



THEN I SAW A NEW HEAVEN  
& A NEW EARTH, FOR THE  
FIRST HEAVEN & THE FIRST  
EARTH HAD PASSED AWAY...

REVELATION 21:1

Niantic Community Church

Phone: (860) 739-6208

E-Mail: [nianticcommchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nianticcommchurch@sbcglobal.net)

[www.NianticCommunityChurch.org](http://www.NianticCommunityChurch.org)

*First Edition created in April 2005*

## *Niantic Community Church Outreach Ministries*

AND WHAT  
DOES THE  
**LORD**

REQUIRE OF YOU

TO ACT  
**JUSTLY**

AND TO LOVE

**MERCY**

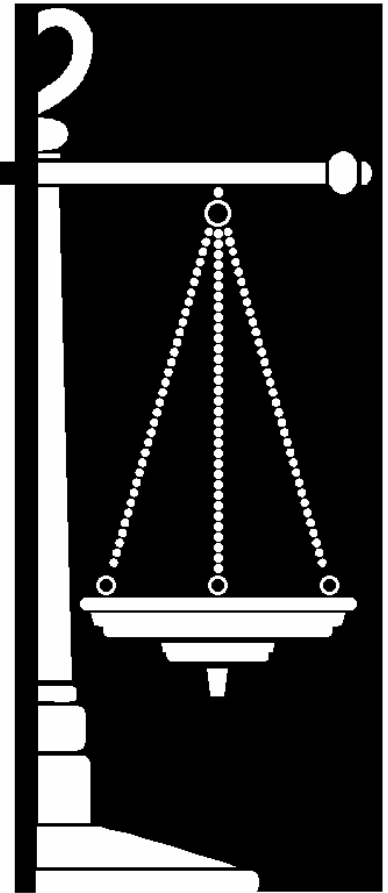
AND TO WALK

**HUMBLY**

WITH YOUR

**GOD.**

M I C A H 6 : 8



*170 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Niantic, CT 06357*

**Outreach Committee Members  
2005**

NAME	COMMITTEE ROLES
Sandy Spencer Phone: (860) 691-1961	Co-Chairperson & NCC Prudential Board Representative
Amy Agles	Bread for the World
Doris Beebe	Back-up Secretary, United Action of SECT, & Habitat
Rich Bennink	Habitat for Humanity
John Bodin	Committee Member
Liz Buhler	Prison Ministries & Youth Missions
Paul Cushing	Committee Member
Anne Davis	Secretary/ Soup Kitchen
Barbara DiBattisto	Covenant to Care & NCC Prudential Board Representative
Mike Engwall	Committee Member
Luane Lange	Committee Member

***Niantic Community Church Christian Outreach Committee***

Our Outreach committee meets monthly on the 4th Thursday at 7:00p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Meetings are held monthly except for July and October.

**NCC Outreach 2005 Budget**

<b>Denominational Responsibility</b>	
UMC Basic Support	\$19,544
UCC Basic Support	\$18,128
UCC Per Capita Contribution	\$944
UCC New London Association	\$472
<b>Covenants</b>	
Bread for the World	\$1,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,500
L&M Hospital Chaplaincy	\$500
NCC Children's Center	\$25,000
NITCA	\$1,000
<b>Mission Priorities</b>	
Karen Emergency Relief Fund	\$1,000
Martin House	\$1,000
Youth Missions	\$1,000
United Action of S.E. Connecticut	\$1,750
<b>Hunger Programs</b>	
New London Food Coalition	\$25
New London Soup Kitchen	\$1,500
Supplies for Serving Monthly Meals	\$200
<b>Prison Ministries</b>	
Christmas Toy Project	\$1,500
Other Support (Katy Blair/ Fellowship House)	\$1000
<b>Local Area Needs</b>	\$6,805
Emergency Assistance, Care & Share, Covenant Shelter, Women's Center, Alliance for Living, Hospice of SE CT, Gemma Moran Food Bank, Seabird Enterprises, and Thames River Family Program	
<b>Overseas Schools and Missions</b>	
Justapaz	\$1,000
A Greater Gift (formerly SERVW)	\$500
Ahava Kids	\$500
<b>Total Outreach Dollars Budgeted</b>	<b>\$85,868</b>

## The Mission of the Niantic Community Church Christian Outreach Committee:

This committee will:

