

To the First Presidency and the World Conference

World Hunger and Tangible Love Team

The purpose of the World Hunger and Tangible Love Team is to encourage congregations and mission centers to consider ministries and projects that address the needs of those enmeshed in poverty, hunger and injustice. This is done by granting seed money from World Hunger and Tangible Love grants that will provide a basis for long-term sustainable ministries.

The team has developed vision, mission and goal statements for both categories:

WORLD HUNGER MINISTRIES:

Our Vision: A world where every person has adequate food and resources for a life with dignity.

Our Mission: Sharing our abundance, we strive to empower the vulnerable and bring wholeness to all persons through access to life-sustaining provisions and economic fairness.

Goal: Support ministry to help end hunger throughout the world, encourage education on root causes of poverty and hunger, and advocate on behalf of relevant industries and services that promote equality and healthy standards of living.

TANGIBLE LOVE MINISTRIES:

Our Vision: A world where every person has access to essential resources and justice for a life with dignity.

Our Mission: Sharing our abundance, we strive to empower the vulnerable and bring wholeness to all persons through access to compassionate services and unwavering advocacy.

Goal: Support ministry that heightens access to fundamental human needs; increases environmental stewardship; advocates for human rights; and promotes reconciliation, peace, and justice for all creation.

Summary of Activities

Primary focus continues on the issues of hunger and poverty advocacy.

- Support peace, justice, and compassionate ministries sponsored by Community of Christ congregations, jurisdictions and affiliates in collaboration with their communities
- Support ministries on behalf of hungry people throughout the world that provide relief and release, education about hunger-related issues, and encouragement of individual church members to advocate with governmental representatives for the hungry

Evaluating and approving grants

- Meet twice a year to review proposals that seek funds to support projects related to the mission of World Hunger and Tangible Love funds
- Help applicants through 'seed' grants in which jurisdictions, closely related affiliates, or individuals collaborate with others in the community to restore or protect the worth of persons and pay careful heed to the Enduring Principle of Sacredness of Creation.

The 2014 Peace Colloquy focused on the issue of poverty and its' primary fruit – hunger. As a result of this event the team determined that a major revision of the guidelines/criteria governing applications for funds was required to clearly reflect the understandings that emerged from this experience.

The revised Application Packet is available on the World Hunger and Tangible Love websites. The guidelines are found at www.cofchrist.org/hunger and www.cofchrist.org/love.

Four Core Elements are at the heart of the revision:

1. **Relationship Building** has investments from both – the givers and receivers
 - Programs that help end poverty and hunger do more than give away goods or money
2. **Outcomes** focus on positive change in the recipients' lives
 - Programs that help end poverty and hunger do more than count the number of people served
3. **Collaborations** work to magnify services through collective resources
 - Programs that help end poverty and hunger do more than rely on their own initiative
4. **Sustainability** (continuing presence) promotes stability in clients and

communities

- Programs that help end poverty and hunger do more than 'promise' to be there in the future

The World Hunger and Tangible Love websites provide an ongoing report of the actual financial investments made for the period, Spring 2013 – Fall 2015. Specific details are available on the websites for each approved grant.

The total amounts approved in the above-mentioned time frame are:

World Hunger grants: \$1,967,000

Tangible Love grants: \$ 255,000

The grants were approved on behalf of proposals received from church jurisdictions. Additionally, church-related affiliates received grants for projects that comply with our guidelines and criteria. The primary affiliates receiving funds were World Accord (Canada) and Outreach International. Also, an annual grant, approved by the First Presidency, was made on behalf of Bread for the World. This continues a long-standing association with this organization that serves as an advocate on behalf of the hungry of the world.

We continue to uphold several recommendations that were shared at the 2013 World Conference.

- Educate/train field staff regarding World Hunger/Tangible Love Guidelines to enable the writing of effective proposals with a focus on specific outcomes
- Encourage the development of course work on the issue of poverty for inclusion in all of the educational materials and courses offered by the church. This includes Reunion/Youth Camp resources, Christian Education materials, the MEADS program, Seminary courses.

The team encourages church members to become increasingly sensitive to the issues of poverty and hunger in their local communities. We are available to assist field, mission center and congregational leaders in creating ministries that seek to abolish poverty and end the suffering that so many throughout the world continue to experience.

Team members:

Tanoh Assoi
Marsha Brown
Steve Graffeo
Alex Kahtava, Team Lead
Danielle Landrum
Karen Paz
Wayne Rowe

