum Opus School of the Arts has been such a blessing to our family and to the greater South Central Wisconsin area. Raising Christian kids in a pretty liberal city can be hard as one kind of feels alone on an island. Magnum Opus has provided a safe, warm, and welcoming environment for artsy kids to grow in their God given talents. With a focus on Christ, who unites all denominations, people of all ages and backgrounds can come together and express their love for their Savior through music and dance. We have 4 children who thrive in the performing arts and there's NEVER been a Christ focused place in the Madison area offering so many different classes for all ages at affordable rates. With all of our kids taking a class or two, we feel so grateful and thankful that we are even able to provide these experiences for them. Magnum Opus has been an answer to prayers for a community of believers who value the God given artistic abilities of our kids and who have been longing for a nurturing environment for them to grow."

## PROJECT: Magnum Opus School of the Arts



We began our School of the Arts with 69 students in September 2022, and the goal was to double in 12 months. As of September 2023, we are now up to 129 which is just shy of our doubling goal! Due to the grant funding from MCGF, we were able to present over \$5,000 in scholarship to 12 students. Students continue to flock from surrounding areas such as Pardeeville, Baraboo, Johnson Creek, Stoughton and more to learn their art form in a Christian environment.

Our School of the Arts is an ongoing project and organization. We plan to continue to grow in numbers, as well as expand our physical location. The School is attached to our professional company that also has plans to maintain outreaches that are beyond the church walls to bring the Gospel to the unreached and underprivileged. Our goal is to continue to be able to provide scholarships, a safe environment, and high-quality Christian art education for years to come.



# PROJECT: Nehemiah Reentry & Dignity Initiative



● **CENTER FOR**  
● **URBAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

The long-term desired outcome of this project is to witness the men who enter the Nehemiah Reentry programming acquire their own stable housing, consistent employment and access to health and mental care so they will in turn be able to share their gifts with their families and the larger community.

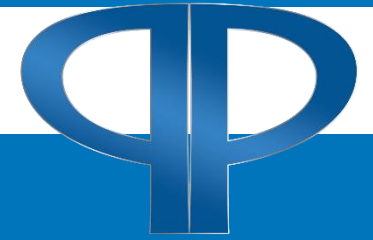
The short and medium-term goals of the Nehemiah Reentry Program include:

- Connecting with men returning from jail or prison in Dane County and providing them with a path to a more stable and secure futures. This path includes safe and clean housing, peer-to-peer counseling, access to wrap-around services, access to job training and employment opportunities, and access to a faith community through Fountain of Life Church.
- Providing boundaries for the men in our housing programs such as an expectation of rent and adherence to sober living rules so that they can access the pride that comes with meeting expectations.
- Teaching the wider community about our criminal legal system – how it started, how policies were developed, the inconsistencies between stated goals and actual outcomes, and possibilities for a more just system.
- Engaging professionals within the criminal legal system (police, parole officers, Department of Corrections, etc.) to collectively co-create new approaches that will more effectively achieve community safety without sacrificing the lives of men who do not pose a threat to that safety.

Over the past year, we have housed 110 men in our four properties (as they stay with us or succeed in finding stable housing of their own); 33 men attended our peer-support Man Up sessions for the first time with 133 non-duplicated sessions attended; our staff have connected men with 8 new employers and more than 300 volunteer hours were logged – helping to supply our apartments, attending community meetings, observing court hearings, etc.

The primary beneficiaries of this project are the men returning from jail or prison who are supported by Nehemiah through the provision of stable and safe housing, coaching, and mentoring, support finding employment and staff advocacy for a more just criminal legal system. The anticipated future for these individuals is always uncertain – but Nehemiah plans to only grow its capacity to provide direct supports and advocate for systems change moving forward. Nehemiah is one of few organizations in Dane County dedicated to doing this work – we are so grateful to the Madison Christian Giving Fund for recognizing the critical nature of these efforts and supporting them.

# PROJECT: Fall Gospel Fest



The Fall Gospel Fest project (2022) extended the Gospel of Christ through the ministries of the featured artists and other ministry leaders who were present at the event. Additionally, we anticipate expanding the awareness of Fall Gospel Fest as well as attracting new followers through the inspirational Gospel message and featured artists.

