

SECTION H

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Greetings from the coast of Mississippi to our United Church of Christ family in the Northwest Ohio Association!

We are so grateful to the Northwest Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ for your generous and ongoing support. You help us continue our mission of strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives!

This year we are celebrating our 100th Anniversary at Back Bay Mission. Our theme is: “Making Good Trouble on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for 100 Years”. You will note that these powerful words are a nod to the late Representative John Lewis. On April 15th we begin our aggressive 100-year Capital Campaign seeking to raise 3.6 million dollars. We are hoping to meet our assertive goal for projects to help end homelessness, add necessary additional staff, and assure longer-term sustainability for both our facilities and our general operating budget. We will be having celebrations and capital campaign events on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and throughout the country. We will make special efforts with our friends in Ohio and the Midwest to help them celebrate our 100-year history! Watch our website and special mailings for special 100-year anniversary celebration and campaign events.

As we all know, this has been another unique year for churches and not-for-profits alike. We are finally seeing the “light at the end” of the covid tunnel and are moving into our new reality. Back Bay Mission has remained strong, determined, and resilient during this past year of the pandemic. We are finding more people accessing homeless prevention services and increased services for those who are experiencing homelessness for the first time. Clearly the pandemic and racial inequities and health disparities uncovered are leaving more people without jobs, shelter, and adequate resources.

Back Bay Mission’s home rehabilitation program for those who are living in poverty is nearly back to full capacity. Volunteers are once again arriving from throughout the country to be the hands and feet of Christ, boots on the ground, especially those of you who are good friends and supporters from throughout Ohio.

Back Bay Mission’s Micah Day Center continued through the pandemic providing a place for unsheltered people to take a shower, wash their clothes, secure housing through the services of our case managers and find physical, emotional, and spiritual nurture. We also continue providing housing for veterans experiencing homelessness, suffering the effects of PTSD and other physical and emotional scares due to their service in our military.

Back Bay Mission is determined to be a stronger voice for equity and justice for the populations we serve on the Gulf Coast and throughout the Deep South. As a son of Mississippi come home (I was born and raised in Booneville MS until 11 years old), I look forward to serving Back Bay Mission and continuing and expanding the amazing work done on the coast for 100 years. Join us in “making good trouble, necessary trouble” for the next 100 years!



1825 Beacon St
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805-4750

MISSION: Crossroad creates promising futures for children in difficult circumstances by providing therapy, education, and family support services.

Greetings & Thanks to our United Church of Christ family in the Northwest Ohio Association!

Founded in 1883, by one of the predecessor denominations to the United Church of Christ, we are proud to have a covenantal relationship with the Heartland Conference. You are our family! We have served tens of thousands of children with your help, and would not have the resources to do this work without your help! Today, we serve children with very complicated emotional and mental health issues. On any given day, we are serving about 250 children. We served about to 500 children during this past year.

Children who are residents on our campus are as young as age six. They have very challenging diagnoses most often as a result of physical, sexual (including trafficking) abuse and neglect. Many are not just emotionally troubled. They may also be mentally retarded/developmentally disabled, autistic, medically fragile, or they may be impacted by brain trauma. Nearly half of children in our residential services are also diagnosed with a physical disability of some kind. Many are also impacted by families with opioid addictions. Our mission has led us to accept children other treatment providers will not work with, but, our outcomes are as good as - or better than - the benchmark with those we measure against. We are not just claiming we help kids, we are proving it! We are currently servicing children from Ohio and Indiana.

2021 was another year of change for Crossroad Child & Family Service.

- The year began with the installation of our new CEO, David Mullins on January 6! David is a Diakonal Minister, consecrated as part of the Nollau Leadership program of CHSM: the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ. David had been our Chief Operating Officer since 2009.
- We began the training for our new treatment model! The CARE (Children and Residential Experiences) treatment model is a highly research model written by Cornell University. The CARE model is a principle-based program model that provides organizations a framework for practice based on a valid theory of how children develop. The six principles that form the foundation of CARE are: developmentally focused, family involved, relationship based, competence centered, trauma informed, and ecologically oriented. The implementation of these principles to achieve congruence in the best interests of children throughout all levels of a residential care organization is the goal of the CARE treatment model.
- Our school, Crossroad Academy, opened a Makerspace including a podcast studio, a silk-screen printer, a 3-D printer, and a poster maker, with more to come. As a New Tech Academy School we are providing a formal project-based learning culture and structure for children who live on our campus, or students who live in the community and attend our alternative education program.
- During the continuing pandemic, we continued to do all we could to keep our staff and our clients safe and have complied with the mandate to have all staff vaccinated or have an approved exemption.
- Thank you for keeping our mission as one of your priorities! Thank you for your gifts to help fulfill financial needs for the work we do. Thank you for caring about the Crossroad children and families. Together, we do life-changing work! ***We Create Promising Futures!***

