



United Thank Offering COVID-19 Fall Grant Awards



Thank you to everyone who, through a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, contributed to the United Thank Offering's 2020 Ingathering through August 2020. As a result of your gratitude and generosity, we raised **\$450,000** in thank offerings in time for the first round of COVID-19 grants. The COVID-19 grants combine some historic traditions for UTO, namely sustaining previous grant winners to ensure that vital ministries continue in addition to funding innovative responses to the pandemic. Grants that sustain previous sites are indicated in the title. For the first time, the UTO Board offered funding levels to guide requests in the hope of funding as many grant sites as possible due to the extreme need the global pandemic has caused. The UTO Board received almost \$785,000 in requests for this first round of 2020 grants. With your help and the encouragement that you give to others to join the United Thank Offering, we hope to raise additional funds in the remaining months of this year to support even more of our wonderful applicants during the second round of COVID-19 grants. Remember that every penny given to the United Thank Offering is given away to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church. Since our official founding in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,357 grants for a total of \$140,625,355.77. (For a complete list of all UTO grants, please visit www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO and click on the Resources tab at the bottom of the page.)

The United Thank Offering Invites Every Episcopalian to:

Notice the Good Things That Happen Each Day.

Give Thanks to God for Your Blessings.

Make an Offering for Each Blessing.

Through UTO, Your Blessings Become Blessings for Others.

Episcopal Church Awards

Diocese of Alabama	St Mary's Food Bank Cooler/Freezer Project	\$10,000
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St. Mary's Food Bank provides bags of staples and frozen protein to our clients. This grant is for the purchase of a walk-in cooler/freezer, so St. Mary's can provide milk, cheese, and produce every week to our families who continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Diocese of Arizona	Community Driven Streaming & Digital Ministry in the Time of COVID-19	\$24,873
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This grant provides video production equipment to thirteen parishes throughout Arizona. It will enable parishes to stream worship services, perform pastoral care and outreach, and stream special events via the internet to members who are restricted from attending in-person due to COVID-19 and longer term to our parish's large retirement population.

Diocese of Chicago	COVID-19 Spanish-Language Pastoral Care Relief Training Course Development	\$23,560
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Covid-19 increases need for spiritual care but decreases accessibility to communities hardest hit. This grant provides support for technology and program building to meet the needs of Latinx communities, through remote access for pastoral care training.

Diocese of Eastern Oregon **Sustaining: Ascension
Greenhouse Enhancements
for COVID-19 Response** **\$7,200**

This grant will enhance the greenhouse by installing a heating system which will enable growing food and propagate native plant starts for indigenous first foods on a year-round basis in the harsh Eastern Oregon climate. This will mitigate food insecurity and risk in our community as people struggle with access to healthy, affordable food due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Convocation of Churches in Europe **Digital Ministry Capacity
Building for Europe** **\$9,322**

Over the months of the pandemic, the Convocation's congregations, spread across Europe, have demonstrated tremendous creativity and resilience in developing digital ministries and engaging new virtual communities. We seek now, as a Convocation, to strengthen this work by creating a community of practice among emergent leaders in digital ministry.

Diocese of El Camino Real **Sustaining Stepping Stones
(formerly Project Bridge)** **\$25,000**

Stepping Stones, networking with the faith community as strategic support partners, provides strengths-based reentry case management for incarcerated men by establishing a connection within 24 hours of release; as part of a legal advocacy coalition, presses for jail and prison reform; hosting weekly worship that includes incarcerated members.

**Episcopal Migration Ministries
Diocese of Los Angeles** **New Start Asylee Orientation
Program** **\$25,000**

Asylees are one of most vulnerable groups affected by COVID-19. They are not eligible for stimulus or unemployment funds and are often just released from immigration detention. Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Service (IRIS) will implement the New Start Asylee Orientation Program to help asylees to access vital programs and support.

