



**Nazarene
Compassionate
Ministries**

Compassion as a lifestyle



May 2015

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About NCM USA/Canada

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to live and act compassionately in the world following Christ's own life and ministry. We seek to be incarnations of the same gospel that Christ lived and preached and to be witnesses to the same love and compassion God has for our world.

In the United States and Canada, NCM works closely with Compassionate Ministry Centers (CMCs) to bring compassion and healing to communities that need the love and presence of Christ.

Mission

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada partners with Nazarene interests to facilitate ministries which address the temporal as well as the spiritual needs of the economically disadvantaged.

Churches

Local churches are the primary avenue for Nazarenes to reach out to those in their communities. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to support churches in starting and maintaining ministry to the under-served and marginalized. We believe every church, no matter size or budget, can find ways to meet needs in their community with compassion, creative, and the firm foundation and life-changing power

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

Food Security. Do families have enough food to sustain an active, healthy life? Sadly, the answer for most is no. Hunger has grown in record proportions in all facets of our society. It's not just an issue for the inner city or third-world countries any more. It is a challenge facing our neighbors, friends, and family. Hunger doesn't discriminate and can become a challenge for your family in a matter of seconds.



I firmly believe that the Church can play a key role in helping to end physical hunger so we can better meet the needs of spiritual hunger.

Many organizations and churches are doing great work. One of my personal favorites is **Trevecca Nazarene University's Urban Farm and Garden Program** that is creating access to healthy food for Trevecca's neighbors who are living in a food desert. Check out what they are doing and contact **Jamie Casler** to learn more about this model program.

Some churches and organizations are participating in a **"Grow not Mow"** model. They are using some of their empty grassy areas to plant gardens for neighbors or to create a greater availability of fresh fruits and vegetables at their food pantry.

There are lots of ways you can help be the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors. We often have to meet their physical needs long before we can minister to their spiritual needs.

We may not feed 5,000 but we can offer our lunch.

Jay Height

of the Gospel message.

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Coordinator, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada

CMCs- Compassionate Ministry Centers

A Compassionate Ministry Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the under-resourced in the community. While these organizations are often affiliated with a specific local church, they are in a strategic position to unite others in their community around a high-needs cause.

NDR- Nazarene Disaster Response

Nazarene Disaster Response is Nazarenes mobilizing for disaster through Readiness, Response, and Recovery. Local Nazarenes are in a unique position to understand, serve, and remain with disaster victims in their own neighborhoods. In large-scale events the denomination can come alongside local efforts with the support of volunteers and donors from across the country and through our strong partnerships with other disaster relief agencies. NDR serves victims regardless of race, creed, or economic status by concentrating on assistance to the poor, elderly, and handicapped.

W&W- Work & Witness

Work & Witness provides opportunities for Nazarenes to serve together in support of existing ministries such as churches, CMCs, and Nazarene Disaster Response. Work & Witness can be any type of project, from construction to evangelism to compassionate outreach.

Contact

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Current Funding Opportunities

Lincoln Financial Group's 2015 Lincoln's Legacy Awards support programs that boost high school graduation rates and college preparedness through mentoring, tutoring, technology training, and college readiness programs. Nonprofit organizations with annual operating expenses of at least \$750,000 are eligible to apply. **[More information](#)**

Deadline: May 15, 2015

Amount: \$50,000

U.S. Soccer Foundation Safe Places to Play provides grants to organizations to help them build or enhance field space in their communities. Funds may be used for installation of field surfaces, lighting, and irrigation. **[Information](#)**

Deadline: May 29, 2015

Amount: \$50,000

DOJ's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is requesting proposals for programs that provide comprehensive services for victims of all forms of human trafficking in-house or through partnerships. Direct services include intake assessment, case management, shelter, medical, dental, mental health, translation, substance abuse treatment, legal support and advocacy, literacy education and job training, life skills training, employment assistance, and transportation. **[Full RFP](#)**

Deadline: June 1, 2015

Amount: \$750,000

Match: 25%

Duration: 3 years

RGK Foundation is accepting proposals for projects focused on human services, community improvement activities, abuse prevention, and youth development. **[Apply](#)**

Deadline: June 12, 2015

Amount: \$25,000

Best Buy Foundation National Youth Technology Program supports efforts that help teens build 21st century skills by using cutting-edge technology such as computers, digital cameras, video cameras, and professional software. **[More information](#)**

Deadline: November 1, 2015

Amount: \$200,000

Ben & Jerry's Foundation offers competitive grants to not-for-profit, grassroots community organizing groups throughout the United States that aim for progressive social change. Applicants must use of direct action, grassroots, community-organizing strategies that involve those most impacted by injustice to be addressed and support their leadership development and self-empowerment efforts. Priorities



include sustainable food systems. The Foundation makes one-year grants of up to \$20,000 to organizations with budgets under \$500,000. Grants cannot be used to fund direct services to individuals or families. [More information](#)

Pre-Application Deadline: August 1 - October 15

The Walmart Foundation supports hunger relief, nutrition promotion, and sustainable agriculture through grants to non-profit organizations within company communities.

