

Children in Poverty in the Holston Conference
Resource Sheet
Waytogive.holston.org
October 2015

Leading up to the 2015 Annual Conference session, Holston Conference churches were challenged to see the children in poverty in their own communities and to support ministries for these children with a gift of \$10 and 10 hours of service per average worship attendance. The conference offering netted over \$188,000 and churches have strengthened ongoing ministries and begun new initiatives to address this significant and pressing need right here at home. Twelve churches have already received grants from the offering funds.

This is a great start but it is only the beginning! The challenge to provide financial gifts and gifts of time and service is still in place. Resources at waytogive.holston.org are provided for interpreting for our congregations this ongoing shared second-mile ministry.

At waytogive.holston.org you will find

- Bishop Taylor's initial invitation to see and respond to the children in poverty in the Holston Conference (video and color and grayscale bulletin inserts)
- Director of Connectional Ministries Mike Sluder's explanation of the offering and its potential impact (video and color and grayscale bulletin inserts)
- **NEW** – A video and color and grayscale bulletin insert detailing the progress and distribution of the first round of grants. A new video and bulletin insert will be available each month of October through February. The videos will be very short stories of inspiration and the bulletin insert will be an accompanying piece describing a ministry of a local church addressing children in poverty and giving some basic suggestions about how to start similar ministries. In addition, there will be a second video each month providing a more in-depth sharing about the featured ministry.
- Grant application information. The next deadline is November 15, followed by January 15, and April 15. The Missions Committee is committed to awarding at least one grant to every district that has an application. New and ongoing ministries are eligible for grant support. Preference is given to ministries that increase the connection between the church and the community and that have local church support.
- Service hour reporting. Each local church is requested to share the number of hours and a brief description of the ways they are serving on behalf of children in poverty. These reports can represent the work of an individual or a group. Vital Signs collections of mission hours can help local churches gather this information. These hours can represent participation in already established ministries. The goal of this reporting is to help us share and recognize the many ways that our local churches find to engage our neighbors.
- Stories of local church ministries with children in poverty. The Call is featuring at least one story per edition. These stories are collected for reference and inspiration by other churches.

Poverty matters. You matter more! Thank you, Holston, for giving on behalf of children in poverty in the Holston Conference. You'll never know how many lives you have changed. Way to go! Way to give!