Diocese of Lexington **A Caring Place: Feeding the
Soul and Body with Love and
Gratitude** **\$20,800**

Feeding the soul and body with love and gratitude takes our compassionate relational phone ministry in an entirely new direction. Since the pandemic, we now provide a home-delivered nutritious meal Monday through Friday to the disabled and elderly within our community and eligible family members who have no other food resources.

Diocese of Los Angeles **St. Luke's/San Lucas Laundry
Project** **\$10,000**

Every Saturday, 85-100 unhoused people come to St. Luke's/San Lucas for showers, clothes, and food. Given COVID-19 transmission concerns, we need a secure, commercial-grade laundry facility for safe laundering and reusing of towels and clothes which this grant will provide. Through Laundry Love, low wealth neighbors will have an affordable, safe, community-based laundry.

Diocese of North Carolina **Sustaining: St. Augustine's** **\$18,686**
College Chapel, HBCU

The Historic Chapel was built by freedmen 153 years ago. In order for the Chapel to be a center for storytelling, learning, recovery, and growth in COVID-19-time, we need to update our technology to be able to live-stream services and formation programs, and develop an outdoor space for COVID-19-safe gatherings.

Diocese of Pennsylvania **The Hive** **\$25,000**

The Hive community for spirituality and wellness is creating a new platform that empowers women to stay connected, grounded, and show up for equality in a time of global pandemic. The Hive is designing new virtual classes, forums, and a sophisticated interactive website to spiritually equip individuals to experience God's love and change the world.

Diocese of Southwest Florida **Sustaining: Benison Farm's** **\$25,000**
Feeding Response

Benison Farm at St. Augustine's provides fresh produce in St. Petersburg's food desert. Our mission is to give away/sell our crops in these neighborhoods. Benison Farm's feeding response will allow us to increase our capacity for processing and storing more fresh produce to feed those most affected by COVID-19.

Diocese of Washington **Sustaining: Charlie's Place** **\$25,000**

Charlie's Place (CP) provides a nutritious meal 5 days per week to our food insecure neighbors. More than food, however, we offer clothing, haircuts, toiletries, physician-provided medical care, art therapy, yoga and writing classes, and case management services. We seek to continue to provide this care despite the COVID-19 disruptions.

Diocese of West Tennessee **Barth House Safe House** **\$4,500**

In partnership with diocesan parishes, clergy, and laity, this project will utilize the renovated Barth House Episcopal Center in Memphis to create a safe, welcoming remote-learning situation for economically challenged college students or for those whose homes are less than safe places.

Anglican Communion Awards

Bi-Lateral Partner: **COVID-19 - Emergency Project:** **\$9,745.04**
Brazil, Diocese of Brazil **Solidarity and Transformation**

This project ensures food security of children and elderly people in social vulnerability on the outskirts of Brasilia, Federal District, Brazil. Brazil's rates of deaths caused by COVID19 are the second highest in the world.

Ceylon, **Food Security Programs at** **\$9,682**
Diocese of Kurunagala **Polonnaruwa and Liyangala**

This project will develop agricultural self-sufficiency in the two areas in which mission centers were built from a 2017 UTO grant. This will enable an outreach to the areas mentioned as well as other parish areas in close proximity to these centers.

**Covenant Partner: Iglesia
Anglicana de la Region Central
America (IARCA)
Diocese of Guatemala** **Way of Love Emergency Relief** **18,064**

This project will provide six months of emergency assistance to 477 families in 36 churches across the Diocese of Guatemala, who are at high risk of being acutely affected by the pandemic. Aid will ensure food and health security to decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

**Jerusalem and the Middle East,
Diocese of Jerusalem** **Sustaining:
Princess Basma Center** **25,000**

The project aims at sustaining the empowerment of mothers of children with disabilities (CWD), through safer services at home period, by teaching mothers remotely through virtual online sessions to become shadow therapists, in addition to providing them with psychosocial support, and educational awareness about children's rights.

**South Sudan,
Diocese of Nzara** **Emergency Campaign Against
COVID-19** **\$3,600**

Emergency Campaign against COVID-19 is a quick intervention by Nzara Diocese to provide awareness and support to the vulnerable Christian community in Nzara County.