

AHUMC Outreach and Mission Projects

Opportunities for you to help in our community and beyond

Family Supportive Services (San Jose Family Shelter)

Our church endorses a "Buck a Month" donation program, whereby members of our congregation pledge to support the shelter, which accommodates whole families while their needs for food, shelter, education, and employment are addressed. Pledges vary and are not necessarily one dollar. Members can become pledgers at any time.

Backpack Giveaway

Each August, our Outreach Commission purchases and distributes over 200 backpacks, filled with school supplies, to underprivileged children in the Hoffman-Via Monte neighborhood. The backpack giveaway occurs during National Night Out, a crime and drug prevention event sponsored nationally by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the San Jose Police Department.

Free Music School

Almaden Hills UMC hosts The Free Music School, which provides weekly instrumental music lessons to students in grades 4–12 (ages 10–17) free of charge. In 2011, we provided instruction to over 90 children. Instruction is provided by volunteer music mentors. The school offers classes for violin, keyboard (piano), and band instruments including flute, trumpet, and trombone. For more information, visit website www.freemusicschool.com.

Sacred Heart Donations Box

Our church has a container for an ongoing collection of requested items such as clothing, baby supplies, toiletries, and food, which are taken to the Sacred Heart Community Center for distribution to those in need. We also donate money annually to Sacred Heart from our Outreach budget.

Knitting / Crocheting / Sewing for Others

Our church sponsors various projects to make clothes and other health apparel. Examples include knitting hats for the Oncology Department at Good Samaritan Hospital and making tote bags for InnVision shelter residents. Our UMW organized a team of seamstresses in 2012 that assembled pillowcase dresses for needy children in Haiti.

Our quilting group meets twice a month to plan, enjoy each others' company, and sew quilts, which are given to organizations in our community. Approximately 40 quilts are completed each year. The group welcomes donations of suitable quilting fabrics and welcomes new fellow seamstresses.

Special Offerings

Throughout the year, we collect five special offerings: (1) Blankets Plus Sunday, which distributes blankets and tools to people in need throughout the world, (2) One Great Hour of Sharing, which supports the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), (3) Human Relations Day, which supports the Methodist Action Program, (4) Peace with Justice Sunday, which advocates for human rights and care for the environment, and (5) United Methodist Student Day, which provides scholarships to colleges with United Methodist ties. We also

collect unscheduled offerings to respond to disasters around the world, such as the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the 2011 tsunami in Japan, and Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Missionary Support

Our congregation supports photo/journalist Paul Jeffrey on an ongoing basis. Paul travels to many places around the world, capturing the lives of those who live with injustice and poverty. Paul visits our church periodically to give us presentations on his projects. We have also provided periodic support for missionary work in Haiti and in Cambodia.

Conference Missions

Our church supports mission projects identified by the Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. In recent years, this has included collecting donations of eyeglasses, functioning hearing aids, cell phones, and usable musical instruments for New Orleans schools.

Mission Trips

Almaden Hills UMC supports various mission trips which send our members into places of need around the world through the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (VIM) program. Within the past few years, trips have included providing a Vacation Bible School in Swaziland, Africa for orphan children whose parents have died from AIDS, first-hand learning about immigration and distributing UMCOR blankets to migrants deported back to Mexico, packaging donated health kits for distribution to disaster-torn areas through the UMCOR depot in Salt Lake City, and providing medical assistance and health education to our sister church in the Philippines.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a fun, exciting, hands-on (and sometimes messy) ministry that teaches children about God and Jesus. It is a five-day, mini-camp experience for kids in preschool to 5th grade, held each summer. We believe that children learn best through having fun, so VBS focuses on creative ways to show kids God loves them — through arts and crafts, storytelling, sports, snacks, skits, singing, and dancing. VBS reaches out beyond the children from our church, serving many kids in the surrounding community.

Feeding the Hungry for the Holidays

Our church partners with other local organizations to provide food for persons who need assistance during the Thanksgiving/Christmas season. Children in our Sunday School program create a "Succoth Booth" and ask members to donate non-perishable food, which is donated to an organization to help feed those in need. In 2010, a special collection funded a donation of 38 turkeys to Sacred Heart. That same year, we hosted the Rotary Club's Thanksgiving food box giveaway in our Fellowship Hall.

