



## United Thank Offering Spring COVID-19 Grant Awards



**Thank you** to everyone who, through a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, contributed to the United Thank Offering's 2020 Ingathering. As a result of your gratitude and generosity, we raised an additional **\$479,369.53** in thank offerings for the second round of COVID-19 grants. The COVID-19 grants combine some historic traditions for UTO, namely sustaining previous grant winners to ensure that vital ministries continue in addition to funding innovative responses to the pandemic. Grants that sustain previous sites are indicated in the title. The UTO Board offered funding levels to guide requests in the hope of funding as many grant sites as possible due to the extreme need the global pandemic has caused. The UTO Board received almost \$1.4 million in requests for this second round of COVID grants. Remember that every penny given to the United Thank Offering is given away to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church. Since our official founding in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,384 grants for a total of \$141,104,725.30. (For a complete list of all UTO grants, please visit [www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO) and click on the Resources tab at the bottom of the page.)

This year the UTO Board received 130 applications through two granting cycles and were able to fund 53 grants, including three historical grants (explained below). Four grants supported a diocese that receives block grants from General Convention. Seven grants fund projects in the Anglican Communion. The remaining 36 grants are to projects within The Episcopal Church. Historical grants are awarded each year by the UTO Board for projects that fall outside of the regular parameters of our granting process but within the historical practices of UTO. When UTO was founded, the Ingathering Funds were used to send and support UTO Missionaries. In 1923, the Emery Trust (335) was created to care for the Emery Lounge and Rooms and the items contained there, in addition to supporting the rest, formation, and care of the UTO missionaries. The Emery Trust funded the Gifts to Missionary grant until 2006 when it stopped being utilized. Beginning in 2018, with thanks to the Executive Council, and the Archives, the UTO Board was able to award the trust to support missionaries sent by The Episcopal Church for the upkeep of archival UTO materials. Currently, missionaries are sent to serve in communities through the Global Partnership Team or through the Episcopal Service Corp, which is a part of the Formation Team. We will always list this grant along with the annual awards, just as was done in the past, however, we will demarcate the award as being from the trust. Additionally, in the spirit of the early UTO missionaries, the UTO Board continues to support young women through our internship program. This internship gives young women an opportunity to experience intentional mentoring and opportunities to learn, grow, and discern where God is calling them next in their life adventures. It also helps them share the ministry and work of UTO with others. The final historical grant is part of a practice the UTO Board created years ago to support and partner with the Presiding Bishop. Historically, UTO has funded grants to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to support new work that the church budget had not yet expanded to fund. These awards have supported everything from staff positions, conferences, creation of educational resources, to building projects.

### **The United Thank Offering Invites Every Episcopalian to:**

**Notice** the Good Things That Happen Each Day.

**Give** Thanks to God for Your Blessings.

**Make** an Offering for Each Blessing.

Through UTO, Your **Blessings** Become Blessings for Others.

## Episcopal Church Awards

<b>Diocese of Alabama</b>	<b>Hispanic COVID-19 Vaccination Initiative</b>	<b>\$2,990</b>
<p>Drawing upon a six-year outreach relationship with the residents of Kings Trailer Park, Opelika, Alabama, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church will promote participation in COVID19 vaccination programs for the park's 250 poor, and largely undocumented Hispanic residents by implementing assessment of vaccination knowledge, fears, and barriers to participating in vaccination programs.</p>		
<b>Diocese of Arizona</b>	<b>St. Philip's in the Hills Kitchen on a Mission</b>	<b>\$5,050</b>
<p>St. Philip's will upgrade its church kitchen to commercial status to empower community partnerships helping individuals hurt by the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The first partnership will create a culinary enterprise training program with Southern Arizona YWCA's Women's Business Center (WBC) for women whose livelihoods have been threatened.</p>		
<b>Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast</b>	<b>St. Mark's Food Pantry</b>	<b>\$3,232.68</b>
<p>St. Mark's Pantry will expand to address increased needs of our community caused by COVID by offering frozen items. COVID has increased the economic hardship of those we serve. The pantry is currently limited to shelf-stable products but there is great need and demand for frozen items.</p>		
<b>Diocese of Central Pennsylvania</b>	<b>Transforming Collective Isolation into Communal Holiness</b>	<b>\$8,600</b>
<p>The Stevenson School for Ministry responds to coronavirus isolation, constant change, and challenges, offering a multifaceted spiritual growth resource to transform collective isolation into communal holiness. This project, an intentional spiritual renewal cohort model, increases leadership resiliency and spiritual capacities for love and gratitude in ministry at church and home.</p>		
<b>Diocese of Chicago</b>	<b>Sustaining Project WORK</b>	<b>\$4,720</b>
<p>In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Lawrence Hall is requesting support for PROJECT WORK, our workforce development initiatives, by purchasing mobile technology to allow staff to use a phone app for desperately needed quick, secure access to client information and for more easily recording case notes.</p>		
<b>Diocese of Cuba</b>	<b>A Light of Love</b>	<b>\$8,300</b>
<p>COVID-19 has affected 40 Episcopal communities in Cuba. More than 8,000 people (60% women and 40% elders) have seen their lives disrupted. This project will help meet the nutritional and hygiene needs of 20 elders out of the Diocesan Centre of the Episcopal Church of Cuba by using innovative farming methods and community organizing.</p>		
<b>Episcopal Migration Ministries</b>	<b>Neighbor to Neighbor</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<p>Asylum seekers are a vulnerable group of newcomers to our country. Always prone to poverty and isolation, COVID-19 only increases their suffering—and their isolation. Neighbor to Neighbor is a new network through which EMM will connect asylum seekers to well-prepared, local congregations for long-term accompaniment and sponsorship.</p>		

<b>Diocese of Honduras</b>	<b>COVID-19 Relief through Transportation to Care</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
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People in Honduras who are infected with COVID-19 are dying for the lack of transportation from rural areas to city hospitals, This grant will supply the diocese with a 4x4 truck, which is necessary for reaching those mountainous, faraway places and bring those who are ill to the city. Otherwise, they will perish at home.

