



Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church Outreach and Mission 2021 Annual Report



“We envision a world
where every heart
experiences God’s transforming love.”



Winter 2022

Dear Kirk in the Hills Family,

As we reflect on the year 2021, we want to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for your financial generosity and your loving hearts dedicated to serving our brothers and sisters in Christ. This booklet is an overview of the work that was done by the Outreach and Mission Committee of Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church in 2021, as led by the Holy Spirit, and supported by every member of the church family. Last year over \$250,000 of benevolent gifts were given to local, national, and global mission work, not counting the many hours of service and in-kind giving that were also abundantly given to local organizations through collections for groups like the Afghani refugees, local foster care children, veterans throughout southeast Michigan, Angel Tree gifts for CARE House and Pontiac families served through Accent Pontiac, Micah 6 and the Kirk Tutor programs.

In this report there are a lot of data and numbers to reflect our work. While the numbers show an amazing amount of love and generosity from our Kirk congregation, they can not define who we are. We are defined by relationships that we form with one another, the transformation we experience in Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, the love that we show to our community and the stories that we share about how much we love being the hands and feet of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the 2021 Kirk in the Hills Outreach and Mission Committee, thank you!

In Christ's Love,

Edwin Estevez

Edwin Estevez
Assistant Pastor for Mission

Julie Walker

Julie Walker
Director of Outreach and Mission

2021 Committee Members

Linda Juracek-Lipa, Chair
Kevin Brinks
Amy Davis
Steve Lorincz
Nancy Lau
Sheri Falvay

Glenda Herb
Bob Heuer
Ann Manning
Sarah Ford
Claire Devlin

Midge Barrow
Jim Tully
Jan Thompson
Juli Musch
Bob O'Hara

Local Mission in 2021

Local Mission Partner	Amount Given
Accent Pontiac – Operational Support	\$50,000
Accent Pontiac – Green Bucket Run	\$2,000
Building Beds 4 Kids	\$4,000
Dutton Farms	\$1,500
Evans Scholar Hopefuls/Pontiac Student Mentoring	\$4,100
Foster Care	\$8,000
Hope Against Trafficking	\$1,600
Humble Design	\$6,684
Kirk Tutors	\$10,000
Life Remodeled	\$2,000
Micah 6 - Webster Room Sponsorship (Accent Pontiac)	\$25,000
Micah 6 – Dwight Street Blitz	\$157
Micah 6 – Monthly Dinners for Community Worship	\$739
Micah 6 – Santa’s Workshop	\$3,000
Ministry With Pontiac	\$10,000
Oakland Literacy Council	\$7,900
Pontiac Community Foundation — Covid Relief in Pontiac	\$18,000
Pontiac Community Foundation — Maddie McKinney Hatchett Park	\$10,000
Pontiac Skate Park	\$5,000
Presbyterian Villages of Michigan (Oakland Woods in Pontiac)	\$10,000
Rebuilding Together	\$2,000
South Oakland Shelter	\$1,941
Veteran’s Administration (J. Dingell VA Hospital Community Programs)	\$5,622
Westminster Presbyterian Church (Thanksgiving Dinner Outreach)	\$2,500

Local Mission

A Closer Look at 2021

Accent Pontiac

Accent Pontiac provides free during and after school programming to over 250 students at Walt Whitman Elementary School and Alcott Elementary School, resulting in life skills such as leadership, confidence, teamwork and focus. As a result of the funds donated by Kirk in the Hills and other benevolent partners, Accent Pontiac's social change through music program has been able to thrive and grow in 2021, successfully implementing safe and innovative programming throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and expanding programming to serve students at Pontiac Middle School and Herrington Elementary School in Pontiac.



Foster Care & Camp Skyline

Kirk in the Hills has an active program serving local youth in southeast Michigan who are in foster care. In 2021, 14 foster care children and youth were supported to attend Camp Skyline for a week's overnight camping experience. Support was provided by paying for each foster child's camp fee and by providing them a duffel bag with camping supplies which included a sleeping bag, toiletries, bath and beach towel, and all the other items needed for their camping experience. These foster care children and youth would not have had this opportunity to go to camp without the support of the Kirk Outreach and Mission. In addition, 20 older and aging out foster care youth were provided tote bag care packages of hygiene items in the spring 2021, and another 20 older aging out youth were provided Holiday Care Packages of socks, hats, gloves, Christmas lights, fleece blankets, notebooks and pens in a reusable tote bag in December 2021. Also 10 school back packs were provided for foster care children in September and cleaning supplies for an aging out youth living in his own apartment.