After two consecutive years of Fall Gospel Fest being presented virtually, we believe progress was made toward our stated objectives:

- We had a diverse audience of 400 attendees
- The Word of Christ was shared by artists and speakers, including:
  - Joshua Rogers
  - Jekalyn Carr
  - Angela Primm
- Multiple family members from different households were in attendance to support family members who were a part of the performance ministries

We've learned that Fall Gospel Fest continues to be a highly anticipated event in the Black Community and attracts a diverse audience. Some of the challenges are the high cost involved in securing venues and the top Gospel artists. Moving forward one thing we would like to improve upon is finding ways to reach people who are not supported or active in faith-based communities.

## PROJECT: The Prison Ministry Project

# Rev. Eugene Small's Prison Ministry

Rev. Eugene Small along with Rev. Jerry Hancock – (who used to be a Deputy District Defender and is now a pastor and director of The Prison Ministry Project) minister to 5 prisons in Wisconsin. In April they were invited to preach and do pastoral visits at the prison in Racine.

This is a sign of how God is blessing this ministry to the captives. In the first eight months of 2023 they preached or made pastoral visits with 1,720 men and women inside Wisconsin prisons. In the Racine prison alone, they have ministered to over 230 men from April – September.

The men and women they minister to in prison continue to respond enthusiastically to the Gospel and to the preaching. When they hear Rev. Eugene Small's testimony about being born in prison, joining a gang, running from the law, and serving time in prison, they can see that he was truly one of the "least of these." Eugene feels a deeper sense that he not only has responded to the Gospel of Matthew's command to visit people in prison, but he is living proof of God's grace.



## PROJECT: Trauma Counselling



In our program, the residents are encouraged to pray daily and give their challenges to God. We share Scripture with our women and practice Christian Affirmations to help them with their identity in Christ. In addition to our Trauma Group, our residents are allowed various opportunities to meet with and join in on Christ-centered group conversation. A resident who graduated from our program in June had a very negative outlook regarding her struggles. We encouraged her whenever she worried, to trust God and wait for His perfect timing. She began to trust and gain patience in waiting. God awarded her the apartment, vehicle, and job she never could have imagined before her time here at SFTSM. Now she gives Glory to God every day.

With the 2023 MCGF grant for our Trauma Services, we provided one-on-one counseling and group sessions for all 21 women we served in 2023. Our Trauma Counselor also assisted us in delivering crisis mental health care for three of our teenage residents. In the Spring of 2023, on one evening, we had three residents and two of their friends repent of their sins and accept Jesus into their hearts (with the guidance of a Pastor) while attending a movie on deliverance.

In 2023, it has become abundantly clear to us at SFTSM that although secular counseling services can be helpful to our residents, we have to trust their spiritual health to God. We have decided to seek strictly Christian Counselors who can assist our women through prayer and give them Biblical references to aid them in life. In our group sessions, we plan to focus on freedom and deliverance from sin and the enemy. The basis of our counseling needs to be prayer and repentance, and not clinical practices from a secular world. We hope to encourage our women to heal and trust in God's goodness and love for them.

We will not be funding a regular Therapist to come into our program any longer. We will assist our women when needed to seek services with a Christian Counselor at an SFTSM-approved center. We will call on local church volunteers to help us with our freedom group sessions.

## PROJECT: Stoughton Fellowship of Christian Athletes



At our quarterly FCA events we have UW Athletes in Action students share their stories with the middle and high schoolers. Many of the athletes teach/extend the Gospel of Christ. We also have FCA Bibles and materials on hand that every student is welcome to freely take. These Bibles are also available at our weekly Bible studies. We plan service events where we strive to be LIGHTS in the Stoughton community, and beyond, spreading the Good News through our actions in addition to our words. We also invested in FCA t-shirts as a visible reminder of who we are and what we stand for.

The generosity of the MCGF allowed us to continue to provide FREE events that include good food, the key ingredient to success for any middle and high school event. The grant also allowed us to include a FREE hot breakfast to the teenagers who came to our weekly Bible study. We also provide all Bible study materials to the students free of charge. We gave out FCA t-shirts this year, too.

Our greatest success is to see students smiling, having fun, and inviting friends/teammates to come to future FCA events. We have faithful families who bring their child/children every month and a dedicated group of high school students on the leadership team. Our numbers are steadily growing and we continue to pray for this and also for the students' spiritual growth.

One consistent challenge is finding a time that works for the majority of high schoolers to meet. Between sports, academics, and work it is hard. Another challenge is finding new ways to advertise FCA. Word of mouth and social media are so far our strongest means of accomplishing this goal. We are ever hopeful to keep getting the word out there. Yet another challenge is finding coaches and adults able to commit to consistently being at the events in a mentoring role.

We have learned that the more consistently we promote and communicate with families personally, the stronger the attendance is. We have also learned to not take it personally when attendance is low. These students have so many activities and responsibilities pulling at them.



