

IMPACT COMMUNITY 2010 – REPORT

Updated 1/2011

Beginning in 2010, **Rethink Church Events** asked churches to cluster to bring change through service in their shared communities. These outbound churches received media grants and services. Marketing/advertising dollars help to advertise the events and invite the community to help.

Impact Grants 2010 (as of December 31, 2010)

Number of churches participating	1, 592
Number of districts	17
Number of grants	10
Total Volunteers	22,336 plus
People served	1,065,709

Below are evaluations of the 2010 events.

Impact San Diego (San Diego, CA) April 11, 2010

“We had over 700 people participate with the five UMC’s. (about 100 from the community) The registration went well we planned over seven projects, education projects, environmental clean ups, classroom renovation, creating health kits, supporting our elderly population. We had great partnerships and have built great relationships with Meals on Wheels, San Diego Wildlife foundation, pet rescue society, Roots and Shoots program, LaMesa/Spring Valley School District, Volunteer San Diego and the local businesses in the strip mall where we held our celebration.” *Christian DeMent, Associate Pastor, Foothills UMC*

QUOTES:

- Andrew Naslund, 12, summed up his experience. “It was a great opportunity to go out and be God’s hands in the community because that’s what I think the church is about.”
- “The sea of red shirts was an attraction,” Lianne Moss said. “Strangers stopped me and said, ‘I see your shirt. I love it. Tell me more.’ It was awesome.”
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www.impactsandiego.org

Hands on Topeka (Topeka, KS) April 11, 2010

“Based on registrations and reports from the sites, twenty of the 22 UM churches in Shawnee County participated. We believe the total number of people involved certainly exceeded 900 and probably approached 1,000. (200 were from the community) We did trash pick-up, recycling, leaf raking, trimming of bushes etc. in 12 of the city parks. “ *Evelyn Fisher, District Superintendent*

People served: 122,000

www.handsontopeka.org



Get Up and Give (Little Rock, Arkansas) April 11, 2010

“This was the first service project to benefit the Methodist Family Behavioral Hospital. The event attracted a total of 275 participants, 18 churches and 64 monetary donations. Service projects include landscaping, clothes collection and sorting for children and families. The impact included showing children and families who come from very difficult situations that individuals care about them and their living environment. The interaction between volunteers and clients was positive and uplifting.” *Martha Taylor, Director of Communications, Arkansas Annual Conference*

People served: 1,000 (estimate)

www.getupandgive.org



Get Up and Give Radio Spot.mp3

Radio spot

Rethink Poverty (Columbus, OH) May 1, 2010

Nine local churches hosted fourteen service projects supporting the Four Focus areas with a Poverty theme. The event was held in the Columbus, OH area in conjunction with the Council of Bishops meeting. Advocacy and learning workshops coupled with service projects on Poverty & Global Health, Poverty and Neighborhoods, Poverty and Africa, Poverty and the Environment led off the first ever **Love First**, Walk to support children in Poverty, ending with a rally on the Statehouse Lawn at Capitol Square. Donations raised supported the United Methodist Children’s Home in Columbus and Grace Hospital in Haiti.

“Cultivate Community. Cultivate Life.

Poverty is weighing on the hearts of our neighbors and friends. Growing our communities into healthy, thriving places to live is a shared effort. Only by connecting as neighbors in service and love can we weed out poverty and cultivate life.” *Lisa Streight, Director of Communications, West Ohio Annual Conference*

People served: Over 102,273 individuals living in poverty



Impact Western North Carolina, June 5, 2010

The Fifteen districts of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference in partnership with the WNC annual conference and United Methodist Communications, held individual events in their communities on June 15 over 320 projects/opportunities were sponsored, 14,600 volunteers serving 620,000 people. Bishop Goodpaster used the Rethink Event and grants initiative as a means of engagement for the entire annual conference. "They did anything that would help the community and have an impact on it," Mark Barden, Director of Communications, said.