Kirk Tutors

Kirk Tutors have been working with and mentoring Pontiac Elementary School students for approximately 25 years. This twice a week, one-on-one assistance has positively impacted both students and tutors. Tutors provide help with homework, math, reading, journal writing and overall literacy. Students gain self-confidence by writing sentences based on the word of the week and then reading aloud to the group. Christ's love shines bright every time a student's individualized tutor comes in to work with them. They feel special and know that someone cares about them. Many only receive individual attention from an adult when they are in trouble. One of our goals is to provide them with a positive, encouraging environment that offers individual support and attention. Throughout the year we have special celebrations, parties and activities. We celebrate Christmas with gifts, pizza, jello jigglers, cookies and many games of BINGO. At the end of every school year, we celebrate with certificates of accomplishment, more pizza, fruit and BINGO (they love playing this game).



Ministry With Pontiac

2021 was a challenging year as we were not able to be with our Whitman students and staff for much of the year due to Covid fully and/or partially closing schools. Even when the school was partially open, visitors were not allowed in to help prevent any spread of the virus. However, the Kirk's Ministry With Pontiac still provided support to Whitman Elementary School. Here are some of the offerings:

- attendance incentives (gift cards & pizza celebrations) to encourage students to be in school and online
- warm, handmade/knitted hats for winter made especially for the kids by our Kirk knitters
- backpacks filled with school supplies packed by the Kirk congregation and passed out to families at a drive-through at Whitman Elementary
- teacher and staff appreciation throughout the year – individual cookies in the shapes of school supplies, cupcakes and gift cards
- Parade Company field trip
- Basketball Jones presentation on character, anti-bullying and kindness for all grade levels
- Participation in the Pontiac Trunk or Treat, a safe Halloween event put on by the Pontiac Education Coalition and sponsored by the Oakland County Sheriff. 4-5,000 children and parents safely trick or treat from 100 candy-filled, decorated vehicles, including many provided by Kirk members, in this fun family night in Pontiac.
- A professional development day hosted at the Kirk for the Whitman teachers. This year's speaker was specifically brought in to cover how best to teach students affected by trauma. Our speaker wrote several books, one of which was used as a study guide for the teachers at the Whitman Principal's monthly Teaching Institute.

Ministry With Pontiac (MWP) has been supporting elementary schools in Pontiac for over 15 years. Past years have included the purchase of hundreds of uniforms, socks, underwear, warm coats, boots, shoes, gloves, books and many field trips to the DIA, African American Museum, Science Museum, Underground Railroad Museum, Oakland University, Meadowbrook Theater and in school presentations about Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Science & Technology, Movie Night, Detroit Opera and Upland Hills Farm. These are programs that the students would not have had without your support so THANK YOU Kirk in the Hills. We look forward to many more years of sharing God's love with His children in Pontiac.



Hope Against Trafficking

Hope Against Trafficking is a Pontiac-based free two-year residential program for survivors of human trafficking, providing shelter, education, therapy and the love of Jesus Christ through a family focused ministry. In 2021, Hope Against Trafficking welcomed 3 new residents into the program and hired 3 new staff members. Kirk members have volunteered to raise awareness about the realities of human trafficking at local schools, churches, and community groups. Also, many Kirk members have worked on the Pontiac homes providing shelter for the residents of Hope Against Trafficking. Additionally, a member of the congregation provides weekly programming by running a Bible based book group for the residents of the program and many members of the congregation offered in-kind donations of furniture and housewares to support graduates of the program moving into their own apartments.



THANK YOU!



Micah 6

Micah 6 is a Pontiac based community organization that works to improve the lives of the residents of Pontiac by developing community gardens, providing fresh food to residents, assisting neighbors with home improvements, and developing the Webster Community Center for the offering of resources and programming for Pontiac residents. Kirk members helped clean up the neighborhood with Micah 6 during their Dwight Street Block Blitz; have provided meals once a month to Pontiac residents in partnership with Micah 6's regular weekly worship with residents and have helped provide gifts for 832 Pontiac children in connection with its annual Santa's workshop.

