



Grace Episcopal Church
Hinsdale, IL

Survey Results

Date: 3/12/09

Dear fellow Parish Member:

Grace Episcopal Church Outreach leads and coordinates efforts of the Parish community to help bring hope, happiness and spiritual enrichment to thousands of needy individuals. These efforts are focused locally, regionally and globally on people who experience difficult circumstances related to homelessness, hunger, natural disasters and special challenges.

Outreach conducts a variety of Parish-based initiatives to increase awareness and raise funds to support multiple beneficiaries. We would like your help in clarifying the importance of these various initiatives. It is our hope that your response to the following Assessment will help in this process.

An Outreach Committee Goal for 2009 is to increase the involvement of the members of Grace Church in our good work. It is our fervent hope that parishioners who are more aware of the significant work of our members will consider assisting us in this time honored tradition of volunteerism.

The majority of questions are multiple choice in nature. A return envelope has been provided to facilitate sending your completed Assessment back to Grace. Numerous opportunities are provided to write additional opinions.

We also encourage you visit the Outreach page within the gracehinsdale.org website.

Best regards – and Thank You.

The Outreach Committee of Grace

1. Have you or any member of your family been directly involved in Outreach previously?

Responses: 106

Yes 70.5% No 36.4%

2. How familiar are you with the Outreach *mission*?

Responses: 103

 44.2 We are familiar with the Outreach Mission and have been directly involved in its efforts

 29.1 We are familiar with the Outreach Mission but have not been involved in its efforts to the degree that we would like to date

 25.6 I am unfamiliar with the Outreach Mission
(really, it's okay to admit it! saying so will actually help us)

3. The last page provides a listing of the Beneficiaries that the Outreach Committee directly supports.

Responses: 106

- Are these Beneficiaries important to you and your family, and do they resonate with your sense of giving back to the community?

Yes 78.9 No 7.8

4. If no, we would love your input:

Responses: See Narrative Responses page

5. Should we scrutinize and possibly remove/replace/add beneficiaries?

Responses: 86

 40.0 Keep the list as is; each beneficiary is worthy of our support

 34.7 While all are worthy of our support, the list should be reduced in number

 13.3 The number of beneficiaries is appropriate, but we would like to *replace* one of them with the suggestion provided under Question 9.

 10.7 We would like to *add* one of them with the suggestion provided under Question 9.

6. Should we be focusing our efforts to give and help those in need within the Parish – or focus primarily on giving outside of our walls?

Responses: 90

 3.8 We believe we should focus 100% of our efforts within the Parish

82.1 We should balance our efforts, and provide assistance to those in need regardless of whether they are members of the Parish or not

11.5 We should focus 100% of our efforts outside the Parish

7. To the extent that you feel we should continue to focus our efforts outside of our Parish, should these efforts be focused towards *local*, *national*, or *international* initiatives?

Responses: 76

77.3 We believe our initiatives/beneficiaries should be more *local* in nature

10.6 We believe our initiatives/beneficiaries should be more *national* in nature

18.2 We believe our initiatives/beneficiaries should be more international in nature

12.1 ...and we would be more involved in Outreach if they were!

8. Should we focus our efforts more on the Youth or on the Elderly? (check box, or rank importance)

Responses: 81

70.1 We believe our initiatives/beneficiaries should be more focused on Youth causes

28.4 We believe our initiatives/beneficiaries should be more focused on causes for the Elderly

20.9 Both equally

9. Would you be more involved in Outreach if they were?

Responses: 28

Yes 96.1 No 4.0

10. Do you have a preference for direct participation in an Outreach initiative or to provide monetary donations only?

Responses: 83

53.5 Direct Involvement 39.4 Monetary Donation

12.7 [Both]

11. Please provide suggestions of what other initiatives we should embrace:

(We encourage you to have direct conversations with your children and family members and pose this question to them)

Responses: See Narrative Responses page

12. Would you and your family be interested in being involved in Outreach in an initiative of your choosing? [possibly include guidance on how to select an initiative/beneficiary?]

Responses: 24

96.0 Yes. In particular, we would like to be involved in the following:

4.0 In addition, the following families are also interested in joining us in this initiative:

Grace Outreach Beneficiaries & Initiatives

Throughout the year, our Outreach Committee runs many Parish initiatives to garner support of from our generous parishioners for our Outreach beneficiaries. PLEASE OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.GRACEHINSDALE.ORG/OUTREACH.PDF

Aunt Mary's Storybook Project provides parents with a positive way to reach out to their children while incarcerated. The project promotes a healthy relationship with a positive focus on literacy. It also encourages being connected as a family during difficult times. www.cjtinc.org

Cathedral Shelter ministers, with love and compassion, the most vulnerable of our community –particularly those suffering from addiction –through crisis intervention, addiction recovery, community assistance and life skills development. www.cathedralshelter.org

