

**ENDORSED MISSION ORGANIZATIONS**  
**of**  
**THE COLUMBIA DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES**

The following Mission Specials are recommended for support by all churches of the Columbia District. Share this material in detail with your officials. Give them the chance to select projects and specials that they wish to directly support.

The Outreach Committee of the Columbia District Connectional Ministries has prepared the following list of recommended mission organizations. This list is a beginning place for local church Mission Committees who are considering mission sites to engage with financial or with physical support. This is supposed to be a starting point, not an exhaustive list. These agencies are district wide in their service area. Some are United Methodist related while others are not. The Committee has not included local church mission sites or local area mission organizations.

The financial support that your local church may choose to provide for these should go directly to the agency or through the Annual Conference. The District Office is not collecting financial support.

⚡ denotes United Methodist-affiliated organization

\* denotes a South Carolina Conference Advanced Special Ministry

### **MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN**

*Each of these mission organization works with children in the Midlands, especially some of the most vulnerable or at-risk children in our communities.*

**1. Epworth Children's Home⚡**

Serving children and families of SC since founded by the Annual Conference in 1895, Epworth seeks to provide a safe environment for learning and socialization in addition to Christian maturity. Contact person: Beth Williams, President and CEO, at [bwilliams@epworthsc.org](mailto:bwilliams@epworthsc.org) or 803-256-7394.

**2. Freedom School**

The Francis Burns UMC Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools program is a six-week summer enrichment program that supports children and families through five essential components: high quality literacy and character building enrichment; parent and family involvement; civic engagement and social action; intergenerational servant leadership development; and nutrition and health. Contact person: Carol Singletary, Executive Director, 803-446-3492.

**3. Hand y Mano⚡**

Hand y Mano is a short summer experience for refugee children ages 5 to 9 years old in the Broad River Road community and supported through a partnership between the Lutheran Family Services and the Columbia District. The goal is to create a safe and loving environment where these children could enjoy life abundantly. Our vision is to provide

developmentally appropriate activities, such as, music, art, literacy activities, and outside activities. The children are from countries such as Congo, Burma, and Afghanistan. All of the families are vetted refugees with children that were high risk. Contact person: Martha Thompson at [tmарtha931@aol.com](mailto:tmарtha931@aol.com).

**4. Jubilee Academy\***

Jubilee Academy is a year-round, independent, faith-based school, located at Saint James United Methodist Church, which integrates four program areas throughout the curriculum. Their goal is to provide a supportive and nurturing educational environment that extends beyond the classroom. Contact Jubilee Academy at [info@jubileeacademysc.org](mailto:info@jubileeacademysc.org), 803-787-3009 or visit <https://jubileeacademysc.org/>

**5. Columbia Bethlehem Community Center †**

The Columbia Bethlehem Community Center is an historic multi-service agency that serves residents of the Riverview Terrace and Broad River Heights communities in Columbia, South Carolina. Their mission is to educate and enrich the lives of children and their families to help them achieve their own success. CBCC adopted a theme of “Kids for a Better Community”, under which it sponsors its annual spring break “Youth Mini-Film Camp” as well as its summer camp for children in the communities it serves. Contact person: Kara P. Simmons, Director, at 803-807-9583.

## **MINISTRY WITH STUDENTS**

*These organizations are focused primarily on ministering to students at our local colleges and universities, but also to young adults in the community at large.*

**6. Wesley Foundation at USC †**

The Methodist Student Network (MSN) is the Wesley Foundation at USC sponsored by the South Carolina Annual Conference. They are a Christian faith community made up of students and other young adults from the USC and the general Columbia area that welcomes all young people with or without any religious affiliation. They are a diverse community of seekers and followers who serve the local Columbia area and even nationally and globally through missions and service striving to witness to the kingdom of God that is among us now. Contact person: Rev. Tom Wall at [wallbrodie@aol.com](mailto:wallbrodie@aol.com) or visit [www.msnausc.com](http://www.msnausc.com).

## **TRANSITIONAL AND RESTORATIVE MINISTRIES**

*Ministries below specifically work with those in our midst who are going through times of transition in their life and need extra support. We believe that no one is unworthy of God's grace, and these organizations seek to remind every child of God about God's love for them.*

**7. Killingsworth †**

Killingsworth is a transition home for women who have experienced a crisis in their lives.

