

Report of the Lyle Moffett Grant Fund
January, 2012

The Lyle Moffett Grant Fund Committee met in Nov. 2011 and approved eleven grants to congregations and mission communities in our presbytery. We had only \$11,424 to respond to request for twice that. The following summary provides a hint of how the Spirit of Christ is at work today through His Church

The Front Royal P.C. continues their work with the St. Luke Community Clinic. They have been providing a variety of health care needs to those in poverty or low income for fifteen years. They served over 900 residents last year. The Moffett grant was \$1,000 for an emergency fund for the uninsured in Front Royal and Warren County.

The Highland-Augusta Mission Community continues its twelve year ministry with the Oaxacan Indian people on the Baja peninsula. Supported also by the Central Valley Mission Community, this outreach of over 500 members from 32 of our congregations has helped build houses, schools, churches, and install a water purification system. The Moffett grant was \$1,000 to help them build three/four more houses and to learn and share Christian love with those they meet.

The Highland Memorial P.C. continues its local outreach to those in need through a Food Pantry that was organized in 1982. In 2010 this area food pantry served over 7,000 persons with 4,000 hours of volunteer service. Volunteers come from the Highland members, neighboring churches, the Mountain Valley Mission Community churches, and from the local community. From this core ministry has emerged other programs such as breakfast service, emergency bills paid, Bibles and book distribution, and ESOL classes. The Moffett grant was \$1,000 to assist in a program to educate and engage the greater Winchester area in the opportunities and needs of this mission.

The Loch Willow P.C. plans to increase its congregation's experience in reaching out to the world around by involving its Sr. High Youth in the trip to the Baja area with other Presbyterians. This is their third such trip with other youth participating in '04 and '08. As the youth plan, they will make periodic presentations to the congregation and share with them upon their return. The emphasis is on this mission being something the whole congregation takes part in. The Moffett grant was \$1,000 to assist them in this ministry.

The Middletown P.C. , having seen a growth in request for food assistance, will begin distributing "Bags of Love" for children in need. The food is to help children have something to eat on the weekend. The program is jointly run by several churches and with the help and support of the local elementary school. The cost is about \$20. per month per child. They are starting small and hope that the ministry will grow. The Moffett grant was \$1,250.

The Opequon P.C. has sent its youth on a mission trip for the past four summers. Working through the "Appalachian Service Project", about 21 youth and adults go to a prescribed area to help restore homes, hope, and share Christ's love. Last year they

worked in Pike County, KY where three work crews helped improve three homes. The lasting friendships off set the long hours of this week long mission. The cost is between \$4,500 and \$5,000 dollars to the church, the families, and other resources. The Moffett grant was \$1,000.

The Sherando P.C. plans a third summer mission trip for its youth. Working with the Presbytery of West Virginia, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the WV Ministry of Advocacy, about 15 youth and adults will spend one week working to help those in need. Flood victims and homes needing basic assistance, like water pipes, were helped in the past. The cost of this mission trip is between \$250 and \$300 per person. The families involved and the local congregation provide most of the funding. The Moffett grant was \$1,424.

A Trinity P.C. House Church, Bridges to Building Community, is working through the auspices of Bridges of Hope/Harrisonburg/Rockingham affiliate to mentor a single mother and her child as they participate in the 24 month program of Bridges of Hope. This program seeks to enable them to find wholeness and an end to homelessness. The mentors will help her maintain her new home, provide food and other items as needed, and to be a friend to the family that can celebrate birthdays, etc. with them.

The house church will also support the HARTS homeless shelter program buying supplies as needed and helping to host HARTS one week in the year. The Moffett grant was \$500.

The Tuscarora P.C. has heard the call to care for the forty children living in an especially poverty ridden area in their county called "Sportsman's Paradise". In a flood plain in a remote area with high unemployment, the children depend on the public schools to provide them something to eat. In the summer, many of them go hungry. The church will provide bag lunches two days a week, send meals home two days and add special foods each Wednesday when they make home visits. They will also have two picnics in the summer and provide back to school supplies at summers end.

While some help will be given by college students, the 4-H club and another nearby church, most of the challenge will be born by the members of the Tuscarora church family. They are aware that the need is overwhelming and pray for more help as others learn of their mission. The Moffett grant was \$1,250.

The Warm Springs P.C. has accepted the request to administer the pre-school program in Bath County, known as TOTS. TOTS meets in their church and receives its financial support. The families of the pre-school children are introduced to the faith dimension of the curriculum through Bible lessons, prayers, and invitations to attend worship especially when the children help lead in the service. Now, TOTS is at a financial crossroads and is actively reaching out to the community with fund raising efforts to keep it going. The Moffett grant was \$1,000.

The Warrenton P. C. plans to continue its five year ministry called The Haven Dinner Program. Started from a Senior High Sunday school lesson on mission, the Haven Dinner Program enlists the church youth in cooking a meal once a month for the

residents of the Fauquier Haven Shelter. The Sr. High youth prepare a variety of nutritious hot meals and take them to the shelter. The 5th and 6th grade Vacation Bible School classes help by adding a "Birthday in a Bag" complete with a cake. This year they plan to expand the ministry to a church wide mission and, with the adults in the church joining in, provide a hot meal at the church for the Haven community as well as any others who seek a home cooked meal. The Moffett grant was \$1,000.

. These churches, like many others in our presbytery, have a strong sense of our Lord's call to reach out in ministries of compassion. Their sacrificial efforts, creative plans and vision are an inspiration for us all. We pray for these activities asking God's blessing on their work.

Don Allen,
Chair, Moffett Grant Fund Comm.