- a) Emphasize heartily to the congregation that the Church is a mission
- b) Coordinate the overall mission and social action program of the Church
- c) Plan and execute specific mission programs on denominational and other national themes (such as One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, clothing drives, etc.)
- (d) Develop and interpret the Outreach Budget of the Church

*–from Constitution of the Niantic Community Church, Inc.*

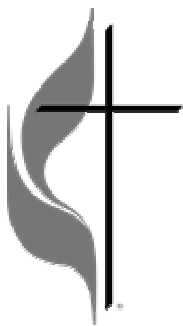
At Niantic Community Church, we are able to pledge annually in three ways: (1) to a Local Operations Budget, (2) to an Outreach Budget, and (3) to be used "As Needed." One of our core beliefs is that how we care for those in need is at least as important as how we care for ourselves.

Back in the late 1970s the congregation adopted the goal that we spend as much money on concerns outside the congregation as within, which came to be known as the "50-50 Principle." We have never reached that goal, but it continues to be a guiding vision for the congregation.

For 2003, our Operating Budget was \$327,000. Our Outreach Budget was \$85,000, but that does not include special offerings and special appeals, which brings the actual total to more than \$100,000, nor does it include the \$40,000 we raised for Habitat for Humanity. That brings our total Outreach giving to approximately \$150,000 or 46% of our Operating Budget.

It's a good milestone in our journey to faithfulness in stewardship, but we seek to go further. To whom much is given, much is expected.

## Witnessing to Our Faith through the Work of our Denominations



Niantic Community Church is a federated congregation of the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. Our primary outreach to the world beyond our local region is through the work of our two denominations.



### Our giving supports:

- disaster relief efforts
- missionaries around the world
- Urban Ministries in Boston, Lawrence, Portland, Worcester, and Providence
- rural ministries throughout New England
- Volunteers in Mission throughout the U.S. and abroad
- the work of our denominational covenants in West Africa, Nicaragua, Korea, and Colombia
- Africa University
- advocating for a living wage
- opposing use of landmines
- working to eradicate racism
- advocating for our environment
- opposing the death penalty
- opposing legalized gambling
- providing scholarships for students around the world
- funding 235 retirement homes, 70 hospitals, 8 two-year colleges, 82 four-year colleges, and 13 seminaries

More information on the work of the denominations can be found at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) and [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org).

The conference websites are [www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org) for the UMC and [www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org) for the UCC.

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emergency ends, recovery work begins. For more information visit <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/oghs.stm> or contact:

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)  
General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church  
Room 330, 475 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10115

Voice Phone: (212) 870-3816  
Fax: (212)870-3624  
E-mail: [umcor@gbmc-umc.org](mailto:umcor@gbmc-umc.org)

Each Year, United Church of Christ members come together to support Our Church's Wider Mission, often referred to as OCWM through OGHS. OCWM supports partners in more than 70 countries with ministries that fund development projects, feed famine victims, provide refugee services, and respond to natural disasters. For more information visit: [www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs) or contact:

Susan M. Sanders  
Wider Church Ministries  
United Church of Christ  
700 Prospect Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44115

Phone: (216) 736-3210 or Toll Free: (866) 822-8224 x3210  
E-mail: [sanders@ucc.org](mailto:sanders@ucc.org)

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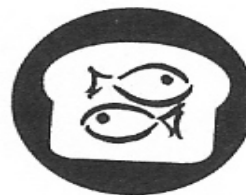
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## Mission Covenants

The Outreach Committee designates certain programs as ongoing covenants, which mean they get top priority in funding from our budget. Those covenants at present are the following:

### **Bread for the World**

*Seeking Justice, Ending Hunger*



Bread for the World is a nationwide Christian movement that seeks justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying our nation's decision makers. NCC is a Covenant Church with Bread for the World. Along with our financial support we participate in the annual Offering of Letters Campaign. As individuals we

volunteer in social ministries and give to hunger appeals, but a single decision by Congress can outweigh or multiply our contributions. Bread for the World organizes this annual campaign around legislation that can make a difference in world hunger. Educational material and sample letters are provided to assist in the campaign. Their mission is to seek justice for hungry people by engaging in research and education on policies related to hunger and development. For more information visit: [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

