



“For when I was hungry, you gave me food; when I was thirsty, you gave me drink; when I was homeless, you gave me a welcome; when I was ill-clad, you clothed me; when I was sick, you cared for me; when I was in prison, you came to see me.” Matthew 25:35-36

NOVEMBER 7 2014

FOOD PROGRAMS FUNDED

Recognizing the vast and ever growing hunger problem in the geographic area served by the Diocese, twenty-four ministries and organizations who provide direct food aid, and who were funded by ECF in 2013, received grants in January 2014. Each of the ten convocations were represented by at least one food ministry.

Grant recipients:

Abundant Life Soup Kitchen (Griffin)	Action Ministries (Athens)
All Saints Food Bank (Warner Robins)	C.A.M.P. (Austell)
C.A.R.E.S (Jasper)	Chard Wray Food Pantry (Milledgeville)
Crossroads Community Ministry (Atlanta)	DEAM (Decatur)
FOCUS (Hamilton)	Hart Community Food Ministry (Hartwell)
Holy Comforter (Atlanta)	Lilburn Cooperative (Lilburn)
Loaves and Fishes (Macon)	Malachi’s Storehouse (Atlanta)
Neighbors 4 Neighbors (Toccoa)	Networks Cooperative (Tucker)
Panda Packs (Madison)	Rome Action Ministries (Rome)
South Hall Community Food Pantry (Oakwood)	Stephen’s House (Washington)
Stone Mountain Cooperative (Stone Mountain)	St. Paul’s Food Pantry (Atlanta)
The Garden Project (Monroe)	Wynnton Neighborhood (Columbus)

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THE WORK OF THE BOARD

ECF has spent 2014 re-imagining our mission to serve the poor and those need in the diocese. Bishop Wright challenged us to “move the needle” at ECF, which we take to mean a major expansion of our financial resources. Further, our goals have been to move to fewer, more substantial grants; to focus on partnerships for new initiatives rather than smaller relationship grants; to increase Christian maturity in giver and receiver; and to further refine the “Matthew 25” lens of our work. After several months of discussion, prayer, and study, the board chose the following way forward.

We believe the best path to expand our financial resources is to begin a diocesan-wide planned giving campaign. We plan to visit all the worshipping communities and offer planned giving partnerships where the parish and ECF would split the gift. The parish will gain a planned giving program it might not have, ECF will gain a chance to establish partnering relationships for future ministries, and the giver can make a gift that benefits both their own parish and the poor and those in need throughout the diocese.

Additionally, we hope to focus on providing “seed capital” for new ministries by partnering with parishes. Matching grants of 1-4 years are what we envision as a best practice in the future. We also feel strongly that the board is too small. Our goal is to increase the board to 24 members, with one member from each convocation, and others chosen by skill set and with an eye towards the population of convocations.

Finally, our next board chair will need to be a dynamic leader who has experience in changing a board culture as we move from primarily giving money away to equal parts raising money and building ministry partnerships. We see this as an opportunity for a legacy project for the right person.

THE MATTHEW PROJECT

2014 was the inaugural year for the Matthew Project mission trips. Construction of Building One of the new Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center in Jasper, GA, began with the clearing and grading of the land and in April, the first volunteer mission trip. Our first missionaries were an enthusiastic group from Church of the Epiphany, Atlanta. The seven months since have continued to be joy-filled successes, with the completion of Building One anticipated by early 2015. Eleven groups of volunteers have volunteered with the Matthew Project—seven diocesan churches have participated. One hundred thirty volunteers from seven parishes - Church of the Epiphany, Holy Trinity Parish, St. Francis Episcopal Church; Macon, St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, Church of the Holy Family, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, and St. James Episcopal Church; Marietta – have contributed well over 500 construction hours. Members of the Canterbury Club at Kennesaw State University also mission-tripped to Good Sam.

Members of the Episcopal Charities Foundation Board have participated in The Matthew Project, both by being part of mission trips from their individual parishes, and by providing a number of meals to volunteers throughout the year.

"I volunteer for the community it builds while doing the work. There is something about living together, eating together, working together, praying together that creates an incredible bond...a community of the body of Christ"
Tom Bell, *Church of the Epiphany*



HUNGER WALK

Thanks to record numbers of walkers, runners and volunteers, the 2014 Hunger Walk/Run, hosted in March by the Atlanta Community Food Bank, raised more than \$800,000 – up twenty-seven percent over last year – and drew more than 17,000 people, the largest turnout ever.

Not only does Atlanta Community Food Bank benefit from the generosity of those who either pledged or participated, but through the Hunger Walk partnership of Episcopal Charities Foundation with the food bank, food pantries and hunger ministries throughout the diocese have received grants in each of the ten convocations. ECF collected \$41,220, a thirty percent increase over last year!

Bishop Rob Wright, a longtime supporter of the annual Hunger Walk/Run, this year offered a special incentive for increasing pledges for ECF: \$3,000 would be given to the individual's parish for outreach, along with a large trophy to be housed at the winner's parish for the year.



The trophy and prize were presented to Shirley Lee, a member of St. Bartholomew's, Atlanta, for raising \$4,000.

