



Other Special Mission Supported Projects

PCUSA Offerings

The Thank Offering and Birthday Offering are now included in our PW budget. Offering envelopes for individuals will not be distributed through Circles. If interested, individuals may make donations through FPC PW designated for the offering.

Thank Offering Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries. The remaining 60 percent funds new creative ideas for mission. The Thank Offering funds projects such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns.

2023 Thank Offering Recipients

The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women reviewed 28 Thank Offering applications and selected 7 projects for funding this year. Six of the projects serve people in the United States and one is international. In keeping with the Thank Offering bylaws, more than 40 percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries.

NATIONAL

- **SYNOD OF MID-AMERICA: Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy**

Light for the Darkness New Worshipping Community Grounded Gardening
\$10,000

light4thedarkness.com

Grounded Gardening hosts a worshipful support group for people with mental health variances. Young adults are invited to come as they are, meet God through Creation and use gardening to combat depression and anxiety. The program combines a variety of activities that have been

shown to improve mental health including social connection, prayer, exercise, gardening and time outdoors. This multifaceted approach is intended to help improve mood while also encouraging a connection to God and to each other. The grant will support gardening supplies, advertising and stipends for lead gardeners and facilitators who also guide meditation.

- **SYNOD OF MID-ATLANTIC: New Castle Presbytery**

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

Summer Arts Camp

\$15,000

covenantde.org/program/summer-arts-camp

Created in 2020, the Summer Arts Camp meets a crucial community need for quality childcare and a supportive summer learning environment in Wilmington, Delaware. The program—a collaboration between Presbyterian Church of the Covenant and The Music School of Delaware—offers a safe, tuition-free summer camp that introduces children from households that struggle financially to valuable arts experiences. This innovative approach helps children who have experienced trauma to heal through music, art, dance, singing and drama. With the Thank Offering grant, the camp will offer a new full-day option and expand their capacity to accept fifty children. Through this arts-focused camp, children will explore and develop creativity skills, build confidence and find healing through artistic expression.

- **SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC: Peace River Presbytery**

Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, Inc.

First Neighborhood Building

\$50,000

immokaleefairhousing.org

Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance began in December 2018, following the destruction of Hurricane Irma that spotlighted the terrible living conditions of low-income families. This project will provide safe and affordable housing for agricultural workers and other families who pay up to seventy percent of their income to reside in dilapidated and crowded trailers. The Thank Offering grant will support the first neighborhood building consisting of sixteen apartments. These units will provide families with long term stability in clean, adequate housing that will improve family life and provide children with a healthy foundation so that they can study and learn.

- **SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC: Presbytery of St. Augustine**

Gainesville Community Counseling Center, Inc.

Building Resilience Through Mindfulness

\$50,000

gainesvillecounselingcenter.com

National surveys show that LGBTQIA+ youth are more likely to experiment with drugs and alcohol, experience harassment and bullying at school and suffer from mental health issues. By providing mental health support, community education and camping, this program will address the challenges facing LGBTQIA+ youth who have had little access to these services. The counseling center will offer mental healthcare through individual, group and family therapy that highlights mindfulness as an effective tool for managing many mental health conditions. Workshops and podcasts will be offered to help increase awareness in the general public and expand the network of community support.

- **SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST: Albany Presbytery**

Troy Area United Ministries

Tech for Teens

\$35,890

taum.org

TAUM provides a safe space in an underserved and low-income area of Albany with few youth programs. Through Tech for Teens, an expansion of their Computers for Kids Summer Program, students will learn to use Microsoft Office to write resumes, prepare spreadsheets and create slide presentations while also acquiring basic web design and coding skills. Through this hands-on learning, students will increase literacy, build student collaboration skills as they work together on projects and develop important social skills that employers will seek in the future.

- **SYNOD OF THE SUN: Presbytery of South Louisiana**

Okra Abbey New Worshipping Community Solar Power for Resilience

\$35,000

okraabbey.com

Okra Abbey is a female-led, community-focused ministry for residents of the Pigeon Town neighborhood in New Orleans. Their sanctuary is a garden where food grows and where people grow through sharing stories, scripture, prayers and relationships. The Thank Offering will provide a full solar power system and allow Okra Abbey to expand their services by having available outlets for power tools, an irrigation system and cell phone charging stations for low-income and often transitory individuals. The solar power system will also keep the community refrigerator running and provide reliable electricity during power outages, especially during weather disasters.

INTERNATIONAL

- **ZAMBIA**

- **Church of Central Africa: Presbyterian Synod of Zambia**

Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Zambia Health Department

Phalaza Rural Health Center

\$50,000

ccapsynodofzambia.org

This project will provide rural residents of Phalaza with access to a health-care facility closer than their current centers, which also do not provide maternity services. Because of the distances people must travel, they frequently delay care, one of the primary causes for mortality and morbidity in women and children. This new health center will provide maternal services including prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care, as well as primary care of children and diagnosis and treatment of malaria and HIV/AIDS, as well as non-communicable diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure. The new health center will have the added benefit of relieving overcrowding and long wait times throughout rural eastern Zambia.

Birthday Offering

The Birthday Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the spring each year, it gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. The Birthday Offering funds up to five projects each year, in amounts of \$75,000 to \$150,000 each. These projects are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support, such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns. The recipients are selected before the offering is received, so grant amounts depend on the gifts received.

2023 Birthday Offering Recipients

- **Making Miracles Group Home**

Phase II Group Home, Tallahassee, Florida

Making Miracles Group Home (MMGH) helps young mothers break the cycle of abusive relationships, addiction, incarceration and early motherhood—a repeating pattern that is difficult to break and overcome. Since its inception in 2010, MMGH has served over 100 women and their children by providing a one-year, live-in program designed to support young mothers and help them develop skills to live independently and care for their children.

Current eligibility criteria require residents to be pregnant and/or have a single child up to age three, but mothers who have a single child older than age three or multiple children often seek help. With the Birthday Offering grant, MMGH will purchase a second group home to serve an additional five families who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. With loving support and tools to establish stable, permanent housing, these families can look forward to a hopeful and successful future.

- **Berhane Yesus Elementary School**

Kindergarten School Construction

Berhane Yesus Elementary School, located in the western highlands of Ethiopia, seeks to change lives by sharing the “Light of Jesus” and by providing the best possible educational experience for the children of Dembi Dollo. Berhane Yesus provides children with the possibility of a better future by preparing them for a rigorous high school education and a life of Christian service. The school is the first entry point to education for children of subsistence farmers, migrant workers and displaced groups of people.

This K-8th grade school has been serving the community and been a part of the Presbyterian Church in this rural community since 1921. A kindergarten was added to the school in 2012, but with no available space for class, the children met in the chapel. Over the years the number of kindergarten students has increased and now space of their own is not only needed but is required by the government to remain open. Western Wollega Bethel Synod provided land for the classroom and the Birthday Offering grant will provide all necessary funding for its construction.

FPC PW Budget

FPC Presbyterian Women supports a variety of FPC approved mission projects as an organization as well as through individual Circles.

Presbyterian Women, as an organization, supports the following missions as a part of its 2023-2024 budget.

- FPC Congregational Scholarship Fund
- *FPC Friendship Fund »*
- FPC Kate Sprunt Library
- FPC Prayer Shawl Ministry
- *PW of New Hope Presbytery »*
- *Turks PC(USA) Missionaries »*
- Birthday Offering PW PC(USA)
- Thank Offering PW PC(USA)

NOTE: need links to Friendship Fund, PW of New Hope and the Turks.