



# THE DAILY THANKS

The United Thank Offering  
Expanding the Circle of Thankful People  
[www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO)

## The United Thank Offering At Work

### UTO Committee visits Grant Recipients in San Francisco

During our September meeting, the UTO Committee visited two UTO grant recipient ministries in San Francisco. St. James Episcopal Church received a 2004 UTO grant of \$15,000 to expand the Saturday Learning Time program. SLT provides no-cost quality preschool education to children from low-to-moderate incomes in the surrounding neighborhood. SLT goals are to prepare a child for a smooth transition to kindergarten, demonstrating the value of early education and the importance of family/parental participation in a child's education process.



One of the SLT classrooms.

Sr. Warden Judy Spain, vestry member Carol Jan Lee, and the Rev. Mary Moore Gaines, rector, explained how the UTO grant impacted SLT. In its third year the SLT program has over 26 children representing 5 different nationalities attending the three hour morning program every Saturday, September through June. With the impetus of the

UTO grant St. James has started tracking the Saturday Learning Time graduates as they move from pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The Rev. Gaines ex-

plained the program has been so successful in demonstrating to parents the value of early and sustained education for young children that 15% of parents move their children to more full time pre-K and kindergarten programs. The Rev. Gaines commented on the impact of the UTO grant: "The true value of the UTO grant is how it dem-

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## Reflections on Gratitude

### Dorothy Smith, UTO Province 1 Representative

Gratitude is a form of thanksgiving. Sometimes we do not take the time to reflect on just how grateful we should be for the many wonderful things we have been part of during

our lifetime. The joy of waking in the morning to the song of a bird outside our window; the dew on the grass highlighted by the warm sun heralding the new day is certainly

the Lord saying "good morning." For this we have to be thankful. We could be in another place on this earth where hunger and fear for one's life is the day's greeting.

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The Daily Thanks is published by the United Thank Offering Committee twice a year. This information is provided as a help to UTO Diocesan Coordinators, bishops, and other contacts.

The Daily Thanks may be reprinted and used by any UTO contact, ECW, or church. A PDF version is available online at [www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO).

For additional information contact the UTO office at 800.334.7626 x5130, or your UTO Province Representative.



## UTO at Work, continued from page 1



**L to R: UTO Committee members Lynn Headley and Dot Smith with the Rev. Mary Moore Gaines.**

*“The true value of the UTO grant is how it demonstrates a new way of being ‘in the church’ in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – it demonstrates living the bedrock values of Christian faith when the larger church reaches back to the local church community, bringing everyone within the fold of Christ’s arms.”*

onstrates a new way of being ‘in the church’ in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – it demonstrates living the bedrock values of Christian faith when the larger church reaches back to the local church community, bringing everyone within the fold of Christ’s arms.”

Henry Ohlhoff House Programs started 50 years ago to provide alcohol counseling for Episcopal clergy, and is named for the Episcopal priest that founded the program.

A 2005 UTO grant of \$10,000 allowed Ohlhoff House Programs to expand the women’s residential program to 12 beds by providing case management services. Daryl Perera, Women’s Program Director, commenting on the UTO grant, said “Addition

of the case manager enabled the counseling staff to push the quality of the programs and service to new levels because of the increase in individual attention to our residents, linking them to the additional services they need to more effectively transition to new lives.”

In addition to providing a residence for the women, Ohlhoff House provides counseling, AA meetings, vocational skills assessments for work programs, and back-to-work transition therapy. As they begin the transition to living on their own, Ohlhoff House also provides the female clients health and dental assessments and assistance dealing with legal and court issues, in addition to help remaining “clean and sober”.

An indication of the success of this approach is the community that develops among the residents, and that is maintained after they move out. Many graduates participate in regular “alum dinners” and provide encouragement and mentoring for current residents.

