



CPS NEWS 2017

Cooperative Parish Sharing Today
A Program of the Archdiocese of Hartford Since 1984

CPS-PROMOTING SOLIDARITY AND SHARED MISSION

Projects of Hope in 2016

\$109,244 was pledged by 121 parishes.



With the support of CPS, 36 projects in 23 parishes provided services in their communities



Please be as generous as you are able

Building Community

Providing Meals

Church of the Assumption in Ansonia recognized that the working poor, the homeless, and those in transitional housing in their town often suffered both from food-insecurity and lack of social interaction with others in the community. To address this need, volunteers provide a hearty buffet breakfast on one Saturday each month through their "Community Breakfast" project, inviting those who are marginalized as well as members of the church community to gather to share a meal, conversation and fellowship. The program has tripled from 20-25 guests each month to 70-80 in the most current year. Volunteers have developed increased sensitivity to the needs of many in their own neighborhoods, and the project is fostering meaningful connections between Assumption Church and the people it serves.

Learning Solidarity

Sacred Heart Church (Sagrado Corazon) in Waterbury has chosen hunger as a central focus of their project, called "Starving to End World Hunger." The two day event, held during Lent and based on materials provided by Catholic Relief Services, first offers teens an opportunity to experience hunger first-hand, then to act to address international hunger issues. The students spend 8 hours in fasting, prayer and learning about nutrition, waste and food scarcity in many parts of our world, experiencing in a small way what it feels like to be hungry. The second day offers students, and other members of the parish community, the opportunity to package 20,000 meals for the people of Burkina Faso, Africa through the CRS "Helping Hands" project. The project promotes empathy and a new understanding and awareness of the reality of hunger.

Helping Hispanic Families

Several parishes use CPS funds to meet their needs of the growing Hispanic community. One example is St. Louis Church in West Haven. Their projects have helped the parishioners improve their skills through Adult Continuing Education, computer training and English as a Second Language classes. They have also provided an OSHA training to construction workers, Immigration advice, and an after school program for children of the ESL students.

Cooperative Parish Sharing collects voluntary pledges from parishes, then distributes funds in the form of **grants** to eligible low-income parishes to enable them to develop and sustain projects to address local community problems.

The generous support of YOUR PARISH makes the work of CPS possible.

Coordinated by the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry

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