

# MICAH MESSENGER (Redux)

January 2022



White Bear Lake  
**UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

*Nourishing the Hungers of Life*

*He has told you,  
O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD  
require of you  
but to do justice,  
and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly  
with your God?*

- Micah 6:8 -

## Compassion & Justice Ministries

2021 Year In Review

(Wow, what a year! Thank you everyone.)

### Compassion Ministry Priority Partners

Partner: **Bridging** ([www.Bridging.org](http://www.Bridging.org))

Bridging provides donated furniture and household goods to people transitioning out of homelessness and poverty. After a brief shutdown in 2020 due to the pandemic, Bridging re-emerged with a new way to serve their mission after developing procedures to safely accept donated inventory from the community and creating an entirely new platform for clients to shop virtually while still personally choosing their home essentials during a shopping appointment.

Because of reluctance about returning to in-person volunteering, no church group service opportunities took place; however, individuals from WBLUMC continued on their own to volunteer and donate needed household furnishings. One of our regular volunteers is Roberta Schmidt. In December, Roberta created Kitchen Packs using \$300 of budgeted funds from the church to purchase supplies such as can openers, mixing spoons, spatulas, dish towels/cloths and the like. Thank you Roberta for offering your time to create Kitchen Packs in the name of WBLUMC!

Partner: **Common Hope** ([www.commonhope.org](http://www.commonhope.org))

Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions made travel to Common Hope in Guatemala impossible in 2021. But that doesn't mean that the people of WBLUMC weren't actively involved in serving with this partner in 2021. Here's a brief overview of what we did:

- Celebrated the graduation of Luis Guillermo Gil Estrada who was sponsored by the congregation for 5+ years.
- Welcomed Daniela Yasmin Aguirre Aguirre as our newly sponsored student for 2022. Daniela is studying Accounting in her final year of high school.
- Hosted "Sponsorpalooza" on Sunday morning, October 10 with 6 new students receiving sponsor families, bringing our congregational total to 26 students!
- Participated in the annual "Walk for Hope" on Sunday, June 13th, with 16 participants raising over \$1,400.00.

For more information about WBLUMC Compassion & Justice Ministries, contact Lori McBride, Director, at [lori.mcbride@wblumc.org](mailto:lori.mcbride@wblumc.org) or 651-208-9000.



### **Common Hope, continued**

Financial support included:

- An Endowment Grant of \$5,000 awarded to assist with implementation/ongoing cost of social, emotional & educational pandemic response connectivity needs, such as internet access, devices, and staffing for social workers, psychologists, and youth support.
- Student Sponsorship of Luis Gil: \$1,148.
- Additional connectivity needs: \$1,000.
- Holiday **Giving Tree** donations totaled \$2,600+!



Partner: **NPH** ([nph.org](http://nph.org))

NPH (Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos) transforms the lives of thousands of children and their families throughout Latin America and the Caribbean by providing homes, health services, and educational programs that give children the best chance for future success becoming leaders in their communities.

A small but energetic group of walkers led by David & Dawn Kittleson participated in the annual NPH **Cinco de Mayo 5k Run/Walk** on April 24, 2021, walking 3.1 miles around beautiful White Bear Lake.

Financial support included a \$1,000 sponsorship gift for the annual Cinco de Mayo 5k Run/Walk and a \$400 gift to the NPH Haiti feeding program.



Partner: **Solid Ground** ([solidgroundmn.org](http://solidgroundmn.org))

Volunteers from WBLUMC prepared and served a Wednesday evening **Community Meal** for Solid Ground residents of Metro East Place in July, November, and December. "Grab & Go" meals were prepared and distributed to families as they came by the Community Room during the dinner hour as the pandemic prevented dining together.

Financial support of \$585 from the missions budget helped purchase many meal items and was supplemented by the generous food donations of spaghetti sauce, pasta & potato salads, and fresh fruit & veggies prepared by volunteers from WBLUMC



The **Holiday Express** Wish List program was a tremendous success during the holiday season with WBLUMC congregants providing gifts for two single-parent families with a total of 11 people. There were some very happy families thanks to your generosity!



