



MISSIONS FAIR

Sunday, September 15

DGFUMC Gym
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Light refreshments served.

Let's make a positive difference
for our neighbors in need!

EVERYONE INVITED
ADULTS & CHILDREN

Poverty in DuPage County is Rising Dramatically

Approximately 70,000 people in DuPage County have incomes under the federal poverty level! That's only \$23,050 for a family for four. And nearly another 178,000 of our neighbors are considered lower income, living with less than \$46,100 for a family of the same size. [source: DuPage Federation]

It's a startling figure. Historically, the suburbs have had far less need and little public support for crucial human services to help people living in poverty. However, demographic changes have brought on an unprecedented level of need here in DuPage County. And the human services being offered simply cannot handle the overload.

Let's raise our voices! Join us on Sunday, September 15, as we hold a missions fair in the gymnasium, entitled, "***Faith in Action - Helping our Neighbors.***" The fair will offer an array of informational and volunteer booths from fantastic local organizations and our own DGFUMC initiatives. This is an opportunity for you to help make a difference in the lives of neighbors in need.

Stop by the following exhibits for more information about how to help our neighbors.

Bridge Board – DGFUMC

www.bridgecommunities.net

For 13 years, Bridge Board members have mentored families from being homeless to independent living. The two-year commitment for mentors and the family – usually a single parent with children – provides clients with temporary housing, guidance, love, and stability. Funds to support the Bridge Board program come from the annual DG Garden Walk and the FUMC4 concert. UMW Circles contribute food gift cards to the family. Contact: Ann Miller.

Missions Work Area – DGFUMC

The MWA strives to make God’s love known in the lives of our neighbors: locally, nationally, and globally. In addition to donations, the MWA works locally to help our neighbors: distribution of tomato and pepper plants so that members of the congregation can raise fresh produce for clients of the PRC Westmont food pantry and provided gift cards to local elementary school staff to help purchase nutritional snacks for hungry children. Through Rainbow Covenant Giving – gifts from the congregation on Easter Sunday –the MWA has also supported the Peoples Resource Center, Bridge Communities, PADS and JFON. Contact: Jean Krusinski.

United Methodist Women – DGFUMC

www.dgfumc.org/fellowship/umw

While the overall mission of UMW is commitment to mission through participation in the global ministries of the church, each of the five DGFUMC circles support local projects that help to improve the lives of women and children in need. These include the PRC, Bridge family, Walk-In Ministry of Hope, Adult Day Care and Family Shelter Services. Members also volunteer at the Westmont PRC location. UMW reaches out to the community by offering very low-priced items at its annual September Sweet Repeat Resale. Contact: Julie Stone.

PADS – Public Action to Deliver Shelter

www.dupagepads.org

PADS provides emergency services for more than 1,200 homeless men, women, and children in DuPage County. Although the mission is to end homelessness (through case management, life coaching, employment support), a principal activity is to coordinate a network of sites to give temporary food and shelter. Our church hosts individuals and families every Tuesday night from Oct. to May. DGFUMC volunteers coordinate the program and work on the first Tuesday of each month, while other churches work on the remaining weeks. Contact: Diane Kerr.

CROP Hunger Walk – October 20, 2013

www.dgfumc.org/mission/cropwalk

Participants have raised nearly \$600,000 over the past 25 years in support of the grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts of Church World Service (CWS) partner agencies in more than 80 countries. The Walk helps to provide tools of hope that empower people to meet their own needs...seeds and tools, water systems, technical training and micro-enterprise loans. Of the total funds raised, 25% of the dollars come back to support local hunger agencies, including Walk-In Ministry of Hope, Northern Illinois Food Bank, People’s Resource Center (Westmont pantry) and PADS sites. Contact: Dave Sandfort.

People’s Resource Center

Wheaton & Westmont

<http://www.peoplesrc.org>

PRC meets basic needs, including food, clothing, and rent assistance, and offers skill-building resources, such as literacy classes, job assistance, computer training and art. More than 32,000 DuPage residents rely on PRC for help each year. Over 1,500 volunteers work with the small PRC staff offering time, skills and resources to help their neighbors. Donors contribute food, clothing, books, computers, and money to support the PRC’s work. DGFUMC volunteers do many things and on a regular basis staff the Westmont Food Pantry to assist clients in their grocery selection. Contact: Julie Stone.