## PROJECT: Reach More Dane County



After going through the “Go Make Disciples Lives,” an initial 10-week formation time for the staff last year, they are now inviting individuals to go through “Reach More Mission” training. In this first year of partnership, St. Peter’s will form and train 15-25 people in the “Heart and Habits of Mission.” After their formation, each person discerns their personal apostolate - the who or what the Lord is leading them to be more intentional with and invest in. Through leading small groups and engaging in other apostolic outreach, they will impact 75-120 other people. St. Peter’s staff will provide ongoing shepherding for further formation, encouragement and support to assist leaders to continue to live out mission in their daily lives.

A large challenge we faced this year was the restructuring of Catholic parishes. With this restructuring, almost all of the priests in the Diocese were moved to a new location. Knowing these changes were coming, many priests were hesitant to begin anything new shortly before they would be moving somewhere else. Initially this seemed like an obstacle and roadblock to new partnerships, but now a few months after the changes, there are doors opening for new opportunities. Doing the Lord’s work often requires patience as we wait for His timing. We are continuing to network with the new pastorates and the priests in their new assignments and look forward to other new opportunities to open up. Additionally, we learned that investments of time, energy, and resources on our part open doors for an abundant return.

Initially there were no plans for a formation series. That investment of sharing the vision for disciple-making in the world led to 550 participants in last year’s project, where they received some initial formation and 300 signed up for further formation. Now equipped to share the Good News of Jesus with those in their lives, the impact of the initial investment will continue to bear fruit for the Kingdom. Our partnerships with the Diocese of Madison and with St. Peter’s parish are both ongoing.

A clear Gospel presentation is a core tenet of many of Upper House's programming priorities. We believe it is crucial that we help university students understand the Good News about Christ's saving work and His redemptive power, not only regarding saving us from sin and its destructive impact but also regarding the freedom we have in Christ and the attendant opportunity to be ambassadors of redemption and reconciliation in every sphere of life. In Christ, we are empowered to help realize God's kingdom on earth. The Gospel compels students to share God's truth as co-laborers in God's Kingdom to reach the UW-Madison campus.

Over 90 students participated in our first collaborative student leader training day. Upper House led the efforts for this training day and partnered with four other campus ministry organizations at UW-Madison, Blackhawk College-Age Ministry, CRU, The Navigators & Young Life. We have seen direct fruit with student leaders being more prepared to evangelize the campus this fall. Students were equipped with leadership lessons, workshops on ministry skills and personal spiritual practices, and community building among the Christian student body at UW-Madison. We learned how to come together as a collective Christian witness on campus to prepare student leaders to evangelize and disciple our campus.

We plan to do another student leadership training day in January 2025. We don't know if we will be applying for grant money for this project in the future.

# PROJECT: Operation Transformation

Twenty men have continued their studies at Waupun Correctional Institution as part of Operation Transformation, a four-year prison seminary leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion with a minor in Psychology. They are continually meeting the challenge of rigorous academic work, combined with prayer, counseling and the intense study of Christian theology and practice. Our students and alumni gain the tools needed to become disciples of Christ and subsequently walk along their fellow inmates on their own journeys to discipleship. Our men realize that they are gifted with God's love and as such, are worthy humans. They do not need to live defined by their past lives but have the tools to build a positive future dedicated to the service of the Lord.

Countless lives have been impacted, yes, changed, as the result of Operation Transformation. Our students and alumni embrace the reality that "your education isn't just for you, but for everyone else you meet for the rest of your life". They seek out and embrace every opportunity to support, educate, counsel, guide and bring others closer to Jesus. Examples include:

- One alum is working with the education director at his prison on a program that aids inmates in the early release program on ways to be successful post release. It is developed and run by incarcerated men and will be replicated across Wisconsin and other states.
- Many men report that they have reached beyond the prison walls to family and community members in offering support and advice regarding receiving Christ and building a fulfilling future through his love.

During this past year, all twenty of our students have remained successful in the rigorous program of classes, study, prayer, and outreach to their fellow inmates and family and friends outside the prison. There have been no major incidents among our students which has enabled each one of them to be transferred to Fox Lake Correctional Institution (FLCI) which is a medium security facility. Since the transfer has been completed, ninety-seven applications for the January 2024 Freshmen cohort have been received for twenty available seats.

In addition, we currently have twenty-eight alumni serving in various capacities in fourteen prisons across the state. Whether serving as Chaplain clerks, library clerks, tutors, cooks, or a variety of other positions, they seize every available opportunity to offer friendship, support and the love of Jesus to the men they interact with.