Bread for the World  
50 F Street, NW Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Phone: (202) 639-9400 or Toll Free: (800) 82-BREAD  
Fax: (202) 639-9401 e-mail: [bread@bread.org](mailto:bread@bread.org)

Or Jim Stipe C/O Bread for the World  
Northeast Regional Office  
475 Riverside Drive, Room #1960  
New York, NY 10115

Toll Free Phone: (866) 238-0507



### **Habitat for Humanity of Southeastern Connecticut**

NCC has been a Covenant Church with SECT Habitat for Humanity for many years. Habitat's purpose is to build decent and affordable homes in partnership with families in need. Habitat offers interest-free mortgage payments based on actual expenses to build that family's house. The families are actively involved through "sweat equity" in the building of their home. Habitat relies on skilled and unskilled volunteers to build their homes, screen applicants, solicit funding, secure potential building lots, and guide and direct each family as they become first-time homeowners. Habitat especially relies on the church community as the best source to provide reliable and dedicated volunteers.

NCC's long history with Habitat has included many of our members working at various sites, volunteering in the office, serving on its board and committees, including one member serving as its Board President. At our 2000 Annual Meeting, members took a bold step and made a strong commitment to work with other Shoreline Cluster churches in sponsoring a home, which included finding and securing the land, raising over \$70,000 in funds, and building the home along with the family. We also designated a tithe (10%) to be sent to Nicaragua to support an International build. Over two homes were able to be built with that contribution. An ongoing goal of our church community is to actively encourage and support involvement in SECT Habitat for Humanity.

In 2005, Niantic Community Church will be working with Habitat to sponsor and build our second house in S.E. Connecticut.

For more information contact Brad Bates, Executive Director at (860) 442-7890. Donations can be mailed to Habitat of Southeastern Connecticut  
377 Broad Street, New London, CT 06320  
or visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org) and [www.habitatsect.org](http://www.habitatsect.org)

## **Special Offerings**

Each year we receive two general offerings that are divided between our two denominations. Our gifts are united with others in our denominations to make a bigger impact than we can make alone.

### **Neighbors in Need-World Communion Sunday**

This offering is received on the first Sunday of October, World Communion Sunday. Our gifts support ministries that address hunger, poverty, economic development, human rights, peace making, violence, racial and economic justice, ethnic scholarships, environmental concerns and public policy advocacy.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

When One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) began in 1949 leaders from several denominations organized an appeal to support campaigns of Protestant Churches for relief and reconstruction.

Both of NCC's denominational affiliations (UMC & UCC) participate in OGHS. This offering is received on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent and is directed to refugee ministries, disaster response, and hunger ministries.

A common misconception is that all participating denominations pool their offering's use. In fact, each denomination decides how its members' gifts will be used. Yet though it is not a requirement, all OGHS denominations choose to do part of their ministries through Church World Service. This reflects a shared commitment to work ecumenically when possible, recognizing it is both more practical and better stewardship than creating multiple mission structures. The denominations also use commonly developed resources.

Each year UMC congregations support UMCOR's ministries through OGHS. UMCOR serves millions of people around the world in responding to catastrophic natural disasters, civil unrest and violence, and refugee crises. When the

TRFP. For more information contact Laura Hobart at (860) 887-3288. Donations can be mailed to: Thames River Family Program, One Thames River Place, Norwich, CT 06360

### **Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut**

#### **Genesis House – Emergency Shelter**

Provides a free, safe haven for women and children who are victims of domestic violence/sexual assault. Advocacy services provide clients access to financial, legal, medical, employment, and other assistance as needed. Agency staff provide 24 hour coverage.



#### **Phoenix House – Transitional Living Program**

Residents are women and families left homeless due to domestic violence/sexual assault who need safe, affordable housing and support services provided in a structured environment for up to 24 months. Services include case management, adult educational workshops on parenting skills, nutrition, budgeting, and household maintenance and after-school tutoring and school readiness programs for children.