Dwight Street Block Blitz



Micah 6 Dinners



Micah 6 Toy Drive



National Mission in 2021

National Mission Partner	Amount Given
Thistle Farms, Nashville, TN	\$5,000

Thistle Farms



Thistle Farms is the largest social enterprise in the United States, and it employs survivors of human trafficking to manufacture bath and body products. Rev. Becca Stevens, is the founder of Thistle Farms and was featured as the 2021 keynote speaker for the Pontiac Mission Collaborators Conference, organized by the Outreach and Mission Committee of Kirk in the Hills.

Global Mission in 2021

Global Mission Partner	Amount Given
Adelaide Primary School, Province of the Eastern Cape, South Africa	\$2,153
Argentina Children's Network	\$2,650
Church World Service	\$15,000
Heifer International	\$2000
Good Shepherd Orphanage, Carrefour, Port Au Prince, Haiti	\$10,000
Koinonia Ministries, Orange Walk, Belize	\$9,155
Ninevah Church, Mosul, Iraq	\$20,000
Our Daughters International	\$200
Peaceworks – Aid for Nicaragua	\$10,620
Samaritas – Adopting an Afghani Family	\$10,000
Seki Women's Foundation, Port Elizabeth, South Africa	\$3,650

CROP Walk



Church World Services CROP Walk for Hunger

Kirk in the Hills, in partnership with five other area churches, raises money annually to help Church World Services address hunger scarcity worldwide. Funds raised in 2021 also supported earthquake-ravaged Haiti. Six local agencies, including Lighthouse, Baldwin Center, and Grace Centers of Hope, each received \$1,000. In 2021, the Birmingham/Bloomfield area CROP walk raised more than \$31,200 and came in 44th out of the top 100 U.S. CROP Walks, collectively known as the Cream of the Crop. Individually, Kirk in the Hills raised \$15,000 of that total and was ranked the eleventh highest fundraising church in the nation.

Global Mission

A Closer Look at 2021

Koinonia Ministries - Belize

Kirk in the Hills Outreach and Mission has been in partnership with Koinonia Ministries in Orange Walk, Belize since 2014 to “change Central America, one child at a time.” When Kirk adults and youth arrived in Belize in 2014, the small congregation was worshipping under a tarp in a dirt driveway. Kirk youth helped to construct a church building that has over 100 worshipping members and a vibrant youth group (imagined and inspired by the Kirk’s own youth group) that is actively involved in mission and outreach to families and churches throughout Central America.

In 2021, Koinonia Ministries was able to serve in the following ways thanks to the Kirk’s generous partnership:

- Koinonia started a daycare feeding program for 35 children whose parents lost their jobs due to the pandemic.
- Koinonia received a thank offering grant from the Presbyterian Women’s Foundation to finish and equip its daycare building and kitchen and establish a running well.
- Koinonia was offered to broadcast its children’s programming on national Belizean television in English and Spanish FREE OF CHARGE starting on 6/5/21 because no other church in the country of Belize was offering children’s Christian programming for television or social media.
- Koinonia offered online Christian formation training for churches throughout Central America from Mexico to Panama.
- Koinonia held a Christmas celebration and provided presents for 60 low-income children in Orange Walk, Belize.
- Koinonia also held a Christmas celebration and provided presents for another 60 inter-city children in Southside Belize City.
- Koinonia assisted local families with Christmas hampers and groceries.
- Koinonia supported pastoral families in El Salvador and Nicaragua.



Seki Women's Foundation – South Africa

Kirk in the Hills Outreach and Mission partnered with Seki Women's Foundation in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Through the generous benevolent giving from the Kirk, Seki was able to provide:

- warm meals 3 days a week to 150 children and 300 adults
- fresh vegetables and canned foods to residents for home cooking
- fresh fruits and dairy products for the children to eat at school
- the operational costs of the center.