You are so important to us and appreciated by us! We thank you for both your gifts and your prayers!

We would love to send you a video mission moment or worship with you in person to thank you for being in mission with us.

We have special project and work-camp opportunities for youth and adult groups; on our campus or remotely.

And if you would like to receive our newsletter to churches, please email or call Liz or Kyle (below)

You can learn more about Crossroad Child & Family Services and how you can help at:

www.crossroad-fwch.org or www.facebook.com/crossroad.cares

Liz Bergren, Development Director: ebergen@crossroad-fwch.org 260.484.4153 x 2003

Kyle Zanker, Chief Development Officer: kzanker@crossroad-fwch.org 260.484.4153 x 2090



*I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel.*

~ Maya Angelou

Defiance College has fared well throughout the pandemic, with a two-fold primary goal – to educate our students well and to keep everyone on campus as healthy as possible. Our faculty worked diligently to provide virtual access to students who were in quarantine and isolation and well-enough to participate in class from their computers! Everyone has been and is still committed to ways that keep our students learning and engaged. Despite a pandemic, we have conducted in-person classes successfully since Fall 2020. Here are some highlights from our diligent work:

- Jacket Journey, a unique career-readiness program, was launched with its inaugural class during Fall 2020; Fall 2021 welcomed the second class to this program.
- The current placement rate is **98%**.
- Faculty with terminal degrees has risen from 55% in 2016 to **78%** in 2021.
- All four of Defiance College's discipline based accredited programs have been affirmed by their respective bodies: Education, Business, Social Work and Nursing.
- Over the last 24 months, DC has been awarded over **\$4.5 million** in grant monies from national, state, and local entities. The focus, for the most part, has been on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiatives and student scholarships in those majors.
- In the last four years academic programs have been added including Computer Science (2017), Environmental Science (2018), Clinical Laboratory Science (2018), a 4+1 MBA program (2020), and an Organization and Supervision Leadership program (2021).
- We have added several minors and licensure programs as well: Coding (2021), Studio Art (2019), App Development (2020), Global Information Systems (2020), Leadership (2019), Graduate License for Principal Licensure (2020), and a writing minor (2021).
- New majors and programs are planned in the following areas over the next year including converting the cybersecurity minor to a major, starting a dual degree engineering program with the University of North Dakota and offering a Superintendent Licensure.
- The board approved a tenure-track faculty line for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- *OUR STRATEGIES TO DEFY THE ORDINARY 2021 – 2026* (strategic plan) were approved by the board at the February 2021 meeting. Five overarching strategies guide goals and objectives to assist DC at being nimble in an external environment.
- Classroom facility upgrades continue with the help of grants and generous donors.
- The DC Disc Golf Course (some of you may know it as Jacket Woods) is in the early stages of a complete renovation and upgrade. The goal of the renovation is to create a disc golf course that is ready for both tournament play and an enjoyable novice experience.
- Upgrades were made to residence halls recently. Now all rooms are wired to support an individual air conditioning unit; in addition, new painting, laminate flooring and lounge furniture were featured as this academic year began.

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together! ~ African Proverb

Emmaus Homes, St. Charles, Missouri

At Emmaus, we know that people with developmental disabilities want to be independent. The problem is - it's hard to live without support. Emmaus believes our clients deserve the resources they need to live independently. That's why for 128 years, as a faith-based organization, Emmaus has provided high-quality services. With Emmaus standing behind them, the people we support can stop worrying about losing control of their life and, instead, can create their own stories.

Who Emmaus Serves: 200 men and women with developmental disabilities in four counties of the St. Louis area. Emmaus has supported many of these people for decades.