<b>Diocese of Lexington</b>	<b>Sustaining: Reading Camp</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
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Creating a virtual Reading Camp will help struggling readers build literacy skills and self-confidence. It narrows the educational inequalities that are exacerbated by COVID-19. Campers, after receiving books and supplies, meet remotely in a small group weekly to improve reading skills. "Crafts with Counselors" meetings will focus on social and emotional wellness.

<b>Diocese of Los Angeles</b>	<b>Healing from Loss</b>	<b>\$7,780</b>
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This project supports church and community members dealing with COVID-related losses by lending internet-capable devices to digitally deprived Spanish-speaking members, enabling their participation in worship and fellowship, and offering pastoral support to members and the broader community through virtual and hybrid workshops, prayer groups, and discussion groups.

<b>Diocese of Maryland</b>	<b>Resurrection Food Distribution</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
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Funding will support food distribution to a minimum of 50 families/week for 10 weeks. These families, nearly all of whom have children, are under- or unemployed due to the COVID-19 economic recession. Almost all families served are ineligible for aid programs, and alternative sources of food are unable to meet demand.

<b>Diocese of Massachusetts</b>	<b>MANNA Hispanic/Latinx Pastoral Intern</b>	<b>\$14,049</b>
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COVID has severely impacted MANNA (Many Angels Needed Now and Always), a ministry with and for unhoused people of Boston. COVID has changed our demographics, and our community is now largely BIPOC (at least 35% Hispanic/Latinx). To offer culturally and linguistically informed care, we seek to hire a Hispanic/Latinx intern.

<b>Diocese of Missouri</b>	<b>Sustaining Trinity Food Ministry</b>	<b>\$11,300</b>
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In 2016, UTO awarded a grant to Trinity Food Ministry (TFM) allowing us to add a hot meal program to our food pantry. Due to COVID-19, the needs of both TFM and the community changed. Needs include increased cold storage plus a way for patrons to charge phones.

<b>Diocese of New Jersey</b>	<b>St. Paul's Community Health Clinic</b>	<b>\$11,065.18</b>
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In response to the challenges posed by the pandemic on the homeless population in our city, St. Paul's Church and the Rutgers Camden School of Nursing are collaborating on a health clinic to serve a deeply at-risk population. This grant will fund personnel and the purchase of medical supplies.

<b>Diocese of North Dakota</b>	<b>Memorial Feeds - Feeding Recovery from COVID-19</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>
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The Diocese of North Dakota will provide food for memorial meals through its six Native American Congregations. These feeds are core ways of completing a portion of the grieving cycle that has been brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Families gather their support system at a memorial to give thanks.



<b>Kenya, Diocese of Mumias</b>	<b>COVID-19 Children's Safehouse</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
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The Diocese of Mumias seeks to provide a safe house for vulnerable street children in Mumias, as a way of sheltering them from physical and emotional violence. The safe house will help decrease exposure to COVID-19, since this group is at high risk due to their circumstances.

<b>Tanzania</b>	<b>Reaching Out to Children at Schools and Colleges</b>	<b>\$9,825</b>
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In response to COVID-19, the Anglican Church of Tanzania, through its religious education department, has come up with a program to reach out to children at school to teach them about COVID safety by expressing it as a way to love your neighbor by curbing the virus. (Tanzanian's education policy allows religious education to be taught at public schools.)

<b>Tanzania, Diocese of Western Tanganyika</b>	<b>Assisting Mothers' Union with Planting Plots to Develop Livelihoods to Respond to COVID-19</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
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Due to the ongoing pandemic, food insecurity has increased among the poorest of Tanzania. This grant will allow the Diocese to allocate 150 hectares for garden plots so women can grow food for their families.

### Historical Grant Awards

<b>Johnson Service Corp House: Diocese of North Carolina</b>	<b>Julia Chester Emery Internship</b>	<b>\$28,500</b>
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The Julia Chester Emery Intern will be a member of the Johnson Service Corps in North Carolina and supports the work of the Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care (RJCC) Team, which includes UTO. The intern will support staff and work to help share the stories of gratitude, reconciliation, and creation care.

<b>Presiding Bishop</b>	<b>Support for Episcopal Chaplaincy</b>	<b>\$36,264.54</b>
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This grant will create the part-time short-term position of Health Chaplaincies Consultant for The Episcopal Church. Currently, Episcopal Chaplains are serving in a variety of locations directly responding to COVID-19 and have asked for help and support after a year of intense work and dedication. This consultant would assist in developing a database of chaplains, identify training and pastoral care opportunities, as well as ensure that dioceses are aware of the presence of chaplains in their area.

<b>Emery Trust #335 Award</b>	<b>Episcopal Service Corps: Resiliency Education</b>	<b>\$66,000</b>
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Every year, approximately 100 young adults ages 21-32 embody the Way of Love as volunteers through Episcopal Service Corps. An ESC service year is rigorous, requiring Corps members to call upon deep reserves of resiliency and adaptability. Through education and professional direction, we propose intentionally nurturing these attributes in Corps members to support their wellbeing and success.