



United Thank Offering 2023 Grant Awards



Thank you to everyone who, through a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, contributed to the United Thank Offering's 2022 Ingathering. As a result of your gratitude and generosity, we have **\$1,079,600.54** available to award in 2023. ([Learn more about funds that contribute to the Ingathering.](#)) This year, the focus for applications was "innovative mission and ministry projects addressing all aspects of the worldwide incarceration crisis, specifically: preventative programs and intervention; prisoner support outreach; prison reform work; or post-prison re-entry." 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 5,428 grants for a total of \$143,235,479.98. ([See a complete list of all UTO grants.](#))

The UTO Board set a maximum on the allowed grant request of \$55,000, except in the cases of extreme need or larger projects, where the applicant could request up to \$100,000. The UTO Board received almost \$2.6 million in requests from 49 applications and was able to fund 22 grants, including three historical grants (explained below). One grant supported a diocese that receives a block grant from General Convention. Twelve grants fund projects in the Anglican Communion. The remaining eight grants are to projects within The Episcopal Church.

Historical grants are awarded each year by the UTO Board for projects that fall outside the regular parameters of our granting process but within the historical practices of UTO. In 1923, the Emery Trust (335) was created to care for the Emery Lounge and Rooms and the items contained there, in addition to supporting the rest, formation, and care of UTO missionaries. Beginning in 2018, with thanks to the Executive Council and the Archives, the UTO Board was able to award the trust to support missionaries sent by The Episcopal Church for the upkeep of archival UTO materials. Missionaries are sent to serve in communities through the church's Global Partnership team or through the Episcopal Service Corps, part of the church's formation team. We will always list this grant along with the annual awards, just as was done in the past; however, we will demarcate the award as being from the trust.

The final historical grant is part of a practice the UTO Board created years ago to support and partner with the presiding bishop. Historically, UTO has funded grants to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to support new work that the church budget has not yet expanded to fund. These awards have supported everything from staff positions, conferences, creation of educational resources, to building projects. UTO began partnering with Episcopal Migration Ministries in 2016 through a challenge grant to support their vital ministry and has continued this partnership since 2022 by working together in The Great EpisGOPal Race.

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 Arizona	Building Bridges: Litchfield Park, Arizona	\$55,000
<p>Bridges Reentry is seeking effective management and integration of three new programs for justice-involved women in their reentry journey. Integrating programs inside and outside of prison will help women develop life skills in economic empowerment and emotional health and wellbeing so each woman can be the best she can be.</p>		
Diocese of Bethlehem	Cypress House Bakery: Scranton, Pennsylvania	\$50,000
<p>Cypress House at St. Luke's will open a bakery and offer employment to previously incarcerated individuals, with a special concern to hire individuals who identify as Black, Latino/a, Indigenous, or of another marginalized identity. Apprentices will learn marketable skills in the baking industry via a baking methods/skills development curriculum.</p>		
Diocese of Chicago	St. Leonard's Ministries & St. Andrew's Church: Community Gathering Space Chicago, Illinois	\$100,000
<p>This project will renovate Saint Andrew's Church, on St. Leonard's Ministries campus, to create a new community space for returning citizens. It will host residents, alumni, community partners, and faith leaders, and together share what it means to welcome returning citizens back into community with needed support, dignity, acceptance, and kindness.</p>		
Diocese of Ecuador Litoral	Sowing Love and Education: Eloy Alfaro, Canton Manta	\$79,604.14
<p>Construction of the Child Care Center, which provides comprehensive and integral care to children from 3 months to 5 years old of incarcerated persons. The center will promote integral development of minors and their abilities, guarantee a safe and caring environment, initial education, psychological care, and support for families who take care of them.</p>		
Diocese of Iowa	Well Time 2.0: Empowering Reentry: Des Moines, Iowa	\$22,048
<p>Well Time 2.0: Empowering Reentry will recruit/prepare volunteers from churches to provide faith-based support to women recently released from prison through weekly group meetings at the Waterloo Women's Center for Change and through individual reentry teams for women to offer compassionate guidance to overcome personal, societal, and economic barriers.</p>		
Diocese of Maryland	Partner for Success: Elkridge, Maryland	\$31,408
<p>Partner for Success is a faith-based mentoring program designed to help those who are incarcerated make a smooth transition back into society in the greater Baltimore, Maryland, area. Participants are matched with a mentor and a worship community to establish short- and long-term plans –of action for successful reentry back into the society.</p>		
Diocese of Oklahoma	Diocesan Justice Liaison Project: Tulsa, Oklahoma	\$50,299
<p>Oklahoma leads the nation in incarcerating mothers and fathers. New Hope at Trinity serves vulnerable children of prisoners, and the Diocese of Oklahoma delivers many prison-based programs. A diocesan justice liaison will serve as an effective bridge between programs, encourage additional and new participation, and provide additional support unique to a social worker.</p>		