We are extremely blessed that our funding partners have continued their annual support and that new foundations have added Operation Transformation to their list of beneficiaries. God continues to open doors and guides our students, staff, and board to expand His Word throughout the Kingdom.



WISCONSIN INMATE  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

## PROJECT: Fair Trade & Resale Store



We work with women and their children who are in need of love and support. There is deep trauma that surfaces often. We have been clear that although we can provide for some of their physical needs, it is Jesus who can bring the love and hope they are searching for. We have prayed over many of the women...the response to a sincere prayer moves most of them to tears and many have asked to be prayed for again. A few have been open to going to church with us. This has led to deeper spiritual conversations. We also have reached out to most of the kids and taken them to church regularly and to vacation Bible schools throughout the summer. The kids' openness to Jesus is sweet...childlike! We continue to invite them to as many opportunities as we can find.

Yada grew in all areas this past year. Our volunteer base grew; the community partnerships with other organizations combatting trafficking grew; the women and children we served grew. Through these areas of growth, our reliance on the Holy Spirit grew the most. We had opportunity to present Trafficking awareness in a few of the public schools and other community groups. These opportunities provide a chance to bring awareness and prevention. We expanded our work with the women to more than 75 women (and countless children!). This is the heart of what Yada seeks to do. Be a place where they are "known". We sat with women in the emergency room, while they were homeless, through their kids' graduations...the highs and lows of life.

This past year has been a huge learning year. My heart to fight the injustice of human trafficking and sexual exploitation has grown. It has become personal. I have grown to know and love these women (and their children) and want to see their lives transformed by the love of Jesus for the good of them...not just for a cause. Through this, we will seek to find better solutions for the women to rise above their circumstances and find hope.

Yada Fair Trade & Resale is continuing to grow within our community to raise awareness and prevention as well as the women and families we serve. As we seek solutions to helping these women get a firmer footing, we continue to find other ways (that need funding) to help them in their journey to healing.

## PROJECT: Young Life Summer Camp



There are many moments during the Young Life camp adventure where the Gospel is shared and witnessed. Here are some quotes from our students who received the scholarships. You can directly see the impact of Christ and their experiences.

"Having a community where I can talk about my feelings and not feel ashamed about them. I feel so welcomed and loved. A place where I can set my mind free."

"Young Life camp was full of amazing care for me and people giving up their time for me. The love everyone had didn't make sense and also made all the difference. Through intentional time with my YL Leader, I got to start to see God in new ways."

"I'm grateful to Young Life and the community in how they helped me collect the money to go to camp. My parents weren't able to pay and fortunately that camp was the best experience that I ever had."

"I appreciated being able to have such good leaders because they helped grow my relationship with Jesus, and made me have such a good week."

"Camp was life changing and meant so much that I got to do it with my friends! I enjoyed the Clubs and was amazed where I could see God."

The funding received is to help supplement camp costs for low-income students but still allow them to have an amount doable for their financial situation and have ownership. The grant money for 2023 supplementally funded 12 students to attend summer camp. This was part of the total 15 scholarships we needed to give out. We didn't have one kid that didn't agree this was the best week of their summer...and what we love about this is the "best" week of their summer was witnessing and hearing about Jesus and how He can change their life. One of our female campers returned to her cabin one night in tears, her leader asked if she was okay and she said, "Jesus, Fun, Dance Party, Fireworks and Ice Cream, I thought this only happens in the movies not even possible for my own life."

Successes - It is totally worth continuing to battle the rising costs of travel and camping adventures with needing to fundraise more money to help supplement for families in need. It is worth it as the return rate of these students processing life with Jesus is 90-100% every time!

This grant money has become a strong foundation for getting our low-income students from Dane County to the feet of Jesus through Young Life summer camp. The added benefit is that other donors will jump on board once they learn that a large portion was already seeded by the MCGF. We needed to raise additional money this past year due to more low-income students attending than the original targeted amount in the grant. We are on target for more students to attend our summer camping in 2024.

# YES I SUPPORT THE MADISON CHRISTIAN GIVING FUND!

- Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution:

\$5,000       \$2,500       \$1,000       \$500       Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

For credit card donation go to [www.madisongiving.org](http://www.madisongiving.org) or click on the QR code.

Make checks payable to:

National Christian Foundation – Madison Christian Giving Fund

Mail check along with this page to: 18650 W. Corporate Drive, Suite 105

Brookfield, WI 53045