The Foundation operates local (\$250-5,000), state (\$25,000-250,000), and national (>\$250,000) giving programs within the United States. [Guidelines](#)

USDA is requesting applications for Farmers' Market SNAP Support Grants that increase SNAP accessibility and participation at farmers markets, and support establishment, expansion, and promotion of SNAP/EBT services at farmers markets. [View RFP](#)

Deadline: June 18, 2015

Amount: \$15,000 - 250,000

Food Security & Nutrition

According to the USDA, food security means that all people have access enough food to live an active, healthy life at all times. Household food security is defined at four levels^[1] :

High	No food access problems or limitations
Marginal	Anxiety over food sufficiency or shortage of food in the house, but little or no changes in diets or food intake
Low	Reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet, without reduced food intake
Very Low	Disrupted eating patterns and reduced intake

USDA's 2013 Household Food Security Survey found that 14.3 percent of American households were food insecure at least some of the time and 5.6 percent experienced very low food security.

The first step to implementing an effective, relevant food security program is to assess the needs and existing resources in the community. [USDA's Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit](#) outlines processes for how to create:

- Community Socioeconomic and Demographic Profile
- Community Food Resources Profile
- Household Food Security Assessment
- Food Resource Accessibility Assessment
- Food Availability and Affordability Assessment
- Community Food Production Resources Assessment

There are five elements within a **continuum of food security strategies** that collectively improve access of low-income households to nutritious foods and increase the community's ability to provide for its own food needs. These strategies are most effective when all elements in the continuum are provided, either by the same organization or through coordinated partnerships, and when they are integrated with other efforts such as community building, entrepreneurship training, youth leadership, child development, health promotion, and creating economic self-sufficiency.

1. Emergency, Charitable Food Distribution

Food Pantries distribute groceries at least once a week to families and individuals with access to cooking facilities.

Soup Kitchens serve cooked meals on-site at least once a week and target homeless people without a means to cook for themselves. In addition to food, Soup Kitchens require labor and facilities for cooking and serving.

Successful emergency food programs[2]:

- Focus on the needs of the people being served
- Focus on strengths, not weaknesses
- Build community partnerships
- Have strong organizational infrastructure
- Provide more than food
- Aim to increase self-sufficiency of clients

2. Improving Access to Public Nutrition Programs

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides eligible families with monthly benefits that can be redeemed to purchase food. According to the USDA, only 66% of eligible people actually receive SNAP benefits. The monthly allotment typically enables households to purchase about 2/3 of food needed to for an adequate diet.

Community outreach initiatives aim to reduce stigma and improve access to benefits by educating and assisting families with the eligibility screening and application process. The most effective outreach initiatives:

- Bundle SNAP outreach with emergency, charitable food distribution efforts
- Promote nutrition and wellness, not welfare
- Simplify the application process
- Teach families how to shop for and prepare healthy, affordable meals on a SNAP budget[3]
- Partner with local SNAP benefits offices

USDA has created an **Outreach Toolkit** that provides tips to community partners on increasing SNAP enrollment.

3. Urban Agriculture[4]

Community Gardens are large plots of land that have been divided into smaller plots for each household to grow their own

vegetable gardens. Benefits:

- Supplement food budget, save money
- Access to nutritious vegetables, especially in areas not well served by commercial sector
- Community organizing and gathering space
- Community greening

Backyard Gardens are small plots around homes including balconies, decks, rooftops, and containers that enable gardeners to grow produce, small animals, and fish to supplement diets and stretch family food budgets.

Successful urban agriculture initiatives:

- Make arrangements that ensure long term use of land for agricultural purposes or implement mobile and short term growing schemes
- Facilitate creative ways to cover start-up costs (micro-credit, shared equipment, seed grants)
- Promote access to markets (food co-ops, buy local campaigns, market research, partnerships)
- Increase knowledge and skills in production, processing, and marketing food among growers (public education, on-site demonstration, training)
- Extend growing seasons using green houses, indoor agriculture, and other innovations
- Offer lessons and facilities for canning and other food preservation techniques
- Use sustainable, organic growing techniques and plant in uncontaminated soil

4. Access to Nutritious, Affordable Food in the Commercial Sector

USDA defines Food Deserts as low-income neighborhoods without ready access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food. An estimated 23.5 million people in the U.S. live in food deserts that do not have grocery stores. People in these communities rely on convenience stores and fast food restaurants for most of their food.

Healthy Corner Store Campaigns encourage convenience stores in low income areas to provide healthy options.

Farmers Markets connect urban communities with local farms to support sustainable food production and increased consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Best practices for promoting local commercial access to nutritious, affordable foods [\[5\]](#) [\[6\]](#) :

- Choose convenient locations that are hubs of activity within the community
- Know the market including what products people like to buy and what nearby competitors provide
- Partner with motivated store owners and farmers
- Integrate into community improvement efforts

- Create an interconnected system of local businesses that support each other
- Ensure affordability by accepting SNAP benefits and coordinating incentives like Double Up **[7]**

5. Advocacy and Local Food Policy Councils[8]****

Food Policy Councils, consisting of representatives from the production, consumption, processing, distribution, and waste recycling sectors of the food system:

- Serve as forums for discussing food issues
- Foster coordination between sectors
- Evaluate and influence policy
- Launch programs to address local needs

Effective Food Policy Councils:

- Engage diverse members from across food sectors
- Identify priorities and a plan to achieve them
- Define processes for making decisions, communicating, and evaluating their efforts
- Educate members and the broader community
- Gain support from diverse political leaders
- Focus on creating positive solutions
- Start out pursuing small, practical changes that can be influenced by the council

[1] Household food security survey

[2] Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry Best Practices Guide

[3] Cooking Matters

[4] Urban Agriculture and Community Food Security in the United States: Farming from the City Center to the Urban Fringe

[5] Food Trust Healthy Corner Stores

[6] Farmers' Market in Low Income Communities: Strategies and Best Practices

[7] Double Up Food Bucks

[8] Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned

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