

## 2023 Ranney Balch Grant Recommendations

The Ranney-Balch Fund, on behalf of the Ranney Balch Grant Team under the Social Justice Ministry Team, move the following distributions for approval by Social Justice Ministry Team. The recommendation is in process to be approved by the Trustees and Planning and Visioning Ministry Team. The motion to distribute funds is set to be on the February Presbytery docket.

We received thirteen grant applications and had \$57,777 distribute. After prayerful deliberation and utilization of application rubrics previously established, we recommend the following distribution of Ranney-Balch funds:

The Recommendations are as follows:

Broadstreet Presbyterian Church - Detroit	\$5,000
Crossroads Presbyterian Church – Commerce Twp	\$1,500
Faith Community Presbyterian Church – Novi	\$2,500
Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church	\$5,888
Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church – Detroit	\$5,000
Park United Presbyterian Church – Highland Park	\$5,000
First Presbyterian Church – Pontiac	\$10,000
St. John’s Presbyterian Church – Detroit	\$5,000
Starr Presbyterian Church – Royal Oak (Welcome Inn/Home)	\$5,000
Village of Warren Glen – Warren	\$5,000
Westminster Church of Detroit	\$5,889
White Lake Presbyterian Church – White Lake	<u>\$2,000</u>
<b>Total to be Disbursed</b>	<b>\$57,777</b>

The Social Justice Ministry Team was encouraged by the numerous very worthy ministries that applied for funds. Thank you for this opportunity to be of service to the Presbytery and to the Kingdom.

### The 2023 Ranney Balch Grant Proposed Awardees are as follows:

**Broadstreet – Detroit: Community Transformation Taskforce** provide activities and projects that address spiritual, mental and physical health of a worshipping community that extends to the surrounding urban residential community. These funds will be used to continue two important programs at Broadstreet: the Urban Garden and their Toiletry Pantry. These initiative along with their Music Ministry and the New Family Night Out program are designed to encourage healthy interactions for inter-generational families in the community.

**Crossroads – Crossroads Club (Commerce Twp.):** ‘Crossroads Club’ is designed for young adults aged 18-26 and/or older individuals with special needs (autism spectrum disorder or other

mental, physical, and emotional challenges) who are in or are recent alumni of Walled Lake Schools' Adult Transitions Program or other similar school programs. The purpose of this ministry is to provide a monthly opportunity during the school year of social and emotional growth by offering the young adults hands-on activities and fellowship opportunities while providing their parent/guardian caregiver an afternoon of needed respite. Parent Forums are held periodically on topics of interest to parents/guardians, with presenters addressing financial concerns, estate planning, life skills, therapeutic or community resources.

**Faith Community – Hunger and Outreach Ministries (Novi):** As a part of the original church charter of Faith Community, 20% of the church's income goes to mission funding. Sometimes this is very difficult. To continue the strong mission focus of Faith Community Church, these funds will help Faith continue their physical, monetary and hands-on support with Novi Emergency Food Pantry, Fort Street Open Door, Bethel AME Food Pantry (Detroit), Crossroads of MI Soup Kitchen (Detroit), Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care, and the Novi Public Schools Elementary Weekend Meal Program.

**Grosse Pointe Woods – Project Empower:** Project Empower is designed for middle and high school students. It's purpose is to give students the necessary resources and information to lead their community and to succeed in society. It covers different topics such as creating communication, professionalism, civic engagement, financial literacy and college preparation. Project Empower also brings in successful motivational speakers who have similar backgrounds and experiences to provide insight on their failures and triumphs. The main goal of this program is to create youth leaders who can motivate their peers and leads them by example, making them stronger and more effective.

**Jefferson Ave. – Tutoring Tree Enrichment Program (Detroit):** Jefferson Avenue seeks to restart the Tutoring Tree Enrichment Program. Since 1985 and until the Pandemic, Tutoring Tree offered an enrichment session every week in the arts and physical education to help fill the gap created by cuts and eliminations of programs in the schools. These grant dollars will cover enrichment programs, one week of Creative Arts Camp and family events.