**Ohlhoff House Residence**



**One of the SLT classrooms.**

## Los Angeles Receives 2 Grants



**L to R: The Rev. Pam Tyler, Virginia Whittaker, Anna Baghdassarian, Karen Kazandijan, Anahid Khodaghlian**

A UTO grant site visit in the Diocese of Los Angeles was hosted by Canon Jack Plimpton, Executive Director for the Bishop’s Commission on HIV/AIDS Ministries. UTO Province 8 Representative Lynn Headley, UTO Diocesan

Coordinator Virginia Whittaker, and UTO Coordinator JoAnne Chapman, visited the Chapel of St. Francis in Los Angeles to present two UTO 2006 grant certificates.

The Hands in Healing Jubilee Center received \$25,000

to launch a healing center serving families, senior citizens, and persons living with HIV/AIDS. The Refugee Resettlement Program received \$21,845 to acquire materials and equipment for orientation and education of refugees. St. Francis houses both



## Gratitude, continued from page 1

Gratitude for the sound of children chattering and laughing as they romp around without fear for their lives and knowing they will have a nutritious meal at the end of their day should be remembered.

My childhood was a very happy time in my life with loving parents, pets to love, friends to share the day playing in the woods picking wild flowers and berries with not a care in the world. The holidays meant family gatherings with aunts, uncles, and cousins. I believe we were thankful for these times but did not verbalize our thankfulness in so many words.

As time passed and horizons broadened things took on greater meaning as I began to understand the hardships of many people

in the world. I felt the need to lessen their burdens though it was in a small way: helping weed the garden of an elderly neighbor who loved the beauty of the blooms but was unable to maintain the pristine garden she once managed; taking care of a little child for a mother in need of a little respite. These were the signs of things to come. Yes, I am grateful to have been there to ease the burden in a small way.

As I matured I crammed my mind with all the new and demanding responsibilities. My broader view became so far and wide I had to ask myself, does my individual endeavor really make a difference? I decided it does. One good example is the use of the UTO Blue Box. It makes

me ever so thankful for all blessings, large and small. The coins I place in the that box when added to the thanksgivings of others really gives hope to the hopeless, education for the uneducated, as well as bringing the feeling of accomplishment. However, there are times when the lonely need only a smile, someone to listen to them, or the offer of a helping hand. This can and does make a vast difference in their lives as well as our own. It is my hope that I have been able to do this in some small way.

The Lord provided me with eyes, ears, and the ability to do for others. I hope this ability has been used to the fullest.

*“I had to ask myself, does my individual endeavor really make a difference? I decided it does.”*

*The Lord provided me with eyes, ears, and the ability to do for others. I hope this ability has been used to the fullest.”*



*“Thank you for having the missionaries at heart. The money (USD300) was of great help to me. It relieved me in a way you may never understand in the hard economic situation in my country. I am continuing with mission work even among my own people.”*

*In all this people to people interaction one learns that people need God and the best news is the gospel of redemption through the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Mildred Mbwando, Zimbabwe, recipient of a UTO grant to Mission Personnel.

## UTO FACTs

- **100% of all UTO offerings are granted each year.**
- UTO administrative expenses are covered by interest from the Memorial & Gift Trust Fund.
- Most UTO materials are free. Order online at the UTO website by clicking on “Order UTO Materials,” or call Episcopal Books and Resources (EBaR) at 800.903.5544.
- Annually UTO averages: \$2.5million in offerings available; over \$7million in grant requests; over 200 grant applications to review.
- January 9—Julia Chester Emery, UTO Founder, remembered.



*“In order to follow the way of the cross, we must find creative ways to give ourselves away or else we perish.”*

The Very Rev. Alan Jones,  
Dean of Grace Cathedral



**L to R: UTO President Connie Segura, Pam Stewart, and Zona Tounsley during the communication module.**

*“Learning the circular model of leadership is very effective for a faith-based organization like the UTO Committee. The presentation gave me a fresh look at myself in light of leadership and organizational skills needed for promoting the ministry of the United Thank Offering.”*

Zona Tounsley,  
UTO Province 4 Representative

## Women of Expanding Vision

The United Thank Offering is a volunteer governing committee providing the communication link between UTO and every diocese. UTO Committee members research grant applications; travel to diocesan meetings to talk about thankful prayer and UTO, and visit grant sites to witness UTO in action. The Episcopal Church provides the significant services of bookkeeping and office space, ensuring 100% of the UTO offerings can be granted.