Mission Trips in 2021

2021 Mission Trips for Kirk Members and Pastors	Amount Given
Guatemala Faith in Practice Medical Missions (Pastor Jasmine Smart)	\$1,200
Kirk Youth Mission Trip – Jonesville, Virginia (Kirk Youth and adult chaperones helped to repair homes in Appalachia)	\$17,000
Kirk Young Adult Mission Trip – Traverse City, Michigan (Reigning Liberty Ranch - young adults worked on a therapeutic horse farm to serve veterans and at-risk youth)	\$5,000

Guatemala Faith in Practice

Kirk Youth Mission Trip



Kirk Young Adults at Reigning Liberty Ranch in Traverse City on the Young Adult Mission Trip



Theological Education in 2021

Theological Education Funding for Kirk Members and Pastors	Amount Given
Tyler Brinks – Princeton Theological Seminary	\$2,500
Tyler Brinks – University of Dubuque	\$2,220
Edwin Estevez – Wesley House, Cambridge Theological Federation	\$1,600
Angela Ryo – Columbia Theological Seminary	\$1,960

Tyler Brinks



Edwin Estevez



Angela Ryo



Sources of Funding in 2021

Sources of Funding for Kirk Outreach and Mission Benevolent Giving and Service in 2021	Amount
Benevolence from Kirk Annual Giving 10% of the Kirk 2021 Annual Budget	\$170,000.00
Harrington Theological Education Endowment Fund	\$9,243.77
Lay New Church Endowment Fund	\$3,866.00
O'Hara Global and Mission Conference Endowment Fund	\$40,593.00
Outreach and Mission Endowment Fund — to support missional programs and activities of Kirk in the Hills	\$14,637.23
Additional giving from the Congregation and friends	[at least] \$30,000
Contributions from Ministry Partners, including: Flagstar Bank Flagstar Strand Theater Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA) Lighthouse Pontiac Collective Impact Partnership Pontiac Community Foundation Rahma Worldwide	[at least] \$50,000
In kind giving and donated items	immeasurable
Volunteer Hours	~10,000 hours

Faith Leaders Breakfast

May 31, 2021

On May 31, 2021, Kirk in the Hills hosted 40 faith leaders, business owners and representatives of local community organizations in Oakland County to discuss the needs in our community and ways to collaborate and build upon successful programs focused on serving our neighbors. Ideas and initiatives were shared and the enthusiasm was palpable. The gathering laid the foundation for many new connections in the local community, particularly focused on Pontiac and many of the participants returned on October 1, 2021 to continue conversation and momentum around service at the Pontiac Mission Collaborators Conference.



Pontiac Mission Collaborators Conference October 1, 2021

On October 1, 2021, Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church hosted the Pontiac Mission Collaborators Conference at the Flagstar Strand Theatre in Pontiac. Two hundred people were in attendance to hear presentations by Dr. Samino Scott of the Pontiac Collective Impact Partnership and Becca Stevens, the President and Founder of Thistle Farms in Nashville. Working breakout sessions were facilitated by OCEAN Programs of Cincinnati to address challenges facing the Pontiac community. Several local sponsors contributed nearly \$60,000 toward the costs of the gathering and to offer funding for innovative and collaborative solutions that originated from the conference.

As an outgrowth of the Mission Conference, the following projects will be funded and/or supported through a coaching cohort in partnership with OCEAN Programs to:

- 1) Establish a history/cultural storybook walking trail in an accessible community space.
- 2) Assist returning citizens with employment transportation funds.
- 3) Build an Integrated Educational Training Program that combines English Language Learners and a Certified Nursing Assistant training program.
- 4) Create a collaborative fashion industry experience in Pontiac that will cultivate entrepreneurship.
- 5) Capture collective and collaborative efforts among corporations, civic entities, churches, and nonprofit organizations to initiate and operate a social enterprise and improve and increase human services.
- 6) Launch a pilot to put five (5) new programs online and connect them together with the recipients of past support to form a data base and streamline human resource triage.
- 7) Provide paid training experience for people facing barriers to living wage employment and for the employees' children to be nurtured holistically through childcare and aftercare programs.
- 8) Fund therapeutic and case management services to assist survivors of sexual violence.
- 9) Train and Educate Pontiac Youth in resilience by addressing areas of trauma/adverse learning experiences, raising awareness, and offering resources.

