

## **2016 Challenge to Change (Ch 2 Ch) Grant**



### **God's Disciples (GDX) and PPC Youth Development Program**

The Peekskill Presbyterian Church (PPC) has a long history of community engagement and outreach ministry. So when a group of children and young adults who use dance and music as a mechanism to pray and serve Jesus found themselves without a place to practice during the 2015 school year, PPC opened their doors to them. This group, known as God's Disciples (GDX) and comprising as many as 50 members, now practices in the PPC social hall every Friday from 3 to 9 pm. The group performs all over Westchester and Rockland Counties at church services and is increasingly in demand. However, many of these young adults are "at risk" and the ability to have a safe place to go, socialize and dance is an immense gift in their lives. Wishing to expand the GDX program and blend those activities with their existing youth program into a sustainable ministry, PPC applied for and received an HRP \$7,000 Ch 2 Ch grant in 2016.

PPC had seven goals in their original application: provide food and nourishment, do some tutoring in life skills, expose the youth to some history and culture (including Bible study), go on some day trips, do some camping, expand the dance program, and participate in community mission work. Now, a year later, PPC feels that only their tutoring goal was not met. However, an eighth, unanticipated expenditure category developed over the course of the year: clothing and school supplies, a GDX CD recording session, and a prom ticket. Yet as word of their program spread, they were able to raise additional funds, both financial and in-kind, to support the program.

Do you or a member of your church have a great idea that reflect the mission and core values of the Hudson River Presbytery but that idea could use some financial assistance? Please visit the HRP web page, click on "Stewardship Ministries," then "Grants Committee," then "Overview of HRP Grants." There you will find information about the various grants our Presbytery offers as well as those offered by our Synod and the General Assembly. And you will also find application forms there.