#### **Crisis Intervention and Counseling**

Free, confidential services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Two 24 hour Hotlines. Assistance is provided to victims at hospitals and police stations in Norwich and New London. Individual counseling, support groups and referrals to appropriate services are also available. Advocacy to obtain Temporary Restraining Orders and Protective Orders and medical assessments and case referrals

To volunteer or to make donations including household and food items, call (860) 447-2573 or visit [www.womenscenterofsect.org](http://www.womenscenterofsect.org)

### **NCC Children's Center**

A ministry of this congregation, the Children's Center provides childcare for infants, toddlers and pre-school children year round and offers school age vacation and summer programs. The Outreach Committee provides families seeking financial assistance with scholarships. This service to parents allows them to entrust their children to the loving, supporting, dedicated staff of teachers while they work, without overtaxing their finances. The Children's Center is operated by a center director who supervises a dedicated educational staff and reports to the NCC Children's Center Board of Directors, which consists of church members and parents. The children, parents, staff, volunteers and Board of Directors work together on events outside the normal hours of operation, whether for a holiday party or improving the playground, they truly are a caring, sharing family.

For more information, please contact the Center Director, Donna Moore at (860) 739-0877.

### **Lawrence and Memorial Hospital Chaplaincy**

Originally the position of chaplain was funded by contributions from churches in this region. Now that the position is funded by the hospital, contributions from churches support special needs within the chaplaincy department, such as educational programs and emergency clothing and transportation for needy patients when they are discharged.

For more information, contact Chaplain Glennys Ulschak at L&M Hospital at (860) 442-0711.

### **NITCA**

NITCA is a model community development project in el Barrio Los Laureles Sur, Managua, Nicaragua. It is a grass roots program started in July 1999 to improve the condition of life for children who work the streets to help their families. NITCA's mission is to face the problem of poverty through education, nutrition, hygiene, health care, and cultivation of the land and to empower the residents through provision of training and work opportunities. Since 1999, NITCA has built a preschool, kitchen and a health center and initiated

family centered agricultural projects and small business start-ups.

Donations to NITCA's non-profit organization Friends of NITCA should be sent to Kathy Kern, Treasurer, 18 Cottage Lane, Niantic, CT 06357.

For more information visit: [www.nitca.com](http://www.nitca.com)

## Missional Priorities

In addition to our ongoing Covenants, we also designate Missional Priorities, which may change from year to year. Those priorities are:

### Justapaz

In partnership with Justapaz, the Mennonite Churches in Colombia and the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ seek to:

- Deepen the relationship between Churches in the U.S. and Colombia and encourage spiritual growth and commitment of the Church through prayer, Bible study, and worship.
- Stand in solidarity with Columbians who have been displaced by violence.
- Collaborate with partners in relief efforts and community building programs to improve health and wellness of Columbians displaced by violence.
- Work for policies in the U.S. and Columbia that support peace and human rights in Columbia as well as provide assistance to Columbians displaced by violence.

For additional information - e-mail:

[justapaz@colnodo.apc.org](mailto:justapaz@colnodo.apc.org)

### Martin House, Norwich, CT

For more than twenty years, Martin House has been a nurturing, interfaith community where individuals of limited income, who have been alone, alienated, and dispossessed, can develop healthy new relationships, dignity and a renewed life. Their mission is to create a continuum of care, which engages the diverse resources of our region to imple-

nity since 1985. Employment Specialists, or Job Coaches, receive specialized training in the areas of job development, marketing, assessment, and job based instruction. Then they help individuals with disabilities learn how to work correctly and retain jobs.

It offers many different programs, including individual placement, high school transition, food services, the Mobile Work Crew, and an agricultural program. The opportunities in agriculture include the Crocker Hill Garden and Gift Shop located in Franklin, CT, and several other community job sites. The programs provide training in the areas of horticulture, animal care, crafts, barn and farm maintenance and horse care.

Candy's Cozy Kitchen, Puffins Restaurant, and Seabird Bakers Too, are small food service businesses also owned and operated by Seabird Enterprises. The programs are open Monday through Friday for breakfast, lunch, and the sale of baked goods as well as restaurant food. Skills taught include baking, cooking, cleaning, food preparation, cash register skills and waiting on customers.

Since its inception, Seabird has helped hundreds of local handicapped residents train and acquire skills that allow them to enjoy social interactions within their communities as well as the benefits of employment. For more information contact Volunteer Coordinator – Brian Witt at (860) 446-0882 or visit [www.seabirdent.org](http://www.seabirdent.org). Donations can be mailed to Seabird Enterprises, 169 Thames Street, P.O. Box 1085, Groton, CT 06340

### Thames River Family Program (TRFP)

Families come to Thames River Family Program from shelters and other homeless situations. Many have experienced domestic violence, substance abuse, and chronic instability.