In addition to room and board, it offers counseling, education, spiritual development, job development, life-skills and support through healthy interpersonal relationships and a growing relationship with God. Contact Killingsworth at 803-771-6359, [www.killingsworth.org](http://www.killingsworth.org), or [info@killingsworth.org](mailto:info@killingsworth.org).

**8. Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry †**

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry maintains homes for adults with special needs, so they can live in a Christian environment with a professional staff dedicated to providing a loving home. The homes focus on life-skills training and work experiences, daily-living skills: cooking, laundry, self-help, social and recreational, and Sunday connections to worshipping communities. Contact person: Betty Moss McGuirt, board chairperson, at [mmcguirt@sc.rr.com](mailto:mmcguirt@sc.rr.com) or 843-237-8040.

**9. Alston Wilkes Society\***

Alston Wilkes Society's original mission was to provide rehabilitative services to adults released from correctional facilities in South Carolina. Through the years, the Alston Wilkes Society has expanded its focus to include at-risk youth, homeless veterans, other homeless, and the families of these groups of people. They strive to provide clients and their families the tools they need to become productive citizens. Contact Alston Wilkes Society at (803) 799-2490, [info@aws1962.org](mailto:info@aws1962.org) or visit [www.alstonwilkessociety.org](http://www.alstonwilkessociety.org).

**10. Oliver Gospel Mission**

Oliver Gospel Mission has been rescuing and rebuilding the lives of the homeless in Columbia since 1888. Oliver Gospel Mission seeks to provide a Christ-centered environment that is compassionate, yet firm, and designed to instill both hope and responsibility for the purpose of life transformation. Its goal is that those in need arriving at our door will receive the tools they need to live fulfilled, functioning, and fruitful lives, ready to contribute to and enhance the community. For more information about OGM's women and children's shelter, Toby's Place, visit: <https://olivergospelmission.com/tobys-place>. Contact OGM at [ogm@olivergm.com](mailto:ogm@olivergm.com) or 803-254-6470.

**EMERGENCY FAMILY ASSISTANCE**

*These specific organizations focus on providing individuals and families in crisis, providing needs such as financial assistance and clothing. The organizations serve people all over the Midlands. Please consider supporting the one in your area both financially and with your service.*

**11. Christian Assistance Bridge\***

Christian Assistance Bridge (CAB) is a service agency that provides hope and support to those in need by offering basic necessities. CAB offers assistance with utilities, rent, food, medication, transportation and traveler's aid, to residents in Blythewood and surrounding communities. The agency is a collaborative effort of area churches, individuals and

support organizations and currently serves residents of ZIP codes 29016 (Blythewood), 29229 (Northeast Columbia) and 29130 (Ridgeway). Contact CAB at [info@christianassistancebridge.com](mailto:info@christianassistancebridge.com), 803- 786-1903 or <http://christianassistancebridge.com>.

**12. Lexington Interfaith Community Services**

Lexington Interfaith Community Services (LICS) is a local interfaith social services ministry serving families and individuals struggling to meet their basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter in Lexington County. Their services include food, clothing, and limited financial assistance (when available) for rent, electric bills, prescriptions, utilities and other emergencies. Contact LICS at 803-957-6656, [info@licssc.org](mailto:info@licssc.org) or visit <http://licssc.org/>.

**13. Cooperative Ministry\***

Cooperative Ministry seeks to build bridges to tomorrow by meeting immediate needs and teaching skills and providing resources for long-term independence and stability. With a range of services, they focus on providing short-term assistance and developing long-term stability to the people of downtown Columbia. Contact Cooperative Ministries at 803-799-3853, or [info@coopmin.org](mailto:info@coopmin.org) visit <http://www.coopmin.org/>.

**14. Sharing God's Love**

Sharing God's Love provides area families in need with food, clothing, financial support, and spiritual support. Currently, they support the surrounding Irmo communities of ZIP codes 29063, 29210, 29212, and 29002. Contact Sharing God's love at 803.732.3188, [sharinggodsllove1@aol.com](mailto:sharinggodsllove1@aol.com), or <http://sharinggodsllove.net>.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

*Organizations focused on community development encourage community members by coming together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems. Community wellbeing (economic, social, environmental and cultural) often evolves from this type of collective action being taken at a grassroots level.*

**15. Interfaith Community Services\***

Interfaith Community Services' vision is a united faith community improving the quality of life in South Carolina by working together to build strong families and healthy, thriving children. Their offices are located at Saint Mark United Mehtodist Church in the Earlwood neighborhood of Columbia. Their mission is to convene, educate and coordinate faith and other community partners to build strong families and strong communities. Contact Person: Lynn Semino, Program Director at 803-252-8390 or [lsemino@interfaithcommunityservices.org](mailto:lsemino@interfaithcommunityservices.org) or visit <http://www.interfaithcommunityservices.org>.

