



**Wisconsin Conference  
United Church of Christ**

## **This year more than ever...Neighbors in Need**

*By Sue McBride, Northwest Association*

In 2020, more than ever, your contributions to the Neighbors in Need offering are needed. Our country is experiencing unprecedented needs in this time of the Covid-19 crisis. "I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me - you did it to me." Matthew 25:40 (The Message). The theme of the 2020 campaign is: "All Children have the right to simply be children."



The Neighbors in Need Offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. On average, this vital offering annually collects around one million dollars. At present, nearly 100% of monies raised is used to fund mission programs and projects.

One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). CAIM is the voice for American Indian people in the UCC with 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches, as well as more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations, are supported to strengthen their participation in the life of the church.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives,

advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. In 2019, there were four grant recipients in the Wisconsin Conference. They included; the Finley Foundation, Inc., for construction ASAP Pre-Apprenticeship Program, Lake Edge UCC for Invest in People, Union Congregational Church UCC for On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic, and the Alliance for Justice organization.

The Alliance for Justice is a newly formed corporation conceived by the Ho-Chunk UCC congregation in Black River Falls. The purpose of this organization is to respond to the need for education and action regarding the continuing impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery on the health and well being of indigenous people, African Americans, Asian, Latino and all others who have been negatively affected by this Doctrine.

Due to the prolonged impact of Covid-19 and the fact that many of our churches and conferences are experiencing increased economic challenges, there are some differences with NIN grants this year. The Covid-19 relief microgrants program has been established to provide financial assistance to local church ministries in crisis by repurposing and redirecting established grant funding for one year. Funds are intended to be used only for issues directly related to the impact of the coronavirus.

Applications for a NIN grant can be completed online at [https://www.ucc.org/nin\\_apply](https://www.ucc.org/nin_apply).

Neighbors in Need helps make a **Just World For All** possible. The suggested date to receive the offering is **October 4, 2020**.