The HeadStart Association enhances the development of children, empowering families and strengthening communities. www.ilheadstart.org

Church World Service provides sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in more than 80 countries. Church World Service is part of the ecumenical family of the National Council of Churches USA. www.churchworldservice.com

Hinsdale Community Service and Hinsdale Food Pantry provide a warm-hearted and efficient method of emergency or interim help to their neighbors whose needs cannot be met by existing government agencies. www.hinsdalecommunityservice.org

Heifer International works to end hunger and poverty, and care for the earth by providing appropriate livestock, training and related services to small-scale farmers and communities worldwide. www.Heifer.org

United Thank Offering seeks to expand the circle of thankful people by encouraging daily prayers, offerings and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. www.episcopalchurch.org

The Sandwich Board Soup Kitchen at Trinity Church, Aurora, has been serving low income and homeless individuals and families for over 20 years. www.epischicago.org/inititives.cfm?GID=4

Shelter Care Ministries is an outreach of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Rockford, IL. They serve families who are homeless and people living with mental illness. www.shelter-care.org

Located in inner-city Chicago, St. Gregory's School for Boys provides affordable, faith-based education to at-risk boys, preparing them for success in competitive high schools. www.sges.net

Sister Diocese in Renk, Sudan Companion Diocese relationships are intended to benefit both partners through mutual encouragement and prayer for one another; intensified knowledge of and concern for one another; and the exchange of resources, both spiritual and material.

One of the oldest child-welfare agencies in Illinois, Lawrence Hall Youth Services, delivers an essential continuum of care—a lifeline of action, hope, and opportunity –that enables children to build more promising futures www.lawrencehall.org

Narrative Responses

- We live too far away to become very active in any of this. I support help both with the youth and the elderly. We should focus on our community and help those who need it before we run out to the world. Just my opinion.
- The outreach programs are commendable, particularly as they assist youth and parents. It would be great to see some programs directed to females in particular as well, and potential for scholarship for boys/girls, or parents.
- We can always use more info about the Outreach. #5. Stay Community Based. Reduce by a lot. Focus more than 50% within the Parish. 60/40 or 70/30. Stay Local, maybe one national, one international. Over 16 years. Beginning years, very active. Inactive last half.. Two children, unmarried, both in college.
- These are wonderful charities, but we are stretched too thin as a parish. Is there a way to narrow our outreach effort to be more effective?
- Would like to be involved, but time constraints prevent it at this time
- Cathedral Shelter, H Community Service, Aurora Kitchen – yes; others not so much. Our efforts should be primarily with select support to nat'l or int'l causes (esp. in crisis situations), and a smaller % contribution to the Diocese or agency that provides nat'l or int'l help.
- I think it should be reduced. Hate to discontinue something others feel strongly about but would measure beneficiaries according to support received by Parish. Getting inside Lawrence Hall (which started as an Episcopal Orphanage) was mind-provoking. Chaplain always needs earmarked support for his budget to support these children and teens.
- Something like habitat for humanity
- Local chapters of Girls Scouts--Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Girl Scout Council--and Susan G. Komen--Chicagoland Area Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. These efforts would be BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL, and focus on both youth and elderly.
- Programs we currently support are good, provided that they are cost effective and that we attempt to measure the outcomes for the dollars we spend.
- Visiting elderly parishioners and providing assistance to those who need help at home.
- Work with a group that 1) directly helps and intervenes on behalf of persecuted Christians throughout the world, and 2) spreads the gospel
- Provide support for children with disabilities and/illness; good organizations include Giant Steps, Easter Seals, Childrens Memorial Hospital, Hansen Center
- We already have so much in Hinsdale; others need it much more!
- In general, I think that the Church should make sure we are financially viable first – before raising extra \$ from members for Outreach. Why? Because a strong viable Grace can provide better support.

As for Outreach, I think our Parish is most successful and gets most involved in projects of a more local nature, and those that they are more directly involved in). I think we have a few too many projects and I suspect some have come as a result of a few individuals personal willingness to manage the project.

Finally, I think our Parish is truly lacking compared to area churches in organized outreach activities for middle/high school-aged children (Mardi Gras is great, but is more for early grades). It would be nice if once or twice a year we could support a soup kitchen on a weekend day so our kids could participate. Other churches offer many more opportunities

(Comty Presbyterian in C.H., Redeemer Lutheran, Christ Church, and Union Church). Could we partner with them? Or start one or two of our own?

