



## **REPORT TO THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY - 2014**

### **Validating the Past and Visioning the Future**

Outreach for Hope has been supporting congregations for the last 19 years. There is much to be thankful for over those many years, the donors, the ministries that have been supported, the lives that have been changed, the people that have given love and been loved. At age 19 it's time to look to the design of Outreach for Hope in the future.

This past year Outreach for Hope engaged in listening and learning. We engaged in a Strategic Planning Process with an outside consultant. The conclusions of Outreach for Hope's past are worth celebrating. We learned that Outreach for Hope is appreciated and trusted around the Synod, and that it is a mission that should be part of the future of our Synod as well.

### **Viability, Vocation, and Voice**

A new plan, which is in its final draft, raises up three areas that Outreach for Hope will be targeting for funding in the future: Asset Development (*Viability*), Leadership Development (*Vocation*), and Poverty Justice (*Voice*). Those applying for grants in the future will be applying to one of these three areas of support. The intention is to be more focused on how Outreach for Hope funds are distributed, maximizing the use of every dollar to impact the churches and the communities they serve.

Copies of the Funding Plan are available upon request from Outreach for Hope at the Synod office 414-671-1212, or email to jim.bickel@milwaukeesynod.org.

### **Visibility**

Two programs in particular raise the visibility of Outreach for Hope around the Synod, and raise a significant amount of money as well.

Family Bike Ride: The ride, which took place on September 7, 2013, was designed to accommodate a wide variety of people throughout the Synod. In addition, everyone in the Synod was invited to join in on the picnic that followed. An estimated 300 people participated, and \$71,831 was raised for OFH ministries. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Outreach for Hope Family Bike ride is scheduled for September 6, 2014. You can register on line or donate to have your gift matched with the \$25,000 challenge grant, at [www.outreachforhope.org](http://www.outreachforhope.org) .

Lenten Devotions: We were blessed this year with Lenten devotions written by Bishop Jeff Barrow, titled 'Holy Places'. The devotions were given high marks by their readers. We nearly doubled the number of individuals who signed up this year to receive the devotions by Email, going over 200. A record 37 congregations signed up to participate in the Lenten Devotion program, called "Dollar a Day for Poverty". To date over \$10,000 has come in for the 2014 program. Bishop Jeff's devotions are still available as a single file which can be downloaded from the Outreach for Hope web site. Go to [www.outreachforhope.org](http://www.outreachforhope.org) and click on 'Resources'.

### **Vitality – the Numbers**

In 2013 \$350,000 was distributed among 21 ministries that receive support from Outreach for Hope. Individuals gave a total of \$61,380 in undesignated gifts. Congregations and Organizations contributed \$58,230 through special offerings and endowment fund distributions. In addition, donations came designated for the Lenten Dollar a Day for Poverty program and the Family Bike Ride, together totaling \$91,447.

A complete financial statement is available upon request by contacting Outreach for Hope at the Synod office, 414-671-1212, or email to [jim.bickel@milwaukee-synod.org](mailto:jim.bickel@milwaukee-synod.org).

Outreach for Hope continues to seek the support of many generous individuals who give with a spirit of mission and hope, and special gifts from congregations as they seek to support ministry beyond their own walls and neighborhoods. Thanks to all who support the ministries funded by Outreach for Hope.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Jim Bickel, Executive Director

May, 2014