What Emmaus Does:

Supported Living: Three or four people with developmental disabilities share a home and receive support from trained professionals to live their daily lives. Emmaus provides individualized services to each person, with as much or as little help as needed. This can include housework, transportation, personal care, cooking, and facilitating social connections. Staff do not live in the clients' homes but work around the clock in shifts.

Shared Living: Very similar to above, but one or two people with a developmental disability live with a family or individual and receive support. They become an integral part of the household/family. A good analogy for this model is adult foster care.

Spiritual Care: To support the whole person, including spiritual well-being, Emmaus offers connections with a worship community of choice (if any), chaplain visits, end-of-life care, and Bible studies.

Recent Changes: Emmaus has transitioned from two campus-based locations to community-based living. Emmaus still supports the same people, but they now live in homes and neighborhoods like yours and mine. This is the current best practice and a more inclusive option.

What's Next: Emmaus plans to maintain our current service model. We continue to seek solutions to support our clients during the national staffing shortage. What all industries are experiencing regarding workforce shortages, the disabilities field has been experiencing for a decade. Emmaus focuses on hiring and retaining staff so that clients experience less "churn" in who is supporting them every day. This leads to a more stable, higher quality service.



2021 Summary Report of Grace Community Center's Mission Accomplishments

The Grace Community Center Mission is:

"To foster the health and well-being of children, adults and seniors within our service area, through programs that promote food security, education and career readiness, and quality senior living."

2021 Mission Accomplishments for Neighborhood Children

- During the year's EduCamp Experience, 56 youth participated in the Standard Academic and/or Natural Science Program. Among the seventeen 1st-4th graders available for testing in the Standard Academic program:
 - The avg. GAIN in reading skills was .55 grade levels (none lost ground)
 - The avg. GAIN in math skills was .2 grade levels (none lost ground)
- The Natural Science Programming was provided in 2 forms for different age groups through partnerships with the CSU and OSU Extension Services as well as the Metro Parks. Topics included everything from Rain Gardens to Bee Keeping.
- Social and emotional learning topics were presented by leaders from the Girl Scouts, the Police Dept. & the Mayor's Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence. Those topics included Making Good Choices & Dealing Effectively with Authority.

2021 Mission Accomplishments for Seniors

- Among the Center's Savvy Seniors, there were reports of significant reductions in blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure levels due to increased consumption of fresh vegetables.
- Over a period of 8 months, neighborhood seniors gave a total of at least 400 service hours to the garden operation.
- 13 seniors volunteered at EcuCamp. 8 of them were Foster Grandparents on assignment from the Area Office on Aging and 5 were from the neighborhood. At least half of these seniors were returnees from previous EduCamps. Coupled with the other 21 EduCamp staff (adult and older youth), they created a camper to staff ratio of nearly 2 to 1, leading to higher level, faster learning among the campers as well as better behavior.

2021 Mission Accomplishments for Persons Facing Food Insecurity

- By the start of 2021, GCC was serving 2500 households with the distribution of emergency food and personal care items (up from 250 households in previous years). 300 of those households needed their supplies brought to them. Grace created a delivery service to meet that need. The need for deliveries has grown throughout the year and is expected to double by the end of 2022.
- From our garden, over 4000 lbs. of vegetables have been grown, harvested, and mostly given away. 75% of the money needed to double our cool storage capacity has been secured. When it is in place, we expect the garden's output to increase by at least 50%.
- Our partnership with United Way was restored in 2020 and strengthened in 2021. They provided us \$45,000 in 2020-2021 fiscal year and \$40,000 in the 2021-2022 to help with emergency food distribution. This year it included 400 Thanksgiving Dinner boxes, each containing a 10-14 lb. turkey and 19 side dish elements.
- Last winter, Grace asked the beneficiaries of our emergency care to make contributions of their own. We called it the "Power in Community" campaign. 100 of our neighbors made donations. The total amount raised was \$1000.





Heidelberg was founded in 1850 by the Ohio Conference of the German Reformed Church and is now affiliated with the United Church of Christ. The school continues to offer scholarships to members of the United Church of Christ, children of UCC clergy, and students considering ordained ministry. We are thankful for support from the Heartland Conference, the Northwest Ohio Association, and local churches.