- We love Outreach that supports children, world hunger and those less fortunate
- Believe '09 will be difficult for many people, so perhaps we should do more within our Parish to those in need.
- All of interest; however, I believe that the ones listed are not keeping up with what is going on in the world.
- Invisible Children is an African/Darfur charity that is popular with teens at Hinsdale Central and other HS; might be an indication that this is something the teens would like to do?
- Outreach doing an excellent job
- Why change the beneficiary listing? Present balance is good
- Would like more hands-on opportunities for teens and pre-teens
- More focused efforts may be better; larger donations to a smaller number of causes would deepen relationships with those charities
- Need more community projects for the youths in the Parish
- Any/all of Chicago-area Episcopal Charities should be supported
- Don't understand why we are involved in Rockford, IL, but appreciate our work in Sudan
- Direct more dollars to fewer causes
- Off of listing, I vote no to: Church World Service, Heifer, Shelter Care (why Rockford?), Renk
- How much does Lawrence Hall get from others? I don't think we make a big impact there, as one of many
- Do something in conjunction with other local Parishes/larger area
- Any possibility of a mission trip?
- From listing, no to: Aunt Mary's, Church World Service, Headstart, Shelter Care, Renk
- Would like Outreach goals to reflect criteria as to how much our giving makes a difference in the effected charity's budget; hence, do we make any real dent Headstart?
- Is our goal: smaller amounts to more groups, or fewer – but larger/more impactful gifts to a smaller group?
- From my analysis of website, I see that Outreach's area of focus is homelessness, hunger, natural disaster, and 'other'; yet, the areas funded don't all align with the committees goals, which isn't bad unless we are trying to stick close to the focus areas.
- I think that the programs we currently support are good, provided that they are cost effective and that we attempt to measure the outcomes for the dollars we spend.
- Prefer Cathedral Shelter, Hinsdale Comm. Service, Aurora Soup Kitchen; others, not so much
- Local important. Perhaps only one 'global' charity. Feel that Lawrence Hall, Shelter Care, UTO not part of our mission. Soup kitchen is great (which we could do cooking one night at church for Thurs – that way our families could be involved)
- Please help people in our country first; Youth should help more with elderly
- Outreach beneficiaries is a nice mix and probably the strongest part of the Circle of Grace
- Good variety. You should point out that St Gregs is the only Episcopal grade school in the diocese, and there doesn't seem to be any elder care beneficiaries
- Good variety, but if we are going to raise so much at once for St Gregory's, we should also

pick a beneficiary focused on girls

- A number of very worthy. I don't think you can expect that every beneficiary means something to every parishioner.
- Helping those within the Parish is important when needed, but should be on a case-by-case basis and perhaps be managed on a more confidential basis.
- Dear Susan [Owens]: you and your group are doing a marvelous job.
- Focus on youth - do not ignore the elderly *Host a baby shower - to benefit needy mothers from a Chicago/Illinois based hospital - I would get very involved
- My Wife and I are running a therapeutic horseback riding and carriage driving center providing services with children and adults with challenges. We are the largest center in Illinois providing services to military veterans and receive patients from Hines, North Chicago and Milwaukee VAs. We are BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding and Educational Center. You may visit our website www.braveheartsridding.org. This takes most of our energy and resources
- I think we need more teaching about the purpose of the Church and how such a notion expresses our understanding of where God is calling us to serve either in the parish out outside (local, national or international). Constant renewal of our vision of purpose would certainly be helpful to me and my willingness to get more involved.
- Why not try a Make-A-Wish for one year only.
- Women's shelter: Wings (Women In Need Getting Stronger) has a lot of support within Hinsdale. Please look at it.
- all current ones are worthwhile; timing in our lives as both my husband and I work and our 5 children and grandchildren live far from Hinsdale making it difficult to do direct volunteering
- Inner-city youth groups and those churches that support them. Sporting clubs, Camps, basic activities.
- Create Youth programs where young people can show their leadership capabilities.
- Provide support for children w/ disabilities and/or illnesses. Good organizations include Giant Steps, Easter Seals, Childrens Memorial Hosp, Hansen Center; continue help w/ Xmas baskets, possibly Soup Kitchen
- I believe that getting our young parishioners to see the need is one of the most important things we can teach them. Confirmation classes are or should be a wonderful culmination of the lesson.
- I would like to be involved with this committee
- To focus the Renk Sudan initiative by getting a partner Parish – there is a need there. Jackie Kraus and Connie Wilson can help with this. I have met Bishop Joseph Atem and he is a very helpful with focus.
- Literacy initiative might be interesting adjunct to our commitment to St Gregory's
- Scholarships for parish youth – music and arts
- Seminars. There doesn't seem to be any older – focused initiatives.
- In comparison to the Catholic church, the Episcopal church has a long way to go – check out catholiccharitiesusa.org. Be nice to see Episcopal equivalent.
- Homelessness – of all ages, battered women counseling, food pantries
- It has come to my attention that even with the great advances in treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS, there are still many suffering people that could use assistance in daily living and companionship. This is a hidden group in our community. This population is often

overlooked and this is something I could get involved in, volunteer in some capacity. Maybe a good starting place would be to contact community organizations that are already in existence and see what kind of support they need. Thank you for reading this!