## COLUMBIA DISTRICT MISSIONARIES

Columbia District Connectional Ministries has entered into a committed relationship with two international missionaries, on behalf of the congregations in the Columbia District. This opportunity is offered to those churches that feel called by God to be involved in global missions. The process is this: that local church mission committees will "buy into a share" for a three year period. Each church will determine their level of support. To fulfill our obligations as a District we will need to raise \$3,000 a year through the shares (beginning in January 2018). The District Outreach Committee will be responsible to make sure that those who "buy in" receive regular contact and information for each of the missionaries. To get more information about the process of "Buying In," please contact the District Office.

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The Outreach Committee acknowledges the following: 1) Some of our congregations already have a connection with a missionary and will choose to continue that connection, rather than support our District Missionaries; 2) Other churches may not have a missionary, and find the cost associated with such an endeavor to be too costly.

### **SARA FLORES (GBGM Missionary assigned to Evangelical Methodist Church of Ecuador)**

Sara Flores is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries serving in church development and community ministries in Ecuador, working with the Evangelical United Methodist Church of Ecuador.

In 2001, the Evangelical United Church of Ecuador, a union of protestant missions started in the 1960s, decided to join the Methodist community and is now in the process of maturing and growing. Much of its work is in marginalized urban and rural areas and among indigenous communities. The Church currently has 16 full congregations and eight new mission advance congregations, with a great potential to grow for God's glory.

Sara was assigned to this ministry in Ecuador in 2011 after a term at Global Ministries' headquarters as a regional executive for Latin America and the Caribbean. She earlier served as integrated ministries advisor for the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia, working to strengthen the church's ministries in health, education, and community development. The ministry also included national programs for children, women, and the elderly.

Sara's work in Ecuador places an emphasis on diaconal ministries, supporting congregations in the development of projects that respond to the prioritized needs of the congregations and communities. Her ministry includes working with the national office of the church in the planning and implementation of integrated ministries, the central goal of which is to strengthen and facilitate local leadership training.

Sara says, "I believe that an important role of missionaries in the 21st century is to strengthen our partner churches and their vision; they already have and are carrying out God's mission. The Church in Ecuador is a new Methodist church and they have the passion and talent to grow.

We need to help them with their needs and priorities and facilitate partnerships with other Methodists that want to be part of God's global mission. In Ecuador, I see how pastors serve with all they have, and how hard it is for them to survive on little or no salary. I feel that we need to support them and their families; in this time of globalization, we need to globalize the hope and the dignity of these faithful servants."

Born and raised in Bolivia, Sara holds a degree in Sciences of Education from the Universidad Mayor de San Simon in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and has completed post-graduate studies in both development and community health. Her husband, Dakin Cook, is a retired Global Ministries missionary. The couple lives in Quito, Ecuador.

*To "buy into" a share of the District Collective support of Sara, contact the District Office. To Support Sara directly please submit funds to the General Board of Global Ministries. Sarah's Missionary Number is #13988Z. <http://www.umcmmission.org/>*

**REV. LUKE MOONTAEG RHYEE, M.D. (The Mission Society/Healing Guatemala)**

Rev. Luke Rhyee, M.D. is an elder in full connection with the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, appointed as a global missionary to The Mission Society. Rev. Rhyee founded Healing Guatemala, a non-profit organization that brings holistic healing to Guatemala, by providing medical service and feeding service, which will enhance the healing of bodies, and by proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord and sharing the Kingdom of God together. Rev. Rhyee graduated from CNU Medical School in Korea and worked as a medical doctor. He also graduated from Duke Divinity School. Currently, he serves the people of Guatemala, mostly Mayan people, in Quetzaltenango as a president and executive director of Healing Guatemala with his family. He and his wife, SunHee Kim R.N., S.W., have three boys, Daniel Lee, 4; Andrew Lee, 6; and Joshua Lee, 11. Find out more about the ministry at <http://www.healingguatemala.org/>.

*To support Luke directly please submit those funds through the directions on the website for Healing Guatemala or The Mission Society at [www.tms-global.org](http://www.tms-global.org)*