

SOCIAL CONCERNS AND MISSIONS COMMITTEE FEDERATED CHURCH 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

For the Social Concerns and Missions Committee 2016 began with a bang! Even before the end of 2015 plans were in the works for several new projects to be implemented during the new year. The SCM Committee is geared towards missions so based on the four callings from Federated Church's Strategic Plan that was put into place a few years ago, all our activities and projects this year reflected "Reaching Out to the Community."

The committee was asked by Nila Novotny to take over the scheduling and managing of the meals provided to the Columbus Rescue Mission by Federated Church members every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Nila had superbly organized and faithfully executed this program on her own for many years, but felt it was time to pass the project onto the SCM Committee.

In February, the Needlecraft Prayer Ministry and the Social Concerns and Missions Committee teamed up to assemble Sanitation Kits for Girls to be taken by Dr. Nila and John Novotny on their mission trip to Haiti in April. While the Needlecraft Ministry stitched shields, pads, and bags; the SCM Committee conducted a church-wide campaign asking the congregation's help in collecting new washcloths and panties for girls. It was a huge success.

A birthday cake on April 3rd during the Café LaFed Fellowship Hour introduced the start of *April is "Birthday Offering" Month*. This was the first time the SCM Committee helped sponsor this offering, an extension of the Women's Fellowship's Birthday Offering, as a church-wide event. A total of \$264.55 was collected during the month.

The "Backpack Program Food Drive" was conducted from August 14th through the month of September. Generous donations of 80 cans of tuna, 54 jars of peanut butter, 34 boxes of granola bars, and 20 single granola bars were collected. These food items benefited many children and their families in our area.

On October 12th members of the SCM Committee, with the help of others from Federated Church, assisted the Columbus Kiwanis Club in its annual Peanut Sale. The SCM Committee was asked to select a non-church community youth outreach project in Columbus to which the money collected by the SCM Committee teams would be donated to by the Columbus Kiwanis Club. The SCM Committee selected the Columbus High School Band to help provide instruments to band members who are unable to afford to buy them. Based on what was collected by the SCM Committee teams, a total of \$750.00 was donated by the Columbus Kiwanis Club to the Columbus High Foundation, specifying the money to the Columbus High School Band for the sole purpose of purchasing band instrument(s). These instrument(s) will remain the property of the Foundation. A student may use the instrument as long as he/she is involved in band. The instrument will then be passed on to the next student(s).

In December, the SCM Committee specifically supported the following projects during the Alternative Christmas Giving:

- A Place at the Table (The Backpack Program)
- Marjie Heier (Medical Missionary in Zambia)
- The Heifer Project
- Other (Donor's Choice for any other organization or mission)

The SCM Committee continued its involvement with the Platte County Food Pantry and the Center for Survivors. The monthly donated items that were collected were delivered to these worthy organizations. Special needs of diapers, baby wipes, and Kleenex boxes for school were also provided to the Center for Survivors.

A heartfelt thank you to all those who supported and participated in our "social concerns and missions" projects this year. Every little bit we do to help others really does make a world of difference. Thank you so very much.

Members serving on the Social Concerns and Missions Committee in 2016 were co-chairs Mary Sharpe and Anita Hahn, Sharon Kuncl, Sue Mares, and Chuck Whitney.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Sharpe, co-chair / secretary