

# NEIGHBORS IN NEED

## 2019 Offering

### Who is my Neighbor?

As Jesus tells us in the story of the Good Samaritan, the short answer is: *Everybody*.

The God we follow is a God of justice, compassion, and love. God in the Person of Jesus Christ not only did not *avoid* those who were the outcasts and the “undesirable elements” of their society, but *actively sought them out* for special consideration. He taught them – and the rest of us, too – that “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34) and that God’s love is given abundantly, freely, and without reservation to all people in the human family.

Our yearly Neighbors in Need offering is one way in which we can all follow that teaching. Our gifts, of whatever size, are multiplied by all the other gifts given throughout the UCC and go to help people in need, most of whom we will never meet.

Your contributions to NiN support the following:

- The Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM);
- The UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM);
- Justice initiatives;
- Advocacy efforts;
- Direct service projects through grants;
- Grants to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities (these grants fund projects which range from direct service, to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice).



A particularly timely focus this year is on our immigrant neighbors and communities. The words of Leviticus 19:34 are especially significant on this point: “You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

Such is the power of compassion. The Neighbors in Need offering is not just another envelope you find in your Sunday bulletin; it is, rather, an opportunity to you to directly and positively minister to your neighbors, far and near.

***The NiN offering is scheduled for October 6th. Please give it your careful and prayerful consideration.***

### Be a “5 for 5” Congregation!

Churches that achieve their base pledge to “Our Church’s Wider Mission” and donate to all 4 national UCC fundraisers each year are counted as “5 for 5” churches for supporting every special national effort. These offerings give our churches a way to be a small (or large) part of something big!

Local congregations are helped by these offerings in our state, across the nation, and around the world. Giving to these offerings means that our funds added together can provide more support in much larger ways that we can do alone.

Thanks for your help through these annual UCC fundraisers and other emergency and special-need offerings:

- *One Great Hour of Sharing*
- *Strengthen the Church*
- *Neighbors in Need*
- *The Christmas Fund*
- *Our Church’s Wider Mission*



All donations are appreciated, and are used toward disaster relief, mission trip scholarships, help to local churches and clergy, immigrant and refugee assistance, social justice action, overseas ministries and more as we join hands across our communities, the nation, and the world in service of Christ.

This information and encouragement is sent to you from the Northwest Association’s Division of the Mission of the Church in the World.