Located on 125 beautiful acres in Tiffin, in northwest Ohio, Heidelberg University combines a challenging liberal-arts curriculum with professional preparation. Our welcoming, enthusiastic community includes approximately 1,000 undergraduate and more than 100 graduate students from all over the world, working closely with caring, insightful faculty members and staff. International students and domestic students of color account for 20% of students. We are led by our 14th President, Dr. Robert H. Huntington.

Heidelberg offers intellectually rigorous, hands-on courses in a wide range of majors, minors, concentrations, and pre-professional programs. Our energetic campus overflows with activities, including 20 athletic teams, clubs, musical performances, and Greek life. The student-faculty ratio is 13:1 and the average class size is 17. We offer the Life of the Mind Honors Program. Graduate programs are offered in Counseling, Business Administration, and Athletic Training. 84% of our students live on campus. Among our 7 contemporary residence halls, in 2021 we completed renovation of France Hall and renovation of Miller Hall is projected for June 2022. Upper-level students also have unique residential opportunities, such as townhomes and apartments.

We support a vital religious life with Berg UCC, the Catholic Newman Club, CRU, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The Office of Religious Life, supported by the University Chaplain, sponsors events to promote religious literacy. Civic Engagement is a key component of student life under the Ralph and Sue Quellhorst Student Community Service Fund that employs student assistants for Civic Engagement for Voter Registration, Community Service, Sexual Assault Prevention, Student Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, PACE Mentoring Program, and Alternative Break trips to Back Bay Mission and Habitat for Humanity. The HYPE Career Ready[®] Program features six high-impact speakers each academic year, followed by smaller sessions designed to teach relevant career skills. We offer many programs including the research-oriented National Center for Water Quality Research, the vibrant School of Music & Theatre, and the George Barlow Body Donor Lab.

Heidelberg University has a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion fueled by the voice of student leadership and the strong leadership of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Please visit our campus. Stop by and take a tour through the Admission Office or have a meal at one of the Parkhurst Dining facilities, where meals are prepared from fresh ingredients and we have Clean Plate for those with food allergies. All alumni are invited to return to campus June 17-19, 2022, for our annual Alumni Weekend.



IB Annual Report

The Insurance Board (IB) has been serving churches for more than 30 years. In 1979 a local church trustee and entrepreneur in northern California believed churches could improve insurance coverage, costs and services if they were to unite and buy as a group. In 1981, a Program was established in California and shortly after that the IB was formed by the UCC Conferences. Today, the Program is available to all UCC churches across the Country. The Program also serves churches and ministries in three ecumenical partners: The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Alliance of Baptists and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

MISSION

To support and protect churches and church ministries by offering superior property and casualty risk and insurance management services.

VALUE

Choosing to be bound together in mutual care and concern we will maintain:

- Integrity
- Excellence
- Exceptional Customer Service
- Open Communication
- Inclusiveness

VISION

Become the insurance program of choice for the denominations we serve.

There are currently 4200 church entities participating in the program, with more than \$16 billion in total insured values, making the IB one of the largest denominational programs in the Country. A primary purpose of the Insurance Board is to help churches manage the risks that are inherent in their operations. We have developed, and continue to develop, risk management resources and programs to assist ALL UCC churches (not just those in the IB Program) in their loss prevention initiatives, resources are on our website at www.InsuranceBoard.org

To find out more about the Program or to get a proposal for your church, please contact Ben Rupp of the Rupp Agency at 877-480-7877, x3.

In 2021, United Church Homes continued its mission to improve the lives of older adults in its nearly 80 communities in 14 states and two Native American nations, by focusing on growth, leveraging partnerships and expanding its reach through unique technology and engagement opportunities.

We kicked off the year solidifying a partnership with CVS/Omnicare to administer vaccines to all our communities to help keep our residents and staff protected.

In Feb., UCH entered a new educational partnership with Marion Technical College to offer professional development and continuing education for UCH staff as well as learning opportunities for students.

UCH Management signed contracts with three new senior living communities to its portfolio: Community Cares of Rutherford County in Murfreesboro, TN; Mansfield Memorial Homes in Mansfield, OH and The Villas at Sheriden in Carey, Ohio.