## Special Compassion Projects: Service & Financial Support

### The Sandwich Project of MN

**ONE THOUSAND!** That is how many meat and cheese sandwiches the congregation of WBLUMC made in 2021 for the food shelf at The Waite House located in the Phillips Community of South Minneapolis! Volunteers by the dozens and of all ages gathered on a Sunday morning to make the sandwiches in July, August, September, October and December.

A GREAT BIG thank you is extended to Rita Wiersma who has done the ingredient shopping and Sunday morning set up for these service opportunities.



### PEARLS in Haiti

The Village School of the Future was founded in 2005 by Sainfai Exius, who is currently Director of the school. Director Exius was born and raised in the immediate area and opened the school in response to the desperate need for education in his community. In the fall of 2017 PEARLS in Haiti began partnering with the school in the following ways:

- ♦ Providing educational grants so more children can afford to attend school.
- ♦ Repairing the school water cistern and providing ongoing funding so clean drinking water can be delivered to the school/community twice monthly.
- ♦ Distributing household water filters so water can be purified at home/in neighborhoods.
- ♦ Funding locally sourced, nutritious lunches served to students on school days.

Although clean water and nutritious food made a positive impact on students and in the community, basic health care services was an ongoing desperate need.

In 2021, an Endowment Grant in the amount of \$3000 was awarded to PEARLS to fund a healthcare program at The Village School that includes:

- Well-check services on a regular basis by a Haitian doctor and regular vaccination clinics in partnership with Haitian Health Ministry.
- Funding a small school pharmacy that will house over-the-counter medications and supplies to provide basic first aid to ailing students.
- Hiring staff and providing educational resources to train school employees in CPR and basic first aid.

An additional gift of \$500 from the WBLUMC Missions Budget was given to support teacher salaries for the Village School of the Future Secondary program.



## Special Compassion Projects: In-Kind & Financial Support

### Century College Student Food Pantry:

- Culturally specific food packs for Latino, Southeast Asian and East African dietary preferences were created with food donations from WBLUMC congregation.

### Willow Lane Elementary:

- Spanish language books were donated to the new Spanish language teacher.
- \$125 was given for the purchase of diverse and inclusive books for the library that reflect the student population.

### Emma Norton Services:

- Through a special offering taken during the Christmas Choir Concert—"The Magnificat" a gift of \$928 was raised for the work ENS does with women & children.

### Love Offering—Minnesota Annual Conference:

- WBLUMC cash gift from Budget: \$500.

### Methodist Border Friendship of Rio Texas Conference & Interfaith Welcome Coalition:

- As part of our Easter Offering, \$2150 was given to the "**Bus Station and Backpack Ministry**" for the distribution of backpacks to immigrants filled with needed supplies as well as words of comfort and support for tired and scared people.

### UMCOR:

- Earthquake Relief: Haiti (Sept.): \$3585
- Tornado Relief: (Christmas Offering): \$2883
- Tornado Kits (5 gallon pails filled with cleaning supplies) were donated to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Illinois along with a gift of \$150 for transportation expense.

## Justice Ministries

### "Many Faces of White Bear Lake"

"Many Faces" is a collaborative of organizations from the greater White Bear Lake Area whose mission is to strengthen community by providing opportunities to listen, learn, reflect and engage in conversations and actions that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion.



Six community organizations joined together to form Many Faces in 2018 and worked together to offer the community opportunities to learn about the many populations who have inhabited the WBL area during its history. This work was preceded by community conversations in both White Bear Lake and Mahtomedi on the book "A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota" sponsored by the respective school districts and the City of White Bear Lake.

Today the collaborative includes 15 organizations (WBLUMC participates) that collectively work to build community by connecting the many stories of our area through events that invite personal reflection, a broadened understanding of the community, and neighborly interactions. Workshops, art exhibits and demonstrations, book club discussions, etc. Monthly virtual meetings keep the member groups connected and working toward goals.

For more information about Many Faces and upcoming events, go to

<https://manyfaceswblarea.org/events/>

## WBLUMC—Home of the Community Brick Oven



### White Bear Lake United Methodist Church

1851 Birch Street  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
[www.wblumc.org](http://www.wblumc.org)  
651-429-9026

Sunday Services: online @ 10 am  
In-person @ 9 & 10:45 am