Women reside in a well maintained, secure building with their family. They work towards individualized family and personal action plans. Life skill classes in parenting, money management, home management, family health care, self/personal growth, and employment are all part of the

and social services by a trained staff who also provide counseling, training and referral services. Graduates of the program often return to provide inspiration and support to newer members. The Katie Blair House is planning to expand by building a new apartment complex and community center next door to the house, and welcomes donations of money, time, and talents. Many volunteer opportunities are available, and include serving as a mentor, joining them for dinner to talk, teaching piano, computer skills, crafts or hairdressing.

For more information contact volunteer coordinator Carol Croteau at (860) 886-7511. Donations can be mailed to Bethsaida Community Inc., P.O. Box 913, Norwich, CT 06360

### **Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut**

As an organization dealing with patients with limited life expectancy, Hospice is a choice of care emphasizing quality of life.

Living as fully as possible until the time of death is the philosophy of care at the heart of every hospice program. Hospice care is holistic. Pain and symptom control are most important and the interdisciplinary team also nurtures and supports the emotional and spiritual needs of patients and families. Care is provided regardless of the individual's insurance or ability to pay. Over 75 percent of patients die at home according to their own wishes. As a non-profit group, they rely heavily on donations, grants, fund raising events and memorials.

For more information contact Doris Beebe at (860) 739-8401 or visit [www.hospicesect.com](http://www.hospicesect.com)

### **Seabird Enterprises**

Seabird Enterprises was established as a non-profit organization in the town of Groton in 1983 for students and adults with mental retardation or developmental disabilities, to provide them with opportunities in their communities.

The Seabird Individual Placement programs have successfully placed individuals into independent jobs in the commu-

ment a full range of housing options and support services, so that no woman or man remains homeless.



Most of the people who come to the Martin House are trying to escape desperate circumstances. Many have been living outdoors as social outcasts in old automobiles or vacant buildings, often with all their material possessions in a sack or paper bag. Homeless, fearful, and in many cases, labeled as mentally challenged, they find new hope and a chance to regain their dignity at Martin House. By providing a safe, transitional living program, up to fifty-four residents benefit daily from the three nutritious meals and the supervised care on site.

Martin House exists because they believe that we are all brothers and sisters in this world and that we find God in one another. In order to provide the services for their residents, they must raise \$940.00 a year for each person to cover the gap between income and expenses. During their twenty years of service, they have touched the lives of more than six hundred people.

For more information contact Volunteer Coordinator – Paula Oberg at 889-6150. Donations can be mailed to Martin House, 401 W. Thames Street, Norwich, CT 06360.

### **NCC Youth Missions**

The Youth of NCC have been on mission trips to various places where they have experienced God working in wonderful ways. The church supports and encourages these trips by offering financial assistance in matching what the youth raise themselves. Recent mission opportunities for our youth have been with YSOP (Youth Service Opportunities Project) and Wanakee United Methodist Center/Heifer Project International Educational Farm. Working with YSOP

volunteers in New York, the youth were able to prepare and serve meals at soup kitchens; provide recreational activities and companionship to young, formerly homeless children; distribute food and supplies at food pantries; and socialize with people in drop-in centers. At Wanakee the youth were able to clear fields for grazing animals, mend/build sheep and chicken shelters, put in fencing and plant seeds, to highlight just a few of their accomplishments. The youth work very hard and look forward to return trips every year.

For more information contact the Church Office at (860) 739-6208 or visit [www.ysop.org](http://www.ysop.org) and [www.wanakee.org](http://www.wanakee.org).

### **United Action of Southeastern Connecticut**

Niantic Community Church has a strong commitment to helping those in need. The work of United Action moves us to a deeper level than giving direct aid to people; it helps us organize to change systems so that justice for all may prevail.

United Action is a statewide organization of congregations. By identifying, training and developing leaders and by organizing around concrete, winnable issues, United Action enables people to understand their own power and helps them build the skills and allies necessary to use that power effectively. Our mission is to build a powerful broad-based organization rooted in faith and social justice values, working to make concrete improvements in the lives of families across Connecticut.