QUOTES and STORIES:

- "It was a good day—tiring—but worth it," said Eileen Ayuso, part-time local pastor serving Green Street United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem. I really enjoyed seeing our lay people from different churches coming together and working alongside one another. I heard repeatedly that many wanted to do this again," Ayuso remarked. "A fellow clergy person said that if we want the world to know The United Methodist Church is intentional in its Christian service, we should 'Impact Community' four to six times a year."
- The Children's Home in Winston-Salem got a facelift to buildings and grounds, thanks to more than 75 volunteers. Linda T. Coleman, volunteer coordinator at the ministry, expressed thanks "for helping The Children's Home grow healthy futures for children and families." She added, "Please know your volunteer efforts are welcome here at any time."
- At Broad Street Church in Statesboro, Anna Murdock saw Jesus. With only 20 bags of groceries remaining to give away at Broad Street UMC, Murdock recalled, a young man walked into the room. A volunteer embraced him. As he was leaving, Murdock said, 'God bless you.' "He stopped and turned to look at me," she said. "I looked into one of the most beautiful faces I had ever seen. His eyes were gentle. His smile was beyond words. There was a countenance about him. At that moment, I knew I was looking into the face of Jesus. If he had said any words at all, I would fully have expected them to be 'I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.'"

Read more: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/07/11/1553775/methodists-look-at-engaging-the.html#ixzz0tev5a7ru>

People served: 644,000

www.impactcharlotte.org (15 district web sites were created)



Hands Across the City, Grand Rapids, August 7, 2010

The Grand Rapids District and its 20 United Methodist churches played host to a day of community service. Metro Ministries, City of Grand Rapids, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and KaBoom!, sponsored a day of park cleanup and beautification, and saving play by building a playground in Garfield Park. Garfield Park is located in a densely populated area. Within 2 miles of the park there are 41 elementary and secondary schools, 2 colleges and universities and 1 vocational school. The playground will serve over 56,000 residents. Expecting 250, the event attracted approximately 650 participants. Rev. Julie Dix stated, "On just one morning, in three short hours, we can rethink church, impact our community, and make a positive difference in the world God loves."

QUOTES & STORIES:

- La Nueva Esperanza sent 50 of its 80 members (plus 22 kids) to Garfield Park just a few blocks from the church – an astounding percentage of their membership. Even more significant was their describing this event as a step in overcoming their own perception and fear that this park "belonged" to another non-white racial group, and that they were unwelcome in it.
- City officials tell us that more children were present at the KaBOOM build site at Garfield Park than at any of the other six builds in Grand Rapids, a tribute to Ms. Michelle and her staff who run the Garfield Park children's summer program
- A 16-year-old from the Garfield Park neighborhood saw the activity on Pre-Build Day, asked if he could help on Saturday (Hands Across the City) and showed up to work.
- One member says *"there is a cohesiveness among members that wasn't there before; the sense of community in the congregation is stronger."*
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Read more: http://www.wzzm13.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=126704

People served: 56,000

www.handsgr.org



Impact JC, Johnson City, TN, September 11, 2010

Six churches in the Johnson City area braved the drenching rains to provide a number of services to the community. Numerous sponsors, including Coalition4Kids, The City of Johnson City, and Appalachia Service Project, teamed with the congregations for a day of home repair, blood donation, gathering food for military families, and grounds work at Carver Recreation Center. The center serves much of the community, with over 59,000 visitors in the previous year. Additionally, volunteers did some interior improvements at Coalition4Kids, a facility that tutors 350 children a year and feeds approximately 130 a night. Despite the torrential rains, 275 volunteers participated in the event.

QUOTE: *“I was nervous that the rain would keep people away and that the day and the opportunity to really bring church and community into contact would be lost. As I approached the public library, the staging area for the first project, an all-day project I glanced to my right and saw a swath of red gathered around under a canopy. I knew immediately that the red was the Impact t-shirts and that the day would go forward.” Tom Lee, Event Coordinator, Impact Johnson City*

See more: <http://www2.tricitie.com/news/2010/sep/11/hundred-volunteer-impact-city-ar-500785/>

People served: 59,480 (approximate)

www.impactjc.com

LOVE WINS



Impact 10, United Methodist Church cluster in western Kentucky, September 25, 2010

Six churches in five rural western Kentucky cities (Sturgis, Dekoven, Clay, Marion, Morganfield and Dawson Springs) held Impact 10 on September 25th with a combined result of 336 volunteers completing over 44 projects in one day. From trash pickup, to food drives and distribution, to home repairs, free health screenings, free hygiene kits, clothing and cleaning products, this effort, though small on scale, seemed to have had big results with the churches that participated and the communities that were served. One project in Clay, KY (painting fire hydrants) even received national attention for their efforts! One quote (from Marion, KY): *“One man volunteered after coming to our food pantry for assistance. Another [volunteer] woman’s parents were here from California and worked with us all day. They admitted they had not been attending church in some 30 years. The husband made a point of saying that although that was true, this event was the most positive impact he had had with **any** church in those same 30 years.”*