Sharing Connections

5111 Chase Ave. Downers Grove

www.sharingconnections.org

Sharing Connections Furniture Bank provides donated furniture and household items to low-income families, most of whom are coping with crisis like domestic violence, job loss, or financial hardship and include the previously homeless, unemployed and working poor, veterans, victims of domestic violence, immigrants, individuals with mental or physical disabilities, victims of fire, flood and natural disasters, etc. Clients have housing, but are faced with the harsh reality that their “home” is empty or severely under-furnished. The average salary of a client family of four is approximately \$12,400 a year. After basic expenses are paid, there’s little if anything left for the common household furnishings most take for granted.

Northern Illinois Food Bank

Geneva

www.solvehungertoday.org

The vision of the Food Bank is for no one to be hungry in northern Illinois and to lead the community in solving hunger by providing nutritious meals to those in need. Across 13 northern Illinois counties, food manufacturers, local groceries, corporations, foundations, and individuals come together to donate food and funds, and evaluate and repack food for distribution to more than 600 network partners – the food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and youth and senior feeding programs that serve more than 60,000 different people each week.

Literacy DuPage

www.literacyvolunteersdupage.org

Literacy DuPage serves over 30 communities in DuPage County by providing accessible and customized tutoring in reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English to help adults achieve independence. Trained volunteer tutors provide customized, learner-centered English language instruction in one-on-one or small group settings at a mutually convenient time and location for both tutors and students.

Community Adult Day Care

4501 Main St. Downers Grove

www.communityadultdaycare.com

CADC is a not-for-profit organization serving DG and surrounding communities. The center provides a dignified and pleasant environment for any adult needing daytime care and is an alternative to full-time in-home care. Clients enjoy a warm, supportive atmosphere, creative program, nutritionally-balanced meal, and an opportunity to share with others of the same age group, as well as social activities, including physical exercise, field trips and current events programs.

DG Family Shelter Service

www.familyshelterservice.org

The Service was founded in 1976 by a group of concerned individuals who wanted to help the growing number of individuals in DuPage County made homeless by domestic abuse. Now it provides emergency shelter services and non-residential counseling services, children’s programs, support groups, court advocacy, hotline services and preventative education. Volunteers can help with light maintenance, childcare, working in one of the two resale shops, as well as helping at fundraising events.

Almost Home Kids

Naperville

www.AlmostHomeKids.net

AHK provides short-term transitional and respite care in a home-like setting to medically fragile children with complicated health needs, as well as training for their families. Many client families rely on financial donations and state aide in order to receive services. The children are often depending on a ventilator for breathing support, a feeding tube for nutrition and the use of other hi-tech devices. Family members are taught how to operate the equipment before the child goes home. The facility in Naperville is the only model of its kind in Illinois. Volunteers spend time with the children and represent the organization at special events.

Hope's Front Door

1047 Curtiss St. Downers Grove

www.hopesfrontdoor.org

Formerly known as the Walk-In Ministry of Hope, this organization provides emergency assistance to those in desperate need who include the unemployed, underemployed, homeless, seniors and disabled...nearly 15,000 individuals and their families in Downers Grove and five neighboring villages. After determining their immediate needs through compassionate conversation, clients are helped with either food, medical, dental and/or transportation vouchers, plus a clear pathway into the network of social agencies that can assist them with the long-term restructuring of their lives.

DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform

Villa Park

www.dupagefederation.org

The Federation is a collaboration of government and key community organizations that identify ways a local community can address its human needs using its own resources and resourcefulness. The Federation serves as an organizer and catalyst in DuPage County, bringing together the responsible organizations and advocating for development of real solutions. It is the only organization doing policy analysis and systems change work on human services issues in DuPage County -- effecting change by managing collaborations and projects, identifying needed systems changes and making recommendations for improvement.

