



**Alyce D. Peiffer**  
**UNITED THANK OFFERING COORDINATOR**  
**Diocese of Central Pennsylvania**  
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**UTO website: [www.episcopalchurch.org/page/united-thank-offering](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/united-thank-offering)**

Dear Friends of United Thank Offering:

Traditionally we have two Ingatherings a year - spring & fall. Our spring ingathering target date is Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> for 2016. As coordinator you can select the best date for your parish.

What makes UTO different from other fund raising activities? And why should I participate?

With UTO it is more than just donating money. UTO is an outward and visible sign to thank God for all of the things He has done and provided for us. By dropping a few coins in our UTO box when we want to say, 'Thank you' does amazing things:

- build a Child Development Program for newborns to age 4 in Duluth, GA
- provide seed money for training facilitators for women recovering from substance abuse and domestic violence in Albany, NY
- fund an art teacher and supplies for a camp for children of incarcerated parents in Milford, IN
- funding for computers for the 'Darby Program' a collaborative effort between the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, Episcopal Community Services and the Leadership of Darby Borough, PA
- provide a vehicle to replace an old model used for diocesan activities, community outreach and for the Bishop's travels in the Province of Tanzania.
- construct a building and provide all the necessary items to make corn grown in the area into blue cornmeal for the Diocese of Navajoland area Mission.

In 2015 a new type of granting was started to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UTO, called Young Adult Grants. These are special grants of \$1250.00 and given one to each of the nine provinces in support of a ministry lead by young adults. The UTO Board has decided to continue this special granting going forward. In Province III (our Province), the Diocese of Virginia was awarded a Young Adult Grant to create an intentional community on an unused Episcopal property. Four, 20-something residents will lead weekly worship, creative relational programming and farming initiatives on this property.

There were no grant applications in our diocese for 2016. We have received grants in the past including for St. John's in Carlisle to provide a safe outdoor play space for children, St. Barnabas Center to upgrade their kitchen, and Mending Hearts (a Christian Program) start up in the Bellefonte area for women having experienced the trauma of sexual abuse. It has been several years since a grant application from The Diocese of Central PA has been selected for a UTO Grant and in part this has been due to a lack of anyone

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applying for a grant. The criteria and application information for 2017 will be available in late 2016. I am hoping someone in our Diocese will take the initiative to apply for a UTO Grant to help fund their special project.

Gathering all of the funds throughout the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion from the Little Blue Boxes supported the \$1,558,006.85 in Grants awarded in 2015. All of the money from the Little Blue Boxes is given back in grants. No funds from The Blue Boxes are used for any other purpose. There is no other organization I know of that can say that.

**Pass out those Little Blue Boxes --- Encourage everyone to use them all year long!**

- To the ladies of your parish. They have lead the way in support of UTO for years
- To Families. Start a new tradition. UTO is not just for women, and you do not have to have an ECW to participate.
- To Youth and children. Begin good habits at an early age of faithful giving and taking time to thank God for all his blessings

Designate any loose change in the bottom of a pocket or handbag to go into your Little Blue Box. How about the change found in the laundry or under the cushions on the furniture.

Remember to praise God and thank him for the beautiful spring day, good health, or the presence of loved ones, or in this Easter season just being thankful for the reason for the season. What better way to say "thanks" for our blessings.

If you have specific questions about UTO or would like to have a short presentation on UTO, please feel free to contact me. All UTO supplies can be ordered on the Episcopal Church website.

**THANK YOU!**

Please include form below with your check. If possible 1 (one) check from the Parish is preferred.

**UNITED THANK OFFERING - SPRING INGATHERING 2016**

**Make checks payable to: Diocese of Central Pennsylvania/UTO**

**Send to: Alyce D. Peiffer, UTO Diocesan Coordinator    utocentralpa@gmail.com**  
**63 E. Crestlyn Drive, York, PA 17402                      717-515-2768 cell**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grand Total:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UTO PARISH COORDINATOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number & e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

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