United Action is a interfaith, multi-racial, multi-lingual and strictly non-partisan organization. We cross political, class, and urban-suburban boundaries. We are funded through organizational dues as well as denominational and foundation grants and business support.

For more information, contact Teri Erwin, Executive Director ([uact2gether@yahoo.com](mailto:uact2gether@yahoo.com) or visit the website: [www.unitedaction.org](http://www.unitedaction.org)

### **Karen Emergency Relief Fund (KERF)**

With political and social turmoil in Burma, the Karen people have been the victims of severe persecution. This relief fund,

- Open communication with its constituency the broader community
- Adapting to changes in the external environment and to be responsive to constituent need
- Belief in keeping people informed about changes in the disease, health services, benefits, new treatments, etc.
- Is willing to do what has to be done to meet the needs of constituents
- Financial security for the organization and stability of operations
- Treat people non-judgmentally and equitably

For more information contact Volunteer Coordinator - Celena Reiser at (860) 447-0884 or visit [www.allianceforliving.org](http://www.allianceforliving.org)

### **Bethsaida Community : Katie Blair House**

In 1987, a group of five women founded a program named the Bethsaida Community, designed to provide a transitional living program for homeless single women in the Norwich area. Its mission was to foster personal growth and healing for women while giving them the training and social services they were lacking. The Katie Blair House was opened in 1990, and over the years has provided more than one hundred women the chance to turn their lives around.



Some of the women come from abusive relationships that they are trying to escape, and some after a period of incarceration. Many are dealing with addictions, lack of education and self-esteem issues. Women who are accepted into the Katie Blair House must show a commitment to the programs and honesty and awareness of what is going on in their lives. They must be able to abide by strict rules during the first six months of their stay. The eight areas of focus are: physical health, emotional health, life training skills, nutrition, cleanliness, relationship skills, employment, and housing. The women are linked to support groups, outside resources

## Other Local Agencies Which We Support Financially

### Ahava Kids

Ahava means love and this locally based organization provides direct funding to those who administer and provide life giving medications to Haitian orphans living with HIV/AIDS.

Founding Director Ray Bechard has preached at Niantic Community Church several times recently and shared his experience of working for children living with HIV/AIDS.

For more information contact  
Ray Bechard  
Ahava Kids:  
P.O. Box 498  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475-0498

Toll Free Phone: (888) 584-6068  
Www.ahavakids.org

### Alliance for Living

The Alliance for Living is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people affected by HIV/AIDS throughout New London County. The AFL accomplishes its mission through:

- Direct services that support the life needs of people affected by HIV/AIDS
- Education and prevention services and Advocacy.



The values and principles that guide the work of the Alliance include:

- AFL works in partnership with people affected by HIV/AIDS
- AFL is open to anyone affected by the disease
- AFL seeks to work in partnership with the community and to develop approaches that build on existing resources
- Belief in individual self-sufficiency

organized by the Reverend Steven Hulme of Niantic, has sponsored refugees and provided for their needs as they get settled in this country.

For more information, contact:

K.E.R.F., Inc.

P.O. Box 111

East Lyme, CT 06333

Phone: (860) 691-1613

E-Mail: [shulme@snet.net](mailto:shulme@snet.net)

or visit [www.karenemergency.org](http://www.karenemergency.org).

## Hunger Programs

### New London Food Coalition

This organization is composed of area church members and agencies whose purpose is to alleviate hunger and help those in need. This group oversees the New London Food Pantry. NCC is a member church. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at noon and representatives from member churches are encouraged to get involved. For more information call (860) 443-6680. The Gemma Moran United Way Food Center in New London is also an affiliate of this group. For more information or to donate call the Food Center at (860) 444-8050.

### New London Community Meal Program

The New London Community Meal Center, also known as the Soup Kitchen, was founded in 1985. The mission of the meal center is to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable residents of the New London community by providing them with nutritious meals in a kind, hospitable and clean environment. Located at 12 Montauk Avenue in New London, it serves a lunch and dinner meal Monday through Friday and a dinner meal on Sunday. On Saturday a number of area churches have a schedule for providing a lunch meal from 12:00 to 1:00. Volunteers are always needed at the Center. Call Alison, the kitchen manager, at 444-7745. Niantic Community Church provides the meal on the 4th Saturday of every month. Members of our congregation prepare a casserole, salad and dessert and serve the meal to over 50 people at the United Methodist Church in New Lon-

don. We always need volunteers. Additionally, it is a community service opportunity for scouting and youth groups. For more information or to volunteer contact Anne Davis at (860) 739-7455.

