

Report 2 — Part II

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES 2010

Alston Wilkes Society: Since 1962, the Society has been in the business of rebuilding lives and providing second chances. It creates and supports opportunities statewide to help adult and juvenile offenders and ex-offenders, homeless veterans and other homeless people, emotionally- and behaviorally-disturbed children, and the families of these groups of people to become responsible and productive through employment, mediation, life skills, rehabilitation, prevention, volunteerism, and transitional housing services.

Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry: This ministry's purpose is to strengthen the local churches in their ministry, and to minister to all of the people in its geographical area by a program of activities which can best be realized through the cooperation of the churches within the parish. The services provided are: Joint Worship, Bible Study, Activities for Children and Youth, Leadership Training in Christian Education, Evangelism, Mission (ex. distribution of food commodities, health fair, mission fair, blood drive, clothes closet and relief kits.), Tutorial Program (K-12) In-School and After-School, Vacation Bible School, Transportation, Newsletter and Shalom Zone (Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief, Emergency Medical and Inadequate Housing), Shalom Literacy and Congregational Resource Center for Strengthening the Black Church.

Bethlehem Community Center - Columbia: The mission of the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center is to provide a safe, Christ-centered environment where children and youth are nurtured through activities and programs that address their educational, spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs. Additionally, the Center seeks to empower women and families to enhance their quality of life by providing assistance and services with special attention to the concerns of justice and advocacy. Since its inception in 1945, the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center continues to service the residents of the Waverly-Edgewood and surrounding communities. It provides a variety of programs to include a lab for Computer Literacy Technology, Pre-GED classes, After-School Enrichment and Tutorial Program, Summer Reading Activities, Vacation Bible School, Emergency Food Distribution, Community Forums, Internship Opportunities, and Parenting Classes. The Center's facility is available for utilization by the community for programs, weddings, meetings, worship services and other activities.

Bethlehem Community Center-Spartanburg: The Center is a multi-service agency providing an array of programs to residents in Spartanburg County. The Center's day care facility has the capacity to serve 130 children between the ages of two and five. The outreach department facilitates client-centered referrals, provides emergency assistance with food, electrical, heating and rental payments as well as coordinates self-improvement focused programming and remedial academic GED preparation classes. The community services department provides numerous programs related to afterschool tutorial services, fine arts (dance, drama, piano lessons and art), sports and recreational activities, scouting, seasonal camping, primary prevention and leadership programs for community youth. Programming for adults include Bible studies and fellowship, nutritional programs, sewing and craft classes. A computer lab is maintained for all program participants and community residents. The health clinic provides emergency, routine and preventive medical services to community residents. The facility also is available to host other agency sponsored programs to serve the community. Financial and volunteer support for the program and services are needed.

Church and Community Workers Field Share: A salary support grant for Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministries and the United Methodist Relief Center in Mt. Pleasant— Church and Community Workers are approved by the National Division, Board of Global Ministries.

Cooperative Ministry: A unique ministry of the religious community serving as an instrument of God's love to those in crisis. Through the Ministry, religious congregations in the Greater Columbia area respond to requests for help from local and transient people, improve the quality of life for the needy and visibly reflect God's care and concern for the total well-being of all persons in our community. This ministry offers direct financial assistance, counseling, information, referrals, clothing, computers and furniture, and long-term programs to address the root causes of poverty.

Crisis Ministries-Anderson: The ministry responds to critical, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. It provides crisis prevention, intervention, stabilization, and education. This includes telephone crisis lines and a walk-in center providing for stabilization of immediate crisis situations, information and referral to other community agencies and brief crisis counseling. The ministry works with other community agencies such as Mental Health and Anderson Interfaith Ministries to extend access to their services after business hours. Through our Providence Project, we seek to enlist churches and mentors/volunteers to help provide emotional and supplemental assistance to those in our community who are in crisis. They also provide Camp Providence, a summer day camp for community groups and children in the community who cannot afford a day camp experience.

Grand Strand Leisure/Crisis Ministries: Responds to critical needs of persons vacationing in or traveling through the Grand Strand area. It provides worship services, Bible study, recreation, a snowbird ministry (October-March), crisis assistance, information and referrals.

Interfaith Community Services, Inc.: Addresses social challenges and meets community needs through advocacy, education, collaboration, research and services. Interfaith Community Services provides training and technical assistance to churches and other community groups working to meet critical social needs, sponsor and support

local and state efforts which help people overcome the interrelated barriers of racism and poverty, and develop cooperative programs and resources which respond to the needs of children, young people and families. Current program areas include child care resources and referrals, faith-based community health initiatives and community development.

