

Report 2 – Part II

THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE ADVANCE SPECIAL MINISTRIES 2013

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: The Bennettsville-Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministry (BCACM) is a specialized ministry of the South Carolina Conference that was established in 1966 to help facilitate the needs of persons living in Marlboro & Chesterfield counties of South Carolina in a shared ministry and vision. The churches that are affiliated with this ministry are Aaron Temple United Methodist Church, Bethel United Methodist Church, Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Level Green United Methodist Church, Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Old Galilee United Methodist Church, Shiloh United Methodist Church, Smyrna United Methodist Church, Saint Michael United Methodist Church, and Trinity United Methodist Church. The churches that are affiliated with the BCACM have a combined membership less than 2500. In the initial development of the BCACM, the churches had a vision that ministry could be enhanced through shared efforts. Thus, under the direction of the Sixty-Six Conference Board of Mission, and the leadership of Dr. John H. Graham, J.W. Curry, Jasper Smith, a team of conference ministers and a committee from the aforementioned churches, formed the BCACM.

The overall mission of the BCACM is to respond to the increasing call in our communities to continue to light the flame of hope by striving to build and sustain communities of character with youth, young adults, adults, and older adults who have high morality, integrity, and commitment to be leaders for the sake of the present and future generation. The BCACM seeks to minister to the family by educating and nurturing the whole person—physically, spiritually, mentally, morally, and ethically.

BCACM aims to be a beacon of light in a dismal world. We seek to spread HOPE for families in search of healing. The opportunities in which we provide by the grace of God are to strengthen, educate, guide, and enhance the whole family—an individual, a couple, or a family.

As the BCACM, our agency embraces the tenets of the United Methodist Church of making disciples for the transformation of the world by coordinating and developing workshops and seminars to empower our laity and clergy. The ministry continues to fulfill its mission by strengthening these churches in the areas of outreach, Christian education, and leadership development. Our programs and ministries focus on meeting the holistic needs of families. We strive to meet these needs via weekly bible study, prayer, workshops and seminars, school enrichment by partnering with Blenheim Elementary & Middle School, Clio Elementary & Middle School, and Bennettsville Middle School. In addition, we sponsor the Sacred Saturday (focusing on children & youth ages 5-11) and Tea Time with Teens (focusing on abstinence with 12-18 girls), VBS picnic and Back-to-School Bash, quarterly leadership trainings, health screenings, soup kitchen, food distribution, summer day camps, and flood buckets.

The BCACM also partners with the communities of Shalom to address inadequate home improvements, medical emergency, hunger and other social needs.

It is our belief that the BCACM is truly embodied in the principles and tenets of the connectional ministry of the South Carolina Conference and the United Methodist Church.

Bethlehem Community Center – Columbia: The Columbia Bethlehem Community Center is an historic multi-service agency now serving residents of the Riverview Terrace and Broad River Terrace communities in Columbia, South Carolina. **VISION STATEMENT:** We envision that the Columbia Bethlehem Community Center will be the premiere community center for children and families in the Midlands. **MISSION STATEMENT:** To educate and enrich the lives of individuals and families in the Midlands to help them achieve their own success. **PROGRAMS:** Afterschool: currently a partnership program with Riverside Apartment Community (Lucius Road) Summer Soapbox Derby: Summer Camp 2012; Introduction to mini -film production for children (Spring/Summer 2012)

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 includes 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 – Church and Community Workers are approved by the National Division, Board of Global Ministries.

Coastal Samaritan Counseling Center: Provides counseling, pastoral psychotherapy, education and consultation to individuals and families who are facing mental health crises. The agency works hand-in-hand with local churches to reach out to people in need. Fees for services are adjusted according to a client's income and the Center is dependent upon generous donations and grants to supplement these low-fee or indigent clients.

Interfaith Community Services, Inc.: *Improving Child Nutrition, Safety and Literacy Interfaith Community Services* works with faith and community partners to meet the needs of struggling families. We were founded 42 years ago by six downtown

Columbia churches to be Columbia's first urban service center. Interfaith has been an Advanced Special Ministry for four decades. Our offices are located in St. Mark UMC in the Earlwood neighborhood of Columbia. We are partnering with St. Mark to work toward improving the lives of Section 8 residents in a nearby complex called Riverside Apartments. Our Mission is to convene, educate and coordinate faith and other community partners to build strong families and strong communities. Our 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. Our Guiding Principles: The faith traditions at the heart of Interfaith Community Services call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. This calls us to share the gifts and resources of this life justly, to work in partnership for the common good, and to provide an environment that promotes the development of everyone's strengths and skills. We practice honest and integrity in everything we do. We provide service in the spirit of unity and sincerity. These principles guide our work and inspire our mission

Killingsworth Inc.: Killingsworth 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. In addition to room and board, we offer counseling and education, spiritual development, job development and work support, life-skills training, and community re-orientation.

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 Cooperative Ministry: Founded in 1982 The Cooperative Ministry is a unique ministry of the Midlands community created to serve as an instrument of God's love by providing a coordinated charitable response to assist those in need. We work hard to improve the quality of life for our clients by providing short-term assistance, counseling, prayer, and guidance to other available community resources. With a focus on cultural literacy and an ultimate goal of self-sufficiency, we work to address many of the root causes of poverty.

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 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.