Every three years, concurrent with General Convention and the ECW Triennial Meeting, this volunteer committee changes membership. This triennium seven new province representatives joined two returning representatives and three members-at-large elected from the previous committee, and our UTO Coordinator. It takes determination, dedication, and discipline to become a team and continue the work of the UTO without interruption.

To help us expand our vision and skills and to become a cohesive working team, our first meeting to-

gether included sessions with Cecil Williamson, a consultant from Alabama, leading training modules in Communication Styles, Spiritual Gifts inventory, and the Circular Model of Leadership. The gifts inventory showed a wide variety of spiritual gifts among us, especially in faith, administration, teaching, and hospitality. All four types of communication skills are represented among us. We include visionaries, facilitators, analyzers, and activators.

Subcommittees formed and started work: budget and finance review, Communications, UTO materials development, and Face To Face. *Thankfulness Unites: A History of UTO (1979)* provided fascinating information about the United Thank Offering's support of the mission and ministry of the church over the last 100+ years. We reviewed the 2007 grant criteria in preparation for the grant research and review in the spring, as well as operating procedures and our vision statement.

The work of UTO takes much thankful prayer. We spent time together every

day in worship, prayer, and scripture study, using different Anglican Communion prayer books and the African Method of Scripture Study. Private time for personal reflection was also provided, and Mercy Center's beautiful outdoor labyrinth was well appreciated. Sunday morning the UTO Committee attended choral Eucharist at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Afterward, we made grant site visits to see the UTO at work helping expand mission and ministry to people in the local community.

The UTO Committee concluded the meeting with a strategic session to consider expanding our vision of how the United Thank Offering can continue to evolve in meeting the needs of an ever changing world. In his sermon Dean Jones said, “The issue of faith is choosing the narrative you will live in.”

The United Thank Offering believes the ministry of encouraging all people in thankful prayer is a faith narrative every person can live and grow into.



## 2006 UTO Grants and Offerings

The 2006 United Thank Offering grants include two to the Diocese of Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina related projects. While UTO grant criteria exclude emergency relief, “We have the potential to respond to some of the longer term needs created by the hurricane through our regular granting process,” said JoAnne Chapman, UTO Coordinator.

UTO is a spiritual and financial partner in the mission work of The Episcopal Church, encouraging daily thankful prayer and offerings. UTO grants focus on addressing compelling human needs and expanding the mission and ministry of the church.

The Diocese of Louisiana's

Office of Disaster Response received \$85,000 to help renovate an office building to provide housing for office staff, displaced survivors, and volunteer groups. Trinity Episcopal Church, New Orleans, received \$35,000 to fund a disaster relief coordinator for one year to help implement a mobile Loaves and Fishes ministry as part of the clean-up and resettlement effort.

The 2006 UTO grant cycle received 196 requests totaling \$7,235,649.77. UTO was able to fund 112 grants; 87 received partial funding, 25 received full funding. Episcopal dioceses in the United States were granted 59.4 percent; overseas and regional grants received 40.6 percent. The

UTO Committee finalized the 2006 grants list at General Convention. The 2006 total is \$2,419,628.54 granted.

UTO Diocesan Coordinators from 107 dioceses of The Episcopal Church participated in the General Convention Eucharist and Ingathering. The GC Eucharist plate offering was \$20,624.15, which was used to fund additional grants for the current cycle.