Diocese of Western New York	Enhancing Human Rights through Clergy Jail Monitoring: Buffalo, New York	\$37,500
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Jails combine extreme power imbalance with low transparency, often enabling human rights abuses and racism. Teams of clergy, of varied faiths, will go into jails in Western New York to observe conditions, hear the stories of incarcerated people, and report findings and recommendations, upholding “the dignity of every human being.”

Anglican Communion Awards

Bilateral Partner: Brazil, Missionary District	Young People Republic of Compassionate Anglicans of Campo Verde	\$55,000
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This project is to create the Compassionate Anglicans Youth Republic Project , which will provide support, subsidized housing, and job training/work to a group of 10 young men who have aged out of shelters, are in vulnerable situations, have broken or extremely fragile family ties, and who do not have the means for self-sustenance.

Bilateral Partner: Brazil, Southern Diocese	Guitar and Flute Apprentices for Socially Vulnerable Children	\$1,207
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This project offers an opportunity to children and teenagers participating in the original project to access musical knowledge with guitar and flute workshops. It is a chance for children and adolescents to develop skills, empowerment, and opportunities other than what they have known so far in the society they live in.

Covenant Partner: IARCA, Diocese of Costa Rica	Enabling Recreational Space in the area of Siquirres	\$55,000
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Given the social problems that directly impact the Episcopal communities in Costa Rica (including drug trafficking, drugs, and prostitution), the participation of the church in the lives of at-risk youth is essential. We will provide a space where the dignity of children and young people is respected.

Covenant Partner: Mexico, Diocese of Cuernavaca	Itinerant Church: Brother Filemon	\$39,040
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Acquire a utilitarian trailer and van to create an itinerant church. Visits to prisons are on Saturdays and Sundays, and people go from distant communities and cannot attend a religious service. We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist, also bringing an evangelical message of strength and spiritual consolation.

Burundi, Diocese of Buhiga	Construction of Buhiga Social Integration Center	\$55,000
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The Buhiga Social Integration Center will allow us to meet the needs of individuals after they leave prison by providing job training and support so they have the tools and support necessary to not reenter prison.

Kenya, Diocese of Butere	ACK Butere Tailoring School	\$56,102.45
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Most of the people facing incarceration within Butere Diocese are usually arrested on grounds of theft due to poverty and domestic violence. To help prevent this, the diocese seeks to set up an outreach center that will provide vocational training in tailoring. This will enable participants to generate income as a way of responding to the problem of poverty, in turn preventing incarceration.

Kenya, Diocese of Thika	Youth Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation Program	\$51,288.87
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The emphasis will be on prevention programs and intervention because youth criminality within the area is cyclical and offenders frequently re-offend and end up in jail. The diocese is strategically located in the center of a bustling industrial town and mushrooming slums that tend to draw young people from rural areas who make up the biggest population of unemployed people and are therefore more susceptible to criminal conduct.

Middle East, Diocese of Jerusalem	Improving the Wellbeing of the Vulnerable Prisoners in Palestine	\$54,000
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