Kids Hope

www.kidshopeusa.org

KIDS HOPE USA develops one-on-one relationships through the creation of church-school partnerships that pair church members with at-risk kids in supportive, mentoring relationships. Mentors spend just one hour per week, reading, talking, playing and listening to a child at school. By helping the child feel loved and valued, they help that child to learn, grow and succeed.

Youth Missions at DGFUMC

www.dgfumc.org/youth

We are committed to raising our young adults with hearts and minds devoted to helping others. There are three main areas of focus in missions: awareness, fundraising and hands-on volunteering. Among events to address these goals are the 30 Hour Famine weekend (to learn about hunger, raise funds to help the hungry, and then go hungry themselves) and volunteer/fundraising opportunities with PADS, the PRC, or Feed My Starving Children. Special trips are an opportunity for hands-on involvement. The Junior High Mission Trip is more locally focused, as they travel to Rogers Park every summer to help run a day camp and provide a program, modeled after vacation bible school, for underprivileged children. The Senior High Mission Trip travels to a different state (Kentucky, West Virginia and Michigan in the last three years) each summer to assist people, who cannot afford to hire anyone, with home repair, painting, even building a new porch or putting on a new roof.

An opportunity for all...

Feed My Starving Children

555 Exchange Ct. Aurora

www.fmssc.org

FMSC is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. The meals are shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world. Chicagoland volunteers have packed more than 80 million meals. Packing is open to individuals and families...use this opportunity to teach the meaning of service. On Sept. 15, you can sign up for a future packing event. Contact: Maureen Dunn.

Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON)

www.jfonnic.org

The mission of JFON, a ministry of the United Methodist Church, is to provide free, high-quality legal service for immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers who are not financially able to secure the services otherwise. Since April 2011 an attorney, legal assistant and volunteers from southern Kane, DeKalb and DuPage Counties have served clients from 40 countries at the Aurora clinic. All funding for JFON comes from gifts and donations, the Northern Illinois Conference, various grants available through the United Methodist Church and other organizations.

Active DGFUMC-related ministries beyond our local border.

UPAVIM Cooperative, Guatemala City

Empowering Guatemalan Women & Communities

www.upavim.org

We cherish our friendship with the remarkable women who manage and run UPAVIM – a cooperative which provides employment, school and medical services. Their life, their spirit and their faith are powerful witnesses to God’s love and a beacon against injustice in their beautiful, but impoverished country. Communities in Guatemala City suffer from many of the social problems that characterize marginalized populations everywhere ... domestic and gang violence, discrimination against women, drugs, illiteracy, unemployment, lack of health services and lack of sufficient schools.

Five Guatemalan women will be guests of DGFUMC in October. Take the opportunity to meet them, learn about their lives and share your friendship. Contact: Loral Briggs.

Mision’ Fronteras

Peru-Bolivia Lake Titicaca Border Mission

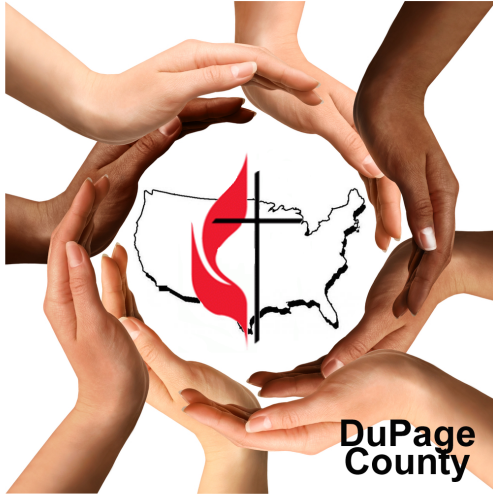
Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church –

Advance #3021288

Throughout the past 28 months, Volunteers in Mission Debbie Rissing and Jeff Wasilevich have served as hands-on site hosts for volunteers arriving to work on behalf of local indigenous Aymara who are subsistence farmers. Some project examples are:

- Supporting pastoral training & church planting programs
- Constructing churches
- Training local health workers
- Teaching English & teach-the-teachers
- Building greenhouses for year-round crop sales and use
- Raising cuy & chickens – meat- and income-producing small animals
- Providing school supplies and toothbrushes (things we take for granted)

Faith in Action



**DuPage
County**

Helping our Neighbors