Killingsworth: This is a transition home for women in crisis. Our ministry is to support, empower, and advocate for women recovering from crisis within a safe, nurturing Christian environment. This includes: room and board, counseling and education, spiritual development, job development and community re-orientation.

Myrtle Beach Campground Ministry: The Myrtle Beach Campground Ministry is an Advance Special that ministers to children and adults visiting six of the area's campgrounds. Services include day camps, crafts, drama, music and evening and Sunday services. A seminary student serves as the campground chaplain and is provided with room and board from Memorial Day until Labor Day. The main goal is to advance Christian education while meeting the religious and social needs of families and individuals visiting the Grand Strand area.

Oliver Gospel Mission: Operating within its third century of service, the Mission continues to provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the homeless and needy citizens of Columbia, South Carolina. This mission's purpose is to glorify God and to evangelize, educate, and disciple while providing food, shelter and spiritual guidance to the poor and neglected. The ministries of Oliver Gospel Mission provide counseling, referrals, life-skill training, employment, and an alcohol/drug recovery unit. It is our desire that all will go forth refreshed and newly aware of his place in society as a new creature in Christ.

Rural Mission, Inc.: This is an ecumenical organization that provides human, spiritual and social services to low-income Sea Island residents and migrant workers. Through education, advocacy and outreach, Rural Mission provides a lifting hand -- spiritually, emotionally, physically, and economically -- whatever the need, ministering to anyone on the S.C. Sea Islands. To better meet the needs of our migrant children and families, the mission collaborates with outside agencies by networking their local migrant task force, schools, health and social services, and governmental agencies, as well as farm workers' organizations and local churches.

The Tracy Jackson Program of G.I.F.T. (General Instruction for Tomorrow): This is an ecumenical Christian mission providing children with food for the body, mind and spirit. It serves children during the summer months at sites located in Abbeville and Anderson Counties. All services are free. For the children's bodies it provides SCDSS approved lunch's weekdays and physical activities at each site. For the mind it provides games, activities, speakers and field trips that the children would not experience without the program. It also provides back-to-school supplies to program children. For the spirit the sites are led by caring Christian people. Some sites have Bible Study and all sites say grace.

United Methodist Relief Center-Mount Pleasant: An agency of the South Carolina Conference, the United Methodist Relief Center's mission is provide affordable housing to very low and low-income families through housing rehabilitation, replacement, or first-time homebuyer opportunities, while at the same time offering opportunities for individuals and groups to participate in hands-on ministry. Volunteers work under the guidance of experienced construction supervisors and participate in spiritually enriching activities led by clergy.

Through its Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program, the UMCR addresses the critical need for safe, adequate housing for families living at or below 50 percent of the median income, with priority given to those at or below 30 percent. The program also includes an advocacy component called the "Helping Hand." The primary goal of "Helping Hand" is to work with individuals and/or families to increase their level of self-sufficiency in maintaining their homes once rehabilitated or replaced and to increase their awareness of their property as an asset. This additional assistance serves to instill a feeling of dignity and self-worth in the participants, as well as to ensure their ability to maintain and manage their asset.

The ET (Elderly Transportable) Housing Program is a statewide program that enlists local churches and businesses to participate in the construction of housing for elderly recipients. These handicapped accessible housing units constructed on recycled mobile home frames in parking lots are used to replace dilapidated housing and are provided rent free to the recipient as long as needed.

The newest program of the UMRC is the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program. This construction programs enables low and very-low families to participate in home ownership through construction of their own homes in partnership with one another, building community while building homes. During this process, families learn decision-making skills, as well as construction skills, thus preparing them for the responsibilities of home ownership.

UMRC was born of devastation generated by Hurricane Hugo.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission: Its mission is to provide opportunities for South Carolinians to get personally involved in short-term mission projects at home and abroad. Its services include construction, medical care, education, agriculture and supportive services.

United Ministries of Greenville: The United Ministries is an extension of the servant ministry of cooperating congregations in Greenville County. United Ministries assists poor people in emerging from hurting situations by providing for basic needs and by creating environments that allow people to make positive changes. United Ministries has developed a process for helping people move from basic survival to self-reliance. The process includes: **Survival** (Emergency Assistance – help with rent, utilities, food, heat, medicine; Place of Hope – a day shelter for homeless people; and Travelers Aid), **Stabilization** (Transitions – helping families access public

services; and Adopt-A-House – rehabilitation for low/moderate income homeowners), and ***Barrier Removal*** (Employment Readiness – helping find, get and keep jobs; Magdalene Project – working with women who are homeless, addicts, pregnant or prostitutes; and Life Skills – teaching basic skills for health and responsible living.)

Wallace Family Life Center: This is a family-oriented facility whose mission is to provide educational, cultural, recreational, and religious programs to enrich the lives of the people in the Wallace community.