



Faith in Action Ministries – Report December 2018

THE FAITH IN ACTION MINISTRIES OF ST PHILIP NERI CHURCH ARE THOSE MINISTRIES THAT ARE INVOLVED WITH VARIOUS WORKS OF CHARITY, AND PEACE AND JUSTICE. THE MINISTRIES INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT ARE THE EMPIRE AREA FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY, THE ST. BONAVENTURE INDIAN MISSION AND SCHOOL MINISTRY, AND THE MICROFINANCE LOAN FUND MINISTRY.

THE EMPIRE AREA FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY IS THE LONGEST SERVING ACTIVE MINISTRY AND PARISHIONERS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND STAFF THE EMPIRE AREA FOOD PANTRY ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH. THE PANTRY ROUTINELY PROVIDES FOOD TO APPROXIMATELY 25 TO 35 FAMILIES PER WEEK. THERE ARE 12 OR SO PARISH COUPLES WHO PROVIDE THE STAFFING FOR THE PANTRY WHEN IT IS THE PARISHES' TURN ON THE SCHEDULE. THE EMPIRE AREA FOOD PANTRY IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT OF FIVE EMPIRE AREA CHURCHES.

ST PHILIP NERI CHURCH ALSO HANDLES THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE PANTRY FOR THE RECEIPT OF CASH DONATIONS AND THE PAYMENT OF BILLS.

ANYONE WISHING TO MAKE A CASH CONTRIBUTION TO THE PANTRY MAY DO SO BY SENDING A CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO THE EMPIRE AREA FOOD PANTRY TO THE PANTRY C/O ST PHILIP NERI CHURCH, PO BOX 257, EMPIRE MI 49630.

DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOODS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE DEERING PARISH HALL AND THEY WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO THE PANTRY ONCE A WEEK.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR THIS MINISTRY SHOULD CONTACT BOB MARTH AT 231-334-3946

THE ST. BONAVENTURE INDIAN MISSION AND SCHOOL MINISTRY, WHICH HAS BEEN ONGOING FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS, ENDED DECEMBER 2018. THROUGH THE EXTREMELY GENEROUS DONATIONS OF PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS THE MINISTRY WAS ABLE TO SEND APPROXIMATELY \$65000 TO ST. BONAVENTURE. THE MINISTRY MADE A COMMITMENT TO SEND ST. BONAVENTURE \$300.00 EACH MONTH FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOOD, WATER, CLOTHING, AND BLANKETS, WHICH ST. BONAVENTURE IDENTIFIED AS THE MOST CONTINUOUS AND URGENT NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE LIVING ON THE EASTERN NAVAJO RESERVATION. THE MINISTRY FULFILLED THIS COMMITMENT.

AFTER ST. BONAVENTURE INFORMED US THAT IN THE TWO YEARS PRIOR TO THE START OF THIS MINISTRY, 23 OF THE MISSION'S PEOPLE DIED OF HYPOTHERMIA DUE TO INADEQUATE HOUSING AND THE LACK OF HEAT IN THEIR HOMES, THE MINISTRY SET A GOAL TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE

PURCHASE OF STOVES FOR COOKING AND HEATING FOR THE HOUSES OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE MISSION. WITH THE FUNDS THE MINISTRY PROVIDED, 210 STOVES WERE PURCHASED; AND, IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, NO ONE HAS DIED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF HEAT IN THEIR HOMES. THE MINISTRY MET ITS GOAL.

WITH THE END OF THIS MINISTRY, PARISHIONERS CAN CONTINUE TO DONATE TO THE ST. BONAVENTURE INDIAN MISSION AND SCHOOL. ADDRESS: ST .BONAVENTURE INDIAN MISSION AND SCHOOL, EASTERN NAVAHO RESERVATION, P O BOX 610, THOREAU, NM 87323-0610 TELEPHONE: 505/862-7847 WEB SITE: WWW.STBONAVENTUREMISSION.ORG

THE MICRO FINANCE LOAN FUND MINISTRY HAS NOW BEEN IN OPERATION FOR A LITTLE OVER 5 YEARS. WORKING THROUGH THE KIVA ORGANIZATION, A MICROFINANCE LOAN AGGREGATOR, THE MINISTRY HAS MADE OVER 700 LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN 73 COUNTRIES AROUND THE GLOBE. A TOTAL OF \$4,450 HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTED TO THE MICROFINANCE LOAN FUND SINCE ITS INCEPTION AND WITH THESE FUNDS THE LOAN COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAKE LOANS TOTALING OVER \$18,000. REPAYMENTS OF THE LOANS BY BORROWERS TO THE FUND ARE THEN RE-LOANED TO NEW BORROWERS. THE MAJORITY OF LOANS ARE MADE TO INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS ENGAGED IN THE AGRICULTURAL (32.64%), FOOD (15.84%), SERVICES (9.37%), RETAIL (8.95%), AND MANUFACTURING (8.26%) SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY WITH THE REMAINING 25% OF LOANS MADE TO OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS.

THE MICROFINANCE LOAN FUND IS MANAGED BY A LOAN COMMITTEE OF ABOUT 10 PARISHIONERS. THIS GROUP MEETS USUALLY ONCE A MONTH TO REVIEW LOANS AND TO MAKE NEW LOANS TO BORROWERS. ANYONE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THIS LOAN COMMITTEE SHOULD CONTACT CHARLES GODBOUT AT 231-334-3204

KIVA CROWDFUNDS LOANS FOR BORROWERS IN MORE THAN 80 COUNTRIES WHO ARE OFTEN FINANCIALLY EXCLUDED AND CAN'T ACCESS OTHER FAIR AND AFFORDABLE SOURCES OF CREDIT. KIVA BORROWERS WORK IN MANY INDUSTRIES. THEY MAY BE FARMERS, ARTISANS, STUDENTS, SHOPKEEPERS, BUILDERS OR RESTAURANT OWNERS. MANY KIVA BORROWERS WORK MULTIPLE JOBS TO GENERATE ENOUGH INCOME TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES. KIVA FIELD PARTNERS AND TRUSTEES HELP IDENTIFY AND VET BORROWERS WHOSE LOANS WILL BE CROWDFUNDED ON KIVA.

BY THE WAY, THE WORD KIVA IS BASED ON A SWAHILI WORD MEANING "AGREEMENT" OR "UNITY."

ANYONE INTERESTED IN MAKING A DONATION INTO THE MICRO-FINANCE LOAN FUND CAN DO SO BY MAKING A CHECK PAYABLE TO ST. PHILIP NERI CHURCH AND ENTER KIVA FUND ON THE MEMO LINE.

GOALS FOR 2019.

THE FAITH IN ACTION MINISTRIES ARE HOPING DURING 2019 TO IDENTIFY FROM PARISHIONERS AND MINISTRY MEMBERS ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH IN ACTION ACTIVITIES MINISTRIES INCLUDING THE IDENTIFICATION OF A NEW MINISTRY OR PROJECT TO REPLACE THE ST BONAVENTURE INDIAN MISSION AND SCHOOL PROJECT THE ENDED AT THE END OF 2018. THE MINISTRY MEMBERS ARE CURRENTLY EXPLORING A COUPLE OF SUGGESTED PROJECTS BUT ARE OPEN TO OTHER SUGGESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW PROJECTS AND MINISTRIES CAN BE MADE TO CHARLES GODBOUT AT 231-334-3204