

# Way to go! Way to give!

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Holston Conference

Poverty Ministries

**“I know this project  
was truly God-based.”**  
~ Jody Denton



“We prayed for children. God gave us 60 children.” That’s what a member of the Wallace United Methodist Church said recently.

Wallace United Methodist Church is part of the Wallace-Wyndale Charge in the Abingdon District of the Holston Conference. The congregation contacted a local middle school to find out the needs of students. They subsequently created a backpack ministry: packing food into backpacks to send home for the weekend, when needy children typically do not have access to school lunches.

The congregation – made up of primarily senior adults -- was able to perform this ministry in part thanks to the ministry of the Holston Conference. Holston Conference Outreach/Advocacy Team supports local congregations in Holston Conference as they are actively engaged in Christian witness through ministries of justice and advocacy for all God’s children and creation. Areas addressed by this team include advocacy for health care for all, advocacy for the people of South Sudan, advocacy for issues related to mental health, as well as work in Peace with Justice, Religion and Race, and Safe Sanctuaries, a program developed to protect our children and youth.

In addition, the team supports and equips those who work to address poverty through our nearly 900 congregations and communities in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia. Through an Abolishing Poverty Conference held every two years, Poverty Simulation experiences for districts and local congregations, and Poverty and Hunger grants, the Holston Conference

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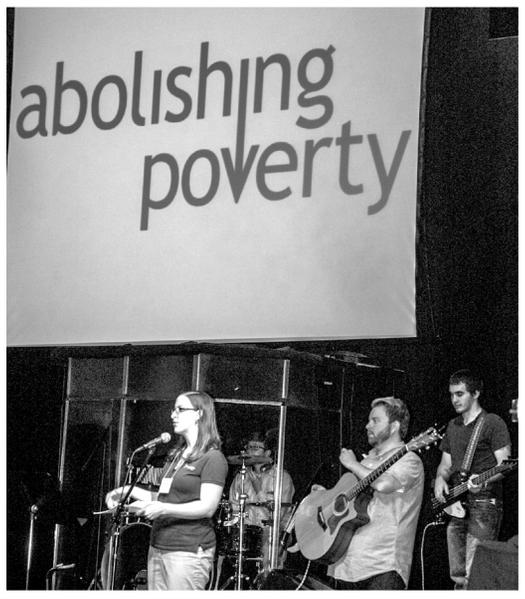
Outreach/Advocacy Team sponsors opportunities to help support ministry with the poor. The Poverty and Hunger grants are available to support new and existing ministries with economically disadvantaged individuals and families. These grants encourage our congregations to engage their neighbors with the love of Jesus Christ.

The Poverty and Hunger grants are distributed to Holston congregations such as Wallace.

“The backpack ministry requires about \$5,000 a year,” said Jody Denton, Wallace UMC treasurer. “For a small church, this was quite an undertaking.

We were able to qualify for a small grant from the Holston Conference. It’s amazing. I know this project was truly God-based. I know that God has been with us throughout this whole project because the money has always been there.”

Wallace is just one of many congregations that have benefited from the generosity of Holston people over many years.



Holston Conference's Abolishing Poverty Conference is sponsored by the Outreach/Advocacy Team.

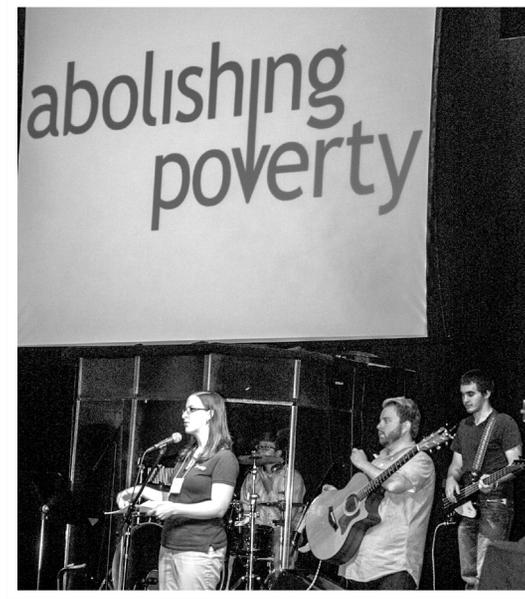
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Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”  
(MATTHEW 19:14 NIV)

Thank you, Holston Conference. You’ll never know how many lives you’ve changed.

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