### **NCC Food Bank**

Our food bank is an ongoing outreach to the community wherein a committee of four oversees the collection and distribution of basic food and household items to those in need. Each person or family may receive one grocery bag of items per month after signing up. The number distributed varies greatly per month, but about 90 bags per year are distributed. For more information contact Judy Snitkin, NCC Church Secretary at (860) 739-6208.

## **Prison Ministries**

NCC has established a relationship with York Correctional Institute in Niantic. This institution is the only one in the State of Connecticut that houses females. NCC has several outreach opportunities connected with the prison.

### **Christmas Toy Project**

In conjunction with the Chaplain at the prison, NCC hosts a day to wrap toys that are shipped to the children of women incarcerated at York. These gifts are individually labeled to each child from their Mom. Church members are invited to donate toys, wrapping paper, tape, finances to support shipping and TIME to assist in the wrapping. For more information see the NCC Outreach Members insert for the Prison Ministries Representative or contact A Sacred Place (See Prayer Partners) .

### **Prison Pup Partnership**

York has established this partnership with NEADS to train the finest hearing and assistance dogs for the deaf and physically disabled. Volunteers, several from NCC, play a significant role in socializing the puppies. They take the puppies on "furloughs" and record their behavior, which is used in determining the final placement of the pups. Money to operate the program is raised entirely from donations and fundraisers. For more information contact Ellen Hurlburt, Pro-

### **A Greater Gift (formerly SERRV International)**

SERRV's mission is to promote social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by marketing their products in a just and direct manner. SERRV has assisted artisans and farmers for over 50 years to market their handicrafts and food products. Working with low-income craftspeople, SERRV may provide training, assist in product development or new trade vehicles and markets and provide other support to strengthen community-based organizations around the world. SERRV handicrafts and food items are available at the NCC Alternative Marketplace held annually in early December. For more information or to order a catalog or items visit the SERRV website at [www.agreatergift.org](http://www.agreatergift.org) or call 1-800-423-0071.

### **SERRV 5% Fair Trade Challenge**

The average U.S. household spends nearly \$8,300 each year on food, clothing, and home furnishings. You have a choice about how you will spend your dollars. This year challenge yourself to shift 5% of that budget (Just \$415) to products from Fair Trade businesses. This will make a big difference in the lives of artisans and small farmers at home and around the world.

For more information visit the Fair Trade website: [www.fairtradefederation.org](http://www.fairtradefederation.org).

### **Women's Christian Service Association (WCSA)**

This NCC group was formed at the time of the merger of the two denominations in 1953. Some of their mission projects are sponsoring orphans through the Christian Children's Fund, making health kits and school kits for Church World Service, taking Easter baskets to home bound members and friends, and providing financial support for church programs, such as carpeting for Church School areas. This organization usually meets on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm.

For more information contact the church office at (860) 739-6208.

*In 2003 NCC was chosen among all the churches to receive the Tools of Hope and Blanket Banner for largest contributions.*

For more information visit [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)  
Local Office: CWS, Tri-State Office, Sanseer Mill, 282 Main Street Extension, Middletown, CT 06457  
e-mail: [tr@churchworldservice.org](mailto:tr@churchworldservice.org)  
Or call 347-7821 or toll-free (888) 297-2767

### **Heifer Project International (HPI)**

Heifer has helped more than 4.5 million families since it was first founded in 1944. They have supported families in over 125 countries and in 38 U.S. States. Heifer helps families in developing countries and states to feed themselves, earn income, and care for the environment.



Your tax deductible purchase of trees, bees, or gift animals helps families become self-reliant. Heifer also provides hands-on training so that the animals and plants stay healthy and productive and then the family passes the gift on by breeding the animal or passing along tree seedlings.