QUOTES and STORIES: *“Rev. Wayne Burt approached me (Pam Buck) at the 2011 Kentucky Annual Conference to let me know that 2 weeks prior to the conference he had baptized 3 new members who came to his church as a direct result of having volunteered at Impact 10 in the fall of 2010.”*

People impacted: 21,476 (estimated)

www.impact10.org



A Life that Matters, Lawton, Oklahoma, November 6th 2010

On November 6th, the Lawton OK district of the Oklahoma Annual Conference held their first “A Life that Matters—A day without hunger campaign.” Oklahoma is the 4th hungriest state in the nation. Over 500,000 Oklahomans wake up each day not knowing where their next meal will come from.

Eight counties in the district participated to stop hunger for one day. Food was delivered on doorsteps, at intersections, and at churches. In addition to the local United Methodist Churches, the Wesley Foundation from the local college was involved in a campus-wide food collection. The army base in Lawton, Ft. Sills, has agreed to continue supplying diapers and baby food throughout 2011 and that all 14 Warrant Officers have chosen this event as their outreach service project. Some caring citizens offered cash donations as well, with one location collecting over \$1,000. On Sunday, November 7th, a day of celebration was held with a guest speaker and special music. A time of reflection was held.

Quote from Lawton Food Bank Director, Jerri Mossiman:

"Ken Baden called me and told me the Methodists were planning to deliver two trucks of food on November 6. I told him we could have people available to unload and thought, 'this is nice but I hope the Methodists don't have too high of expectations.' Then I saw the ad in the newspaper and I thought, 'Wow this is interesting.' When I got home one day and got the mail in, I had a direct mail card and I thought to myself, 'These Methodists really mean business.'

With what was delivered last weekend and what other Lawton churches are delivering today, it looks like we will deliver around 2 tons of food to the Lawton Food Bank. This is just the Lawton contribution."

People served: 1,700 (approximate)

www.alifethatmatters.net



A Kalamazoo Christmas, Kalamazoo District, December 19, 2010

On December 19, the Kalamazoo District of the West Michigan Annual Conference held the fifth annual Community Christmas dinner sponsored by the Stockbridge Avenue United Methodist Church. The event will gave the homeless a hot meal, coat, hat, gloves, scarves, socks and ground tarps and a Christmas toy for children. Community partners such as Sara Lee and the United States Marine Corps provided donations of food and toys to help ensure the event was a success. Of the 325 volunteers, over 50% were from the outside community. The theme for the event was "A Kalamazoo Christmas."

QUOTES and STORIES:

- "Sometimes I have to choose between food, bills and gifts. Sorry I am going to get teary-eyed. It helps out a lot," said Tera Bell.
- "Things are kind of hard right about now," said Stonna Jackson, who said it was "the grace of God" that brought her to the event. "This is a good program. They are really blessed by all the donations they receive and it helps the community so much."
- Excerpt from UCom.org story: All Sharon Smith wanted was to be warm. For three hours, she waited in a long line, shivering in a sweatshirt in 20-degree temperatures, motivated by hope that when the doors of Stockbridge United Methodist Church opened, she would be one of the first to receive a new coat. "I didn't know where else to go," Smith said. "Life is so hard right now. I gave my only coat to my daughter, so I don't have one. I just hope they have something that will fit me." She got her wish. And so did 1,500 other struggling and homeless residents of Kalamazoo, Mich., who spent a recent Sunday afternoon within the welcoming walls of the small inner-city church with a big heart for giving. For four hours, the church opened its doors to those in need of a hot meal, warm clothes and Christmas presents for their children. *Written by Susan Passi-Klaus*
- Quote from article written for UCom.org: "This is part of my neighborhood, so I think it's important to volunteer to help better it," said Nicole Alvarez, a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. "It doesn't matter what religious background we're from. What matters is that we all need to help each other." *Written by Susan Passi-Klaus*

See more: [" 'A Kalamazoo Christmas' offers a hot meal, warm clothes, toys and more to community's needy," Kalamazoo Gazette, December 20](#)

People served: 1,760

www.akalamazoochristmas.org