**Park United – Food Pantry and Outreach Program (Highland Park):** The Park United Outreach Center has continued to meet the community's needs as they have evolved through the pandemic. These funds will be used for the food pantry and to provide a summer camp program for inner-city children.

**Pontiac-First Emergency Food Pantry:** The Emergency Food Pantry, located at First Presbyterian Church-Pontiac provides access to a variety of non-perishable food items, limited fresh produce, baked goods, and dairy, and personal hygiene products on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The Pantry is currently service about 175 food insecure families and 60 other food insecure individuals each time it is open. The Pantry was open weekly from 2020-2022 but has transitioned to monthly operation in 2023. The Pantry served about twice the number of folks on February 15, 2023, compared to the average of the four times open in February 2022.

**St. John's Garden/Community Space (Detroit):** The purpose of the Garden/Community Space at St. John's Presbyterian Church is to provide a freely available setting within the Elmwood Park

Neighborhood of Detroit where residents can boldly gather to identify, plan, and implement solutions to the detrimental effect of the lack of access to nutritious food has on health, welfare, and spiritual wellbeing of residents of this impoverished, urban community. In fellowship, neighbors will: 1) strategize plans for the use of the garden space at St. John's; 2) learn to plant crops according to season and ecosystem; 3) contribute to an overall healthy diet through the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables which they have grown; 4) attend educational sessions on nutrition and health fairs to combat the onset of chronic disease and ameliorate its debilitating effects; 5) participate in outdoor activities aimed at achieving daily exercise recommendations; 6) develop good stewardship of God's creation and value for the earth; and 7) enhance trust in the faith community, believing in God as an agent of positive change.

**Starr – Welcome Inn/ Welcome Home (Royal Oak):** The integration of the existing Welcome Inn program with the new Welcome Home program is in part the result of Starr Presbyterian Church's desire to take tangible steps in eliminating/reducing homelessness in Oakland County by going above and beyond the current essential practice of providing emergency shelter in the winter months. This was a requirement that Starr insisted upon when it re-engaged with South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless (SOCH) in 2019, bringing the Welcome Inn winter day shelter back into Starr. The partnership between Starr and SOCH is strategic in that it will ensure maximum access to available funding sources as these programs continue to develop. This partnership also ensures ongoing access to a physical facility that is open to adaptive use for this purpose. SOCH will retain operational responsibility for both programs. This funding will support some of the incremental steps needed on a journey to make Starr a "Center of Community" in supporting assistance to the homeless in South Oakland County.

**Village of Warren Glen – Inclusive Intergenerational Program (Warren):** These funds will support intergenerational activities among older adults with very low incomes and young adults with disabilities from the Warren Consolidated School District. These dollars will provide the necessary resources needed to host monthly activities older adults and young adults can do together, such as painting, photography and cooking. The monthly activities make up the Inclusive Integrational program started by the First Presbyterian Church of Warren. This program provides a safe and welcoming place all participants to learn and grow together. They will share a meal, participate in an activity, and fellowship with one another, creating lasting friendships.

**Westminster – Camperships (Detroit):** Westminster Church has the unique capacity to provide faith formation opportunities within the church building and at their outdoor ministry location, Camp Westminster. This grant will help fund a transformative week of outdoor ministry to be accessible to low-income children and youth from the local Detroit community. Our partnerships help to make this week away a trusted activity for local children and youth.

**White Lake – Food for Friends Food Pantry (White Lake):** Food for Friends is a food pantry in White Lake Presbyterian Church, serving the local area. This pantry is open to residents in need of supplemental food. It serves the communities of White Lake, Highland, Commerce and Wixom. In the communities that are served, an average of 4.4% of the population live under the poverty line. They exist unseen among their more well-off neighbors. They often are not even recognized as being in need. While their urban neighbors are first in mind when potential donors think of who to support in their poverty and hunger, those being service by this food pantry have needs

that often go unknown and unmet. These are the silent victims of poverty Food for Friends hope to help.