

Salem Matters: Hunger Blurb

Grace magnifies grace. Just as Jesus took “the five loaves and two fishes and blessed and multiplied them” to create an abundance in Matthew’s Gospel, because of your time, talents, and generosity Salem Hunger Committee was able to collect pennies on the Second Sunday of every month from its members churches.

These pennies become nickels, dimes become dollars, and hundreds become thousands. Collectively, we can magnify our impact and serve more of our neighbors in need as the body of Christ than we can do individually. Thank you to the members of the Salem Hunger Committee who meet throughout the year, review grant applications biannually, and strategize about how to keep our domestic and international partners serving food insecure populations that need it. Through their hard work and your generosity, the Salem Hunger Committee was able to grant the following funds in their Fall 2023 Grant cycle:

Andrews Snack Pack at Andrews Elementary School	\$2,200
Crossroads Presbyterian Church	\$2,000
Cooperative Community Ministry	\$2,200
Iredell Christian Ministries Inc.	\$2,200
Meals on Wheel Rowan, Inc.	\$2,200
Pastor’s Pantry (targeting Senior Hunger)	\$2,200
Residential Treatment Services of Alamance, Inc.	\$2,200
Yokefellow Cooperative Ministry	\$2,200
Yokefellow Ministry of Greater Statesville	\$2,200
Salvation Army	\$2,000
Boy and Girls Club of the Piedmont	\$2,200
Total: \$23,600.00	

Maui Response: The Committee also discussed the best way to respond to the incredible needs on the ground following the wildfires that engulfed Maui. Volunteers from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been deployed; however Hunger funds have to be allocated for Feeding ministries and/or infrastructure related to food distribution needs. The committee decided to allocate \$3,000 from the committee’s international funds to World Central Kitchen who is feeding people on the ground.

This \$3,000 does not by any means encumber meeting the Committee’s financial obligations to international partners in Kenya and the Congo in 2024. Committee members are also talking about organizing a Salem Presbytery mission trip to Maui in the Spring if there is enough interest. The goal of this trip would be to assist with whatever needs are on the ground (which could be but is not limited to): to help with re-building, food related, ministering to people, etc. Please let Leigh Wisner or Rev. Kyle Goodman know if you might be interested.

Empowered by Salem Presbytery's vision of living-out the Matthew 25 initiative, the Salem Hunger Committee believes we emulate Jesus and follow his directives when he says, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."