UCH launched the Fund for Growth after receiving the largest single gift in its 106-year history of \$17.5 million. The new fund supports innovative technology, service coordination, personal care programs, community enhancements and provides resources for strategic acquisitions of middle-market independent living communities. With this new fund and generous donation, The Campaign for Abundant Life expanded and set a new goal of \$45 million by 2023.

Throughout the year, UCH expanded its Service Coordination program, with the creation of NaviGuide. NaviGuide is already servicing a select community but plans to enter the Columbus, OH market in first quarter 2022. NaviGuide is a monthly subscription to help older adults live independently in the home longer by providing service coordination 24-hours a day.

In July, the 136-apartment senior living community, United Church Homes – The Polaris Community was acquired in Columbus, OH. The community is UCH's first independent living community in central Ohio and features a unique blend of services focusing on community, connection and wellbeing.

The Parkvue Community welcomed Rev. Andrea Mericle in October and kicked off an extensive interior refresh to the community which is currently in progress.

In Nov., Michael Hughes joined the organization as the new Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Transformation and Innovation Officer. Michael will lead the digital project service line development, manage major change processes and drive partnerships that advance innovation and growth.

Following the recent right sizing of The Fairhaven Community, the community is planning to donate furniture to their employees in The Great Giveaway. Additionally, they're planning to welcome Rev. Darla Metz to the community on March 1st and a new medical director, Dr. Amish Oza from Ohio Health in April.

Throughout the year, the UCH Board of Directors continued its focus on diversity, equity and inclusion by partnering with Genesis Consulting providing extensive diversity training to the Board, senior executives, directors and community leaders. The focus created internal action teams which meet regularly to check in on the progress.

We are grateful for the vision of this ministry to serve older adults, which began in Toledo in 1916 and for the ongoing support and engagement of the UCC churches through NWOA and the Ohio Conference.



Uplands Village is an affordable Life Plan retirement community of active, involved seniors supported by an excellent system of Eden-based continuing care. We are a compassionate, inclusive community committed to works of mercy, justice and service to others.

How do you keep the unique spirit and wellbeing of a community alive and strong during a pandemic of such challenging proportions? It takes teamwork, commitment to shared goals, and adaptability.

In short, it takes a village – in this case, Uplands Village!

COMMUNICATION – Our well-attended ‘Executive Chats’ with Herschel Murner are now held weekly via Zoom. Family members of our assisted living, memory care, long-term care and Wellness Center residents are also updated bi-weekly this way. Zoom has become the new norm for the Uplands Board and our many groups and committees.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS – Traditions here live on, creatively adapted for the times. Instead of large group potluck gatherings on holidays, for example, residents organized a series of much smaller dinner gatherings in residents’ homes. Our annual Back Bay Mission “Shrimp Boil” Benefit Dinner became a successful drive-through pick-up event.

CARE FOR OUR HEALTH– Early on, Uplands held clinics so that we’re all vaccinated and “boosted.” Our popular new Aquatic and Fitness Centers remain open to all residents, scheduled so that only a few are there at once. ‘Flex ‘n Stretch’ classes are conducted online. Our dedicated staff adapted beautifully to new health protocols. And masks instantly became part of the new dress code here!

CONSERVATION – A goal shared by the Board, our staff and residents is to “go greener” every day. The National Wildlife Federation recently designated our beautiful 500-acre campus, with its lakes, meadowlands and waterfalls, a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Our miles of woodland trails are carefully maintained by staff and residents. New Community Composting and Renewable Energy initiatives are just two of many ways we’re working to create a healthier future for generations to come.

COMMITMENT – It would be hard to find another retirement community with as many socially responsible, service-minded residents. In addition to volunteering at service organizations and Uplands health care facilities, our resident-run Wharton Association has found creative ways to hold its sales. Proceeds are donated for scholarships or to assist local community needs.

CELEBRATION – Last summer we celebrated Uplands 100th Anniversary with an outdoor afternoon of music, food and fellowship on the lawn of the Pleasant Hill Community Church – UCC. The church sits in the very heart of our village, as it has for much longer than any of us can remember.

We invite you to visit Uplands, in person or online at www.uplandsvillage.com.