

Alternative Christmas at UMCE December 2020

As has been our tradition for more than thirty years, the United Methodist Church of Evergreen is again offering the option of presenting Christmas gifts in the form of honor donations to non-profit organizations we support. In 2020 we won't be taking donations in person, but we hope this most Christian Christmas celebration gift can still provide a way for the congregation to recognize family and friends in the Christmas spirit.

An order form is provided below. The completed form and payment may be left in the Alternative Christmas donations basket in Fellowship Hall on any Sunday in December, or if unable to be in church on those dates, sent in to the church office. Checks should be made out to the United Methodist Church of Evergreen with the note "Alternative Christmas" on the memo line. To ensure contributions are credited to the intended organization, please include your order form with your check.

SPONSORED THIS YEAR: Bethlehem Bible College; Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity; Center for Health and Hope (formerly Center for Church and Global AIDS); Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Evergreen Christian Outreach; Family Promise; JOY International; Kenya Youth Sponsorship; Mean Street Ministry; Mountain Resource Center; Pura Vida Ministries; and Urban Peak Youth Shelter. See the Happenings newsletter for more details.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS 2020 DONATIONS

NAME: _____ TOTAL AMOUNT OF GIFT: \$ _____

ADDRESS: _____

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF: _____

Bethlehem Bible College: \$ _____	JOY International: \$ _____
Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity: \$ _____	Kenya Youth Sponsorship: \$ _____
Center for Health and Hope: \$ _____	Mean Street Ministry: \$ _____
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless: \$ _____	Mountain Resource Center: \$ _____
Evergreen Christian Outreach: \$ _____	Pura Vida Ministries: \$ _____
Family Promise: \$ _____	Urban Peak Shelter: \$ _____

Alternative Christmas Giving December 2020

Bethlehem Bible College: Bethlehem Bible College is an interdenominational college which uses Arabic as its primary language of instruction. Courses are accredited through the Middle East and North Africa Association for Theological Education (MENATE), the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education, and several international theological organizations. The college exists to train people to serve Christ in the world, advocate a Palestinian evangelical perspective, and model Christ through community development. UMCE church members visited the college on their 2009 trip to the Holy Land.

Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity: This ecumenical Christian affiliate of Habitat utilizes volunteer labor and local donations to build homes in Evergreen and the surrounding area with and for local low-income families.

Center for Health and Hope: An ecumenical Christian and inter-faith organization (formerly Center for the Church and Global AIDS) founded by Dr. Don Messer working to address the challenges of the global HIV and AIDS pandemic and related health needs in the world through programs of awareness, education, prevention, care, and treatment. Our own Bill Graf is a recipient of their "Hero of the Year" award.

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless: The Coalition was established in 1984 with the belief that all persons have the right to adequate housing and health care. Their integrated approach combines high quality and safe housing, with free of charge health and mental health care, along with individualized support services for each resident. The Coalition opened Downtown Lofts in June 2018, their 18th residence in the Denver area, to house 100 formerly homeless individuals.

Evergreen Christian Outreach: Evergreen Christian Outreach (EChO) assists people in our community with their basic and urgent needs and helps them realize their potential on a path to self-sufficiency. To that end, it provides a food bank for weekly grocery shopping, holiday meals, a "summer lunch for kids" program, energy assistance (utilities, fire-wood), financial assistance for clients with temporary loss of wages, a job center to assist with workforce development and job search skills, a cold weather emergency shelter program for those experiencing homelessness, and specific assistance for Veterans. EChO was named 2019 Non-Profit of the Year by the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce.

Family Promise: An organization providing temporary shelter, meals, and services through local church and volunteer support for greater Denver area families experiencing homelessness. UMCE volunteers provide support during the year for Arvada/Wheatridge/Lakewood families sheltering at Jefferson Avenue UMC.

JOY International: Founded in 1981 by Dr. Jeff Brodsky to be involved in, or help coordinate, the rescue, restoration, reintegration, and prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children, both domestically and internationally. Trafficking in people, especially women and children for sexual exploitation, is the fastest growing industry in the world, grossing more than 150 billion dollars annually.

Kenya Youth Sponsorship (KYS): Formed in 2003 by UMCE's Heather and Donna Mullins to sponsor underprivileged secondary students in Ekwanda Village in Western Kenya, where Heather lived in 2002. Since its inception, KYS has sponsored 100 students, with as many graduates, many of whom have gone on to post-secondary schools and have children of their own. While there are still several students in college, some who have graduated, many with families, are struggling to find work in Kenya and need some support.

Mean Street Ministry: Mean Street Ministry is a non-profit Christian organization serving the working poor and homeless along West and East Colfax Avenue. They are dedicated to bringing the love of Christ to those who feel disconnected from family, community, and God, providing winter shelter and a prison ministry. Mean Street Ministry provides a safe environment for lay Christians to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Some of our UMCE members prepare burritos to serve to the 1000 people fed weekly by Mean Street Ministry.

Mountain Resource Center (MRC): The MRC vision is to deliver long-term solutions for Conifer, Bailey, and Evergreen families that inspire hope, resilience and independence. Their services include family advocacy, crisis assistance, financial coaching, workforce services, two-generation family education, Parents as Teachers home visitation, healthy living programs, veteran support, and a Resale Store and food pantry. By working in collaboration with local businesses, private and public organizations, churches, schools, and individual volunteers and donors, MRC serves as a hub to address community needs.

Pura Vida Ministries: Pura Vida facilitates the sharing of resources with communities in Guatemala in a meaningful, respectful, and long term way. Their primary focus is on providing educational opportunities for children in rural villages through scholarships, tutoring, and support of local schools. They encourage others to work with them in giving time, knowledge, and resources to help poor rural communities attain a standard of living in which children can thrive. UMCE members traveled to Guatemala last summer to help local Mayan students learn English.

Urban Peak Youth Shelter: Founded in 1988, Urban Peak is the only non-profit organization in Denver that provides a full convergence of services for youth ages 15 through 24 experiencing homelessness, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Their goal is to help youth overcome real life challenges and become self-sufficient adults by providing essential services at little or no cost to the youth: an overnight shelter, a daytime Drop-In Center, street outreach, education and employment programming, and supportive housing.