

Update from Stephen Hills, Chair, Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO). Several neighborhood mission grants have been funded this year and provide an interesting look at what local churches are doing to reach out to their local communities. Here are their stories:

New Albany Rose Run Presbyterian Church [RRPC] has a strong and growing partnership with the New Albany Food Pantry [NAFP]. This partnership ignited a conversation with RRPC, NAFP, and the New Albany Intermediate School [NAIS] regarding a food insecurity issue that children are facing in the community. NAIS provides breakfast, lunch, and has after school snacks for students through their free/reduced cost food program, but some students face situations where they have insufficient food through the weekend. Rose Run has allocated \$7,000 to address this need and CNO has provided an additional \$2,000 to assist in their mission project.

Newark Hanover Presbyterian hosts a monthly "shop" where anyone is welcome to come and select from clothes that are available and to receive a package of diapers as needed. The Hanover Women's Society will support this ministry throughout the year with a sum of \$1,200. CNO will provide another \$800 to support Hanover's neighborhood outreach.

Marysville First Presbyterian has for some time supported an ecumenical organization called the Hope Center. Services provided are the Hope Market, Hope Legal, Next Gen Outreach, a clothing store and a furniture bank. Marysville would like to expand the items provided by the furniture bank to include small appliances. A Neighborhood Grant from CNO of \$2,000 will support the expanded services.

Columbus (Grandview Heights) Boulevard Presbyterian plans to install a pollinator garden on the church grounds as a way to both heal the ecosystem and also reach out to the community with beauty, nature, and education. There are 18 people who have signed up to work on this project with six of the workers forming a smaller advisory group. CNO will fund \$1,500 of the project's cost with an additional \$1,000 to come from Boulevard's Endowment Fund.

The Amesville/New England Parish will sponsor an after school Bible School starting in September. Each Monday from 4:00 - 5:30. The program includes music, snacks, crafts, games, and worship. Amesville/New England will provide \$2500 and a CNO Neighborhood Mission Grant another \$1700. CNO is happy with the range of programs we have supported, but with the funding of these five grants, we have exhausted our budget and will, unfortunately, not be able to consider any more grants until next year.