UTO grant funding sources include the 2005 fiscal year thank offerings collected, trust fund and interest income, returned or rescinded grants, and the General Convention's Eucharist offering. “This offering comes from thankful giving. We are grateful

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**Upper South Carolina received a \$10,000 UTO grant to help fund a Hispanic missionary in the Upstate. Bishop Dorsey Henderson presents the UTO certificate to the Rev. Kathryn Tiede Hottinger, chair of Upper South Carolina's Hispanic Ministries.**

## Face To Face Training is August 2007

Face To Face is an annual training for new UTO Diocesan Coordinators. The goal is to provide dioceses with information to help support UTO's ministry of expanding the circle of thankful people.

The weekend includes worship, workshops on thank-

ful prayer, encouraging UTO ingathering's, and the UTO grant process.

The next Face To Face is scheduled for August 10-12, 2007, at Roslyn Center in Richmond, VA. Each diocese is encouraged to send their new UTO coordinator to a Face To Face

session during their term. To make this possible, the UTO Committee provides travel expense reimbursement up to \$600 per diocese.

For more information, contact Lynn Headley, at 714.963.5932 or [pirrung@earthlink.net](mailto:pirrung@earthlink.net).

*“Face To Face was an excellent experience for me providing rejuvenation, the chance to share space and spirit with people of like minds. The brass tacks of dissecting the UTO grant application and hearing about the importance of meeting grant criteria and providing a concise and succinct summary of the grant's purpose were invaluable.”*

Robin Johnson, Diocese of Maine UTO Coordinator



## “When We Think About Prayer...”

JoAnne Chapman, UTO Coordinator

*“When we acknowledge  
how awestruck we are  
by God’s grace, we can  
only turn back to the  
world with a more  
gracious heart.”*

*I wrestle with God and demand  
a blessing.*

*Give me eyes to see the gift of  
opportunity;*

*Grant me strength to serve with  
gladness.*

*Fill me with courage to act  
despite fear;*

*And patience to wait for  
Your presence revealed.*

*Teach me to name the joys midst  
the sorrows,*

*And spend my days extravagantly;  
Sharing Your gifts, a life lived  
in offering.*

*Each new day wrapped in miracles  
and possibilities.*

*May it be Your Light,  
Lord Christ, reflected in me.*

Rachael Taylor,  
Diocese of Central Gulf Coast  
UTO Prayers, Volume II

When we think about prayer many images come to mind. We think of our worship with the congregation on Sunday mornings, with the familiar liturgy and hymns. This communal experience helps many of us to center ourselves spiritually and regroup to face the world for another week. We think of our solitary times of quiet study and reflection. We also think of the personal prayers we utter on the run as we go through our days—prayers of thanks, for help, intercessions, and plaintive requests that God would set the world right.

Many of our prayers give us impulse for further action. Besides our prayerful intercession for someone who is suffering we will make sure to call or write them with our message of caring. We may bring them food, visit them in the hospital, or find another way to help

them cope. Because we are praying for reconciliation in the world we are moved to address injustices as we meet them. Our prayers raise our consciousness, and we speak out the next time we encounter careless words and actions.

Paul exhorts us in I Thessalonians 5:17 to “pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances.” Our daily work can be our prayers turned into action. In all things we do we can be mindfully living out our Baptismal Covenant. Sometimes it may be glorious, and sometimes it may be just putting one foot in front of the other. In our quest for reconciliation, the action of continuing to meet with those who disagree with us, or who have hurt us in some way, can only be a prayerful act.

Many people have experimented with keeping a

thankfulness journal for a period of time. This can be a life-changing experience as we become more mindful of our gratitude for God’s blessings. We are moved to become more hospitable and less attached to the things we consider “ours.” When we acknowledge how awestruck we are by God’s grace, we can only turn back to the world with a more gracious heart.

The United Thank Offering gives us an opportunity to turn our prayers of thanks into action. By contributing to the offering we unite our thankfulness with that of many others throughout The Episcopal Church. The offering is turned into grants that address compelling human need and expand the mission and ministry of the church. The resulting actions have been felt around the world since 1889.

