

## **Greater Milwaukee Synod Task Force Grant Recipients**

(Funds from the sale of the property of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Waukesha)

January, 2014

**Faith/Santa Fe Lutheran Church** located on Milwaukee's South side is developing a Latino Outreach Ministry to the Spanish-speaking people of Waukesha. This Word and Sacrament worshipping community with a strong Latino identity will be birthed from the Milwaukee site using a "house church" model with an eventual goal of worshipping 200-300 people. This "new start" will also address needs including housing, jobs, and schools. The \$100,000 Synod Task Force Grant will not only open the door for a new ministry to increase diversity within our synod, but it will also strengthen the existing ministry.

**The El Salvador Community Development**, a partnership of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, West Bend and the Greater Milwaukee Synod El Salvador Committee offers three programs to impact youth, women and families. A \$75,000 Synod Task Force Grant will help provide scholarships for 10 youth of Piedra Azul (a rural Salvadoran Lutheran community), offer food security projects for up to 63 families in the Eastern zone mountain areas, and will equip a women's chicken farming project in Hacienda Nueva, department of San Miguel.

**The Greater Milwaukee Synod Meru Diocese Companion Synod** in partnership with Fox Point Lutheran Church received a \$95,000 Synod Task Force Grant to assist in providing access to safe drinking water to diminish poverty and promote social and economic equality. In collaboration with *It Can Be Done Africa*, a 501©3 non-profit organization which works to provide water resources, reliable deep water (100-200 meters) well drillers, local hydrogeologists, engineers, and a community organizer will form a cooperative effort to identify a drill site and then maintain the well utilizing local resources including tribal/village elders.

**Just One More Ministry, Inc.** started with the Celebrate Recovery Program, a faith-based addictions recovery ministry, which grew to include a food rescue program as part of the Meal Outreach Ministry at St. Matthew's, Wauwatosa. The Just One More Ministry rescues prepared food, fresh produce and bakery items and then repackages this food into family-sized and institutional-bulk food containers. Meals are distributed to 12 Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA churches to support food pantries and community meal programs. The \$75,000 Synod Task Force Grant will enable Just One More Ministry to expand the number of church partners, provide more food to the hungry, coordinate synod-wide volunteer teams, and support Celebrate Recovery participants as those who will give back to the community because they have been saved by God's grace.

**All Peoples Gathering Lutheran Church** is committed to *Ujima* as an effective means to live out their mission to *Let the Glory of the Lord Rise among All Peoples*. Their emerging opportunity centers on food security in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul, whose meal program feeds 200-500 individuals one block away from the church in the Harambee neighborhood. All Peoples' building was identified as the best site for preserving their food program. The \$75,000 Synod Task Force Grant will make it possible to renovate and upgrade All Peoples kitchen. All Peoples and St. Vincent will share the costs for this project, and have already contracted with a design group to develop plans for remodeling. All Peoples is also creating access to garden plots, providing education and support to produce food, and maintaining a stream of fresh produce, all of which addresses the root causes of hunger and food insecurity.

The Synod Task Force, by the grace of God and with great discernment and prayer, celebrates these disbursements of funds from the sale of the property of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Waukesha. God has blessed us richly. We pray for all of these projects to bear fruit within our synod and beyond, around the globe.

Synod Task Force members: Bishop Jeff Barrow, Jo Ann Berdelman, Matthew Brockmeier, Rev. Dr. Sandy Chrostowski, Cindy Dobberke, Rev. Andy Fetters, Beth Hoffman, Kay Styza, Rev. Richard Suero, Rev. Vicki Watkins.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Sandy Chrostowski, Chair, Synod Task Force