CROP Walk

Each April, AHUMC members walk to raise money to fight local and world hunger as part of the annual CROP Hunger Walk of the Bay Area. Walkers seek donations that support life-saving programs around the world. Two-thirds of the donations fight world hunger in third world countries (through Church World Service), while one third goes to local food agencies.

Gay Pride Festival

Almaden Hills UMC joins with other nearby United Methodist churches each year to sponsor and staff a booth at the San Jose Gay Pride Festival. This 2-day event provides an opportunity to reach out to the community with our reconciling message that God loves all and that all are welcome in our church. It's fun to share a booth with other churches, which provides the added benefit of getting to know others working for the reconciling cause.

Building Hope

Members of our congregation join together with United Methodists from Cambrian Park and Willow Glen congregations to serve the community in tangible ways, establishing relationships with our neighbors so that all may know the kingdom of God's love. Projects include quarterly all-church local service projects, bringing the Open Table to San Jose, and organizing a biannual, intergenerational, family house-building trip to Mexico.

Youth Mission Trips

Our Joint Youth Ministry with two other churches provides numerous mission trips for our youth. In recent years our youth have provided support on the Apache Reservation in Whiteriver, Arizona, helped build houses in Tijuana, Mexico, performed construction work for families on a Navajo Reservation in New Mexico, and helped with home repair for poor families in West Virginia. They also serve others through shorter trips closer to home.

Head Start Christmas Gifts

Each year at the Christmas Faire, we display a "Christmas Tree" with names of the children who attend the Head Start preschool education

program that is held at our church. Siblings of the children in the Head Start class are also included. Church members take names of the children and buy gifts for them, which are given to the families on their last day of class before the Christmas break. Approximately 50 gifts are given each year.

Youth Gift Giving

The Junior High and High School Mall Night Lock-In is an annual event where the Joint Youth Group shops for groceries and Christmas gifts for fifty people. The youth save their allowance, babysitting money, and paychecks from work to help purchase gifts for families in need of clothing, food, and Christmas presents for their children.

Open Table

"The Open Table" is a growing movement of faith communities seeking to re-focus from poverty maintenance to poverty transformation. Each table is composed of volunteers that act as a team of life specialists, encouragers, and advocates for impoverished brothers, sisters, and families. Jointly, table members and the individual or family being helped establish goals and accountability, while implementing an overall plan. Table members network in their congregations and the community for resources to support the plan. Tables are formed jointly with other churches in San Jose.

www.theopentable.org

Youth Camps

Our Joint Youth Ministry raises funds to sponsor sending young people to summer camps each year. This includes youth from our church as well as youth who are not affiliated with any church.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The Second Harvest Food Bank collects donations from growers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers for distribution to organizations that provide food for seniors and low-income families. Periodically, our church organizes a team that sorts and packages food for distribution.

FISH

Numerous members of our church pledge to donate specific food items monthly. A volunteer delivers these to the Fish closet at the Church of the Transfiguration, which distributes the food to persons in need. Financial donations are also accepted.

Mission Commission

Our Mission Commission supports, on a yearly basis, these programs with regular financial donations: Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, Ludhiana Hospital in India, Bread for the World, and Cambodian missionary, Katherine Parker.

Christmas Faire

The Mission and Outreach Commissions hold an annual craft/food faire and soup luncheon in November. Crafts from third world countries are sold, with the proceeds sent back to support the ongoing work of the artisans. Church members donate crafts and baked goods, with proceeds supporting Mission and Outreach programs.

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Our community of United Methodist Women, inspired by God, works to develop a supportive fellowship to expand the concepts of mission. We provide opportunities to grow spiritually, to master the tools needed for leadership, and to work for justice through service and advocacy.

ALMADEN HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



AHUMC Outreach projects serve the needs in our community, while our Mission projects provide global services and ministries. Learn more about these projects here! Contact the church office at (408) 269-2345 or Bruce Eshleman (Outreach Chair) for more information.