## Los Angeles Grants, continued from page 2

social services ministries. The Rev. Pam Tyler, Vice Chancellor, and Ken Chow, were also present to host the UTO grant award ceremony. Hands in Healing staff members George Go-

mez and Vanessa Talantes provided a tour of the facility. They are pictured at right with one of the new exam tables provided by the UTO grant.





## 2006 UTO Grants, continued from page 5

UTO can respond to diverse needs identified by the church throughout the Anglican Communion," Chapman said.

Geographically, grants included 5 to Africa; 10 to Asia/Pacific; 4 to the Car-

ibbean; 2 to Central America; 1 to Mexico; 3 to South America; 1 to Jerusalem/Middle East; 84 to the United States; and 2 Regional Grants. According to Chapman some provinces in Africa no longer submit requests, but UTO contin-

ues to invite them because "we want to leave the door open on our side."

A 2006 UTO Grants List is available on the UTO website and from Episcopal Books and Resources.



L to R: George Gomez, Vanessa Talmantes, Canon Jack Plimpton, Virginia Whittaker, Ken Chow, in Los Angeles.

## Change in EBaR Order Payment Policy

**Bernie Lucas, General Manager, Episcopal Books and Resources**

*"After careful analysis of EBaR's payment policies and delivery of customer service, a decision has been made to move to the prepayment method. This best practice by industry standards will free up more time to strengthen our delivery of service to you, our valued customers.*

*It is clear to EBaR that busy people engaged in mission and*

*ministry have increased and changing needs. Spending less time on invoicing and collections allows us to be even more effective and efficient, enabling us to keep up with your pace.*

*Effective November 1, 2006 all customers ordering resources from Episcopal Books and Resources will be required to prepay orders. The option to bill purchases to a church account*

*will no longer be available. Check, money order, VISA/MC/AMEX will be the acceptable forms of payment.*

*We do realize that for some customers, more time might be needed to adjust to this transition. If you find that you are one such customer, please don't hesitate to contact us. You are rest assured that we are committed to providing a solution that*

*works. The needs will be reviewed on a case by case basis through the end of 2006. By January 1, 2007, it is expected that a complete customer transition to prepayment will be in effect. Thank you for understanding."*

Bernie Lucas,  
General Manager  
Episcopal Books and  
Resources  
800.903.5544

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The Memorial & Gift Trust Fund ensures that 100% of UTO offerings will continue to be granted, and the work of the UTO will continue for future generations.

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**United Thank Offering is  
on the Web at  
[www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO)**

- Find your UTO Province Representative contact information
  - View samples & order UTO materials
  - Review UTO Grant Criteria
  - See 2006 UTO Grants List
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## 2007 UTO Grant Deadline is January 31

Is there a ministry or program within your diocese addressing “compelling human need and/or expanding the mission and ministry of the church?” Those are the primary UTO grant criteria.

Every diocese has such ministries, and can submit two UTO grant applications per year. Call your Diocesan Office for a copy of the UTO grant application. Your UTO Diocesan Coordinator can answer questions about the UTO grant process.

The deadline for 2007 grant applications is January 31, 2007. Your fully completed, Bishop endorsed UTO grant application **must be postmarked, or fax received, or be hand delivered to the UTO office no later than January 31, 2007.**

Mail or hand deliver your completed application to:

UTO  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10017,

or Fax to 212.983.6377.

### IRS change impacts Available Offerings for 2007

The last business day of the year, **December 29, 2006, is the deadline for UTO Offerings to be received** at the UTO Lockbox (address below) if those offerings are to be included in the monies available for the 2007 UTO grant cycle.

Otherwise, any offering funds received and deposited after the last working day of 2006 are counted as 2007 fiscal year offerings and will not be available for granting until the 2008 cycle.

**Mail UTO Offerings to:**  
United Thank Offering  
PO Box 12095  
Newark, NJ 07101

