

## Strawbridge United Methodist Church 2011 Missions/Outreach Report

*“See then how that by works a man is justified,  
and not by faith only.” – James 2:24*

### Highlights

- Donations distributed as follows to local and international mission partners – all 2011 covenant commitments were satisfied by mid-year:

Carole & Ronald Krist Samaritan Center for Counseling & Education	\$ 1,500
The Mission Northeast	5,875
Servants of Christ United Methodist Parish (Mission Milby)	1,500
Savuto Family – Kenya	4,250
Zimmerman Family - Nepal	4,250
Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM)	6,903
Family Promise of Lake Houston	5,000
Family Time	1,000
Habitat for Humanity – Montgomery County	13,750
Bishop’s Offering for TX Wildfire Victims	1,612
Society of St. Stephen	750
Billy (McMahon) and Tara’s (Oetken) Mission to Ethiopia	500
UMCOR – Imagine No Malaria	146
“Got Your Backpack” Program – North Shore High School	100
Kairos of Texas	<u>500</u>
Total	\$47,636

2011 covenant commitments with partner local assistance ministries (HAAM, The Mission Northeast, Family Promise) were increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 each. In addition, gifts totaling ~\$5,000 were held back to help underwrite: (1) Feed My Lambs, (2) Family Promise rotations, (3) the Strawbridge Lifeline Fund, and (4) 2012 plans to sponsor a water well drilling project in El Salvador.

- In January, Strawbridge conducted a food drive in conjunction with the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring initiative. Approximately 2,150 food items were collected to benefit food pantries at The Mission Northeast and HAAM.
- Guests Carole Brady (Executive Director, Family Promise) and Barbara Smith (Executive Director, Montgomery County Habitat for Humanity) joined us for a “Missions Evening” in February. Following food/fellowship, information sessions were held to orient/update potential SUMC volunteers on the mission/needs of these two “hands-on” outreach partners.

- In April, Strawbridge volunteers assembled 150 bean soup mix packages which were made available to HAAM food pantry recipients; another 100 bean soup kits were assembled by the children at SUMC's Vacation Bible School (in addition to 80 placemats for Kairos of Texas)
- Through their direct financial support and their participation in multiple youth-sponsored fund-raising initiatives, members and friends of Strawbridge helped underwrite Summer, 2011 youth mission projects (All-Youth Mission Trip, UMArmy Team) to the tune of more than \$30,000.
- Strawbridge has joined forces with a new international mission partner - Living Water International. This Houston-based non-profit exists to "demonstrate the love of God by helping communities acquire desperately needed clean water". In October, two Strawbridge volunteers joined a drill-trip to Guatemala. Looking ahead, fund-raising and enlistment of volunteers is underway for an SUMC-sponsored drill trip to El Salvador in October, 2012.
- The Advent/Christmas season was truly special for Strawbridge:
  - Donated 140 gifts to The Mission Northeast Christmas Store
  - Sent almost 200 Walmart gift cards, along with personalized messages, to residents of The United Methodist Children's Home in Waco
  - Collected \$500 from sale of cards, hand-drawn by a disabled Nepali missionary
  - Contributions to the 2011 Advent Offering totaled more than \$24,500. After satisfying 2012 covenant commitments with three of our local mission partners (Samaritan Center, The Mission Northeast, Family Promise of Lake Houston) and offering a \$2,000 "transitional" gift to retiring missionaries, Bill & Jerri Savuto (Kenya), we were still able to add almost \$10,000 to our Habitat building fund!
- Strawbridge, along with partner Woodridge Baptist, has started construction on its third Habitat for Humanity house. As of year-end, we are in a position to satisfy all financial commitments and have a combined roster of more than 100 volunteers. Anticipated completion date is June, 2012.
- During 2011, ~360 members of the Strawbridge family volunteered their time in support of at least one outreach ministry. In a non-Habitat year, this represents a notable improvement. Leading the way were the All-Youth Mission Trip and Family Promise which attracted 160 and 130 volunteers, respectively. The Mission Team will continue to place emphasis on identifying and advertising opportunities to serve.
- Please note that donations reported here represent "second-mile" giving, which is completely independent of the church operating budget. However, the operating budget also has a missional component – specifically, UMC conference/district apportionments which Strawbridge pays each year, 42% of which support mission-related projects. In 2011, SUMC paid \$51,375 in missions-related apportionments.

**Thanks, Strawbridge, for your giving spirit!.**