**Save the date for this year's Pontiac Mission Collaborator's Conference,
featuring Father Gregory Boyle of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles:
Saturday, October 1, 2022**

2021 Pontiac Mission Collaborators Conference



November Service Challenge

2021 marks the fifth year the Kirk has challenged our congregation, along with other partner churches including First Presbyterian Church of Pontiac, First Presbyterian Church of Troy, Northbrook Presbyterian Church, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Orchard Lake Community Church, University Presbyterian Church, Fox Run and others, to make MORE of a concerted effort to get out and serve! We met the challenge this year serving 5,011 hours. We touched thousands of people's lives and made a huge impact in our community!

Rather than focusing so much attention on serving in just one month, we are rolling out a new challenge:

“22 Hours of Service in 2022.” Essentially our hope is that people will get in the habit of serving someone/somewhere at least once a month becoming God's hands and feet throughout the whole entire year!



Looking Ahead at Outreach & Mission Events and Collaborations in 2022

JANUARY 2022

MLK Jr. Day of Service – Hope Against Trafficking
JANUARY is human trafficking month and in connection with the MLK Jr. Day of service, the youth are working to support Hope Against Trafficking with the planning and hosting of an anti-human trafficking awareness and fundraising event.

FEBRUARY 2022

Superbowl of Soup Fundraiser for Youth Mission: Feb 6

Walk in Love Weekend: February 11 – 13

MARCH 2022

Lenten Canned Food Drive: Ash Weds March 2 thru Easter

APRIL 2022

Pontiac Collective Earth Day Clean Up: April 18 - 24

Adopt-A-Road Long Lake Clean Up: April 30

MARE (Michigan Adoption) Meet & Greet: April 30

MAY 2022

Faith Leaders Breakfast: May 18

South Oakland Shelter (S.O.S.) Week: May 15 – 21

Micah 6 Block Blitz: May 20 & 21

JUNE 2022

Rebuilding Together: June 3

Men of the Kirk Bill Robinson Memorial Car Show: June 12

High School Mission Trip (Disaster Relief in KY): June 18

JULY 2022

Camp Skyline Transport: July 17, 22, 24, 29

AUGUST 2022

School Supply Collection: All Month

Backpack Stuffing “Party:” August 21

Backpack Rally for Pontiac Youth

Young Adult Mission Trip

SEPTEMBER 2022

Bethany Baby Closet Collection: All Month

Parish Council Rummage Sale: September 15 - 18

Church World Services CROP Walk: September 25

OCTOBER 2022

Halloween Candy & Costume Collection: All Month

Pontiac Mission Collaborators Conference: October 1

Life Remodeled: October 7 & 8

Adopt-A-Road Long Lake Clean Up: October 15

Pontiac Trunk or Treat: October 26

NOVEMBER 2022

Green Bucket 5K Run for Accent Pontiac: November 5

Covenant House Sleep Out

Humble Design Home Furnishing: November 4

Westminster Thanksgiving Dinner Ministry: Nov 24

First Presbyterian Church of Pontiac Thanksgiving Dinner

DECEMBER 2022

Festival of Carols and Lights: December 4

Deacons Adopt-A-Family Christmas Ministry

CARE House & Micah 6 Angel Trees: Nov. – Dec.

Micah 6 Santa's Workshop: December 17

Youth Choirs Caroling at Local Senior Living Facilities

ONGOING MINISTRIES IN 2022

Accent Pontiac Student Dinners

– Mondays and Thursdays

Baldwin Center Sandwich Ministry

– Every Tuesday

Forgotten Harvest Food Packing

– Second Friday of Every Month

Forgotten Harvest “Harvest Heroes” Food Collection

– Every Monday

Focus Hope: Senior Citizen Food Delivery

– Second Saturday of Every Month

Hope Against Trafficking Book Group with Residents

– Every Tuesday

Kirk Tutoring

– Every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the School Year

Lighthouse Food Deliveries to Pontiac Families

– Every Thursday

Micah 6 Dinners for the Neighborhood

– Third Sunday of Every Month

Thank you to the members and friends of Kirk in the Hills who gave generously and demonstrated servant leadership in the community and around the world. You shine the light of Christ in the world.

