

“On behalf of Trinity Church in Tyrone and the Volunteer Church Meals Program, we praise God and thank the Operation Understanding Committee for this grant of \$500. This will provide approximately 350 meals to seniors and home-bound individuals.”

-The Rev. Jack Hoffer



OUTREACH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES HELP OUR PARISHES AND COMMUNITIES

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of **activities**, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

History and Purpose

Operation Understanding was formed in 1968 by Bishop Dean Stevenson. Its creation followed the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. The purpose of the program was “**to tear down walls wherever they existed, and in their place, build bridges.**”

While the initial impetus for Operation Understanding was the racial tensions in our country, it was soon recognized that underlying those tensions were root causes that affect all marginalized people, regardless of their race.

The diocese also became aware that local areas were best equipped to identify what was needed in their respective communities, and that the parish church was the most effective vehicle of response.

For over 45 years, the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania has helped congregations to establish or continue literally hundreds of programs throughout its borders. In every instance, the local parish has been encouraged to become partners with the diocese through raising matching funds, by utilizing its facilities, as well as personally involving the people of the church. Operation Understanding has become a model for the entire Episcopal Church.

Learn More and Apply for Grants at:

www.diocesecpa.org/mission/operationunderstanding

Operation Understanding



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1-888-236-5959

Planting a Seed to Grow an Outreach Ministry

OPERATION UNDERSTANDING

is our diocesan commitment to provide grant funding to help a parish create a new outreach ministry or enhance an established one within its community. Often parish members recognize a human need to provide food, clothing, heat, shelter and other life necessities affecting the less fortunate of God's children. As they envision establishing a new ministry, a financial obstacle may confront them. **OPERATION UNDERSTANDING** can furnish 'seed funding' to enable committed and faithful parish members get their new ministry underway. Twice a year **OPERATION UNDERSTANDING's** committee meets to review and approve ministry grant requests from parishes located within the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania.

Several factors used by **OPERATION UNDERSTANDING** for considering grant funding include:

- knowing how parish members and vestry are involved with the ministry's recipients and its ongoing mission,
- recognizing the economic condition of people where the outreach ministry will serve,
- understanding the degree of support as demonstrated by the parish's vestry and members for the ministry,
- knowing if the ministry qualifies for other financial support from ecumenical and/or community agencies,
- examining the ministry's projected operations budget.

OPERATION UNDERSTANDING

has two grant cycles each year, and the application deadline dates are January 31st and October 31st. Grant amounts generally fall within the range of \$500 to \$2,500. Priority is given to newly created ministries. An established ministry may apply for grant funding when expanding its mission to meet a new outreach need. Grant applications and guidelines can be found at www.diocesecpa.org/mission/operationunderstanding.

In addition, a written progress report is required to be sent to **OPERATION UNDERSTANDING** six months after receipt of a grant. Personal stories, photos, and financial statements contained in the progress report give a broad view of the ministry's success and how responsive the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania is in helping people in need.

OPERATION UNDERSTANDING grants are made possible through the generosity of parishes and parishioners who contribute to **OPERATION UNDERSTANDING** through the annual Alleluia Appeal, monetary gifts from parishes and individuals, proceeds from 'Outreach Sunday' offerings, and from fundraising projects. The major source for **OPERATION UNDERSTANDING** comes from the diocese's Bishop Stevenson Fund.



RECENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

St. Matt's Diaper Pantry

St. Matthew, Sunbury

Distributes free disposable diapers to families in need on the first Saturday of each month.

Father Abraham's Children

St. Paul's, Manheim

Supplies local children with school supplies and clothing.

Tyrone Volunteer Church Meals

Trinity, Tyrone

Provides meals to home-bound persons, mainly elderly, who are not reached by the local Meals on Wheels program.

ALERT

Shared Ministry of Lancaster Convocation

Supplies personal hygiene bags to community organizations serving the homeless.

Eagle's Nest After-School Program

St. John's, Lancaster

Oversees an after-school program serving elementary school children on Wednesday afternoons.

The Community Café at St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's, State College

Serves meals every Thursday evening to anyone who is in need of a meal or companionship.

Summer Program for Youth

St. John's, Carlisle

Provides a seven-week summer program for children with an academic emphasis, blended with recreation and community awareness. Importantly, it helps at-risk, elementary age children to maintain their reading and math skills during the summer break.