

Global and Regional Opportunities

California Nevada Conference Disaster Relief Efforts:

The American Red Cross defines a disaster as: "An emergency that causes injury or loss of life and property damage, and a disruption in which survivors cannot manage without spiritual, monetary, or physical assistance." Disaster preparedness and response must be a vital part of our church mission. Our contributions would help in the disaster relief efforts such as were needed during recent fires in Kern County, Amador County and Lake County California wildfires.

Sierra Service Project:

SSP is a nonprofit organization providing life-changing experiences through acts of service repairing homes in Native American and urban communities, and building homes in Honduras. Since 2007, youth and adults from our congregation have participated in the Sierra Service Projects. Program fees paid by the youth and adults who participate cover about 85% of SSP's expenses. The remaining 15% of costs are covered by donations from congregations, individuals, and grant-making organizations.

UMCOR Advance — Children, Poverty, and Violence:

Despite high levels of prosperity achieved by many countries around the globe, millions of children still live in conditions of poverty and suffer violence, abuse and exploitation on a daily basis. Statistics published by UNICEF states, "More than a billion children (representing 40 percent of children in developing countries) survive on less than \$1.00 per day," and millions die of preventable diseases annually. Poverty denies children the right to their basic needs, including education, food and shelter, among other needs that they may have. This UMCOR Advance supports initiatives which seek to engage children under 18 years old who live in contexts of poverty and violence to become engaged in addressing issues in their communities. One goal of this Advance is to deepen the level of commitment of the United Methodist Church to end child poverty, violence, exploitation particularly in conditions of war, and hazardous child labor.



JOY OF GIVING

2016

The Joy of Giving is a Christmas tradition at First Palo Alto United Methodist Church. It is a natural expression of our faith in Christ and our commitment to caring for people in our local community, our region, and the world. Through the Joy of Giving, you can indicate to which listed organization(s) your financial gift should be given. Consider giving a gift in honor of someone on your Christmas list.

JOY OF GIVING 2016

Your name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Please distribute my gift as follows.

Opportunities at Our Doorstep

_____ EPA CAN DO

_____ Pastor's Discretionary Fund

_____ Ecumenical Hunger Program

Global and Regional Opportunities

_____ Cal-Nev Conference Disaster Relief Efforts

_____ Sierra Service Project (SSP)

_____ UMCOR Advance — Children, Poverty, and Violence

_____ Total Amount

Make check payable to
First United Methodist Church
and identify for "Joy of Giving"
in the memo line. Mail to:
625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301



Opportunities at Our Doorstep

EPA CAN DO:

East Palo Alto Community Alliance and Neighborhood Development Corporation (EPA CAN DO) focuses on affordable housing development and management for individuals and families, including those who have encountered troubled mortgages. The corporation also provides educational workshops and counseling in the area of home buying, credit and budgeting. Over 300 affordable housing units have been developed through this corporation.



Pastor's Discretionary Fund:

This fund allows our pastors to confidentially provide small gifts of money to congregation members in financial crisis and to the increasing number of jobless and homeless people who come to our church for help. Our pastors depend on the fund so that no one in need will be turned away empty-handed.

Ecumenical Hunger Program:

Located in East Palo Alto, EHP's mission is providing food, clothing, household essentials, support and referral services to those in need. The foundation of EHP is a moral concern for the well-being of those around us. At its core are a dedicated staff and volunteers who give many hours of service. In this spirit, people of goodwill are welcomed to join in the common cause of providing assistance to people in need. Those who give as well as those who receive are strengthened and sustained within this community.

