**Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work: Village Mission Grants**

During 2016, the Village Church Mission Committee has received 35 grant requests from community organizations seeking funds from the mission budget. During the first half of the year, the committee has carefully considered each of the applications and allocated funds to 19 organizations. Resulting from their efforts, the committee has designated nearly $118,000 to the following programs that work to strengthen the community:

**Amethyst Place:** $5000 to purchase furnishings for their transitional housing not otherwise received through donations

**Artists Helping the Homeless**: $4000 to help clients address alcohol and substance use and legal, medical and housing issues

**Community LINC:** $5000 for interim and immediate housing for homeless families

**Community Living Opportunities’ NorthStar Academy**: $2500 for technology needed in their autism program

**Family Conservancy:** $5000 for lending libraries in five Head Start locations

**First Call Caring for Kids:** $5000 for their drug abuse prevention program for children

**Gillis Center:** $4,500for 12 standup desks and recess activity bags

**Hillcrest Transitional Housing**: $5000 to renew the Village apartment sponsorship in Johnson County

**Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries:** $4000 for their Saturday hot breakfast for low incomes and homeless clients

**Operation Breakthrough: $30,000** for a new first of its kind in Kansas City Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) Smartlab

**Reach Out and Read:** $2,000 for books for this reading program

**Reconciliation Services:** $1000 for staffing their café that serves the homeless on the Troost Corridor

**Shawnee Mission Meals on Wheels:** $2000 for meals for clients

**Sheffield Place:** $5000 for homeless children receiving counseling in their Stronger Tomorrow program

**Shepherd’s Center:** $20,000 for a new commercial refrigerator, sink, cold and hot transport equipment which will allow the center to expand their hot meal program to 200+ seniors and those with disabilities each weekday

**Turner House:** $2000 for the reading program in their clinics

**Turn the Page:** $5,000for tutors in the early reading program

**Wyandot Center:** $1000 to cover services at the Frank Williams Housing Resource Center including hot showers, clothes washing and computer access

**Youth Ambassadors:** $10,000 for work stipends for youth involved in the life and job skills program

Over the past 30 years, this committee and many before them have supported more than 270 separate organizations.The 2017 committee will start accepting grant applications in January 2017 with decisions occurring by June. The deadline for grant applications is February 28.