Niantic Community Church has been involved with HPI for many years. One of those years the goal was to raise enough funds to buy an ARK of Animals (two of every animal) and that goal was achieved. In December 2004, NCC and generous private and corporate matching gifts helped provide the funding for FOUR arks. The first ark was named in honor of Beatrice Biiara who as a young girl had received a gift of a goat from NCC's first ark and returned to visit us in 2004 and share her experience. You can support Heifer through your donations and purchases at NCC's Alternative Marketplace which is held annually in early December or you can donate directly online at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

Heifer Project International  
P.O. Box 8058, Little Rock, AR/USA 72203  
Tel: (800) 422-0474

gram Coordinator at (860) 739-5413 or write to:

York Correctional Institute (YCI) PUP Partnership Program  
201 West Main Street  
Niantic, CT 06357

### **Prayer Partners**

Volunteers from community faith groups are recruited for partnership with incarcerated women at York. Weekly meetings are held to share faith journeys and spiritual experiences. NCC volunteers have stated that they feel they come away with more than they give. For more information contact A Sacred Place, Inc. at (860) 889-0150 or write to:

A Sacred Place  
Post Office Box 422  
East Lyme, CT 06333  
Fax: (860) 739-0744

Or visit the website: [www.asacredplace.org](http://www.asacredplace.org)

## **Other NCC Outreach Opportunities**

### **Alternative Marketplace at NCC**

Ever wonder what to give to those on your list who have everything or are very difficult to buy presents for? Annually in early December there are a variety of gift giving options that are perfect for everyone on your list. The NCC Outreach committee works with other church members to provide a selection of gifts that benefit many wonderful organizations both locally and around the world. Items for sale include clothing, jewelry, food, and many hand crafted specialty items. You can also donate money in your loved ones honor to such worthy organizations as SERRV, Habitat for Humanity, Church World Services, and Heifer Project International. Celebrate the true meaning of the holidays by making some purchases at the next Alternative Market Place. For more information contact the Church office at (860) 739-6208 or watch for promotions for the Alternative marketplace in the Church Bulletin in November and December.

## Church World Service Campaigns

### *Crop Walk*

NCC participates in this annual walk for hunger with St. John's Episcopal Church and other community members. The walkers work hard to solicit sponsors for their walk and all proceeds go towards Church World Services hunger relief programs both locally and internationally. Website: [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org)

### *Blanket Sunday & Tools for Hope*

You can make a difference by purchasing a Mother's Day or Father's Day card for \$5.00 through Niantic Community Church in support of Church World Service's campaign to help families and children next door and all over the world. Blankets have been distributed to the homeless and migrant workers in many parts of the U.S. as well as those areas suffering from natural disasters such as Hurricanes.



By purchasing a card for your Mother, Grandmother, Wife, Sister or any special woman in your life you donate funds to support a variety of programs around the world. One card can purchase a blanket for a refugee child anywhere in the world. Cards are sold at NCC the first two Sundays in May.

By purchasing a card for your Father, Grandfather, Husband, Brother or any special man in your life you donate funds to help people support themselves through the purchase of fish fingerlings, or fishing equipment or farm tools. Just \$5 can purchase a hoe, shovel, and rake for a rural family in a developing country. Cards are sold the first two Sundays in June each year.

Niantic Community Church has long been a supporter of Church World Services Blanket and Tools of Hope card sales. Our typical sales have always reached over \$1,250 each year.

### **Care and Share of East Lyme**

Care and Share of East Lyme, Inc. is a charitable organization established in 1989 by a group of community residents to provide assistance to East Lyme families in need.



Care and Share coordinates a town-wide collection and distribution of meals and gifts during the Holiday season to over 90 families. Care and Share also meets the needs of families throughout the year with emergency assistance as necessary.

Care and Share has also expanded its services to include camperships for youngsters during the summer and college scholarships for East Lyme residents. Families are referred to Care and Share by social service agencies, churches, schools, and community organizations.

For more information visit: [www.careandshare.ws](http://www.careandshare.ws)  
Or call (860) 739-8502. Donations can also be sent to Care & Share of East Lyme, P.O. Box 114, East Lyme, CT 06333

### **Covenant to Care**

Covenant to Care is an or-

ganization that is dedicated to improving the lives of Connecticut's abused and neglected children through the acquisition and distribution of community resources, mentoring, and foster and adoptive family recruitment. The agency works closely with the State Department of Children's Services. At NCC we participate in their Adopt-A-Social Worker Program providing items needed and especially at Christmas providing gifts for needy families.



For more information contact Cindy Stasko at (860) 243-1806.