



**Nazarene  
Compassionate  
Ministries**

*Compassion as a lifestyle*



**September 2014**

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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.



Forward to a Friend

This is what God created the Church for: **Connecting.**

Connecting to meet community needs. Connecting to relationally engage with people. Connecting people with people in fellowship and community.



When we connect, we accomplish the Great Commission:  
*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

By sharing food with the hungry family, mentoring the challenged teenager, and visiting the senior citizen, **we are being Christ in the flesh.** The world needs to see our value, and they will in a faith lived out. May our efforts support you as His hands and feet.

**Journey well,**

Jay Height

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Coordinator, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to support churches in starting and maintaining ministry to the underserved 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 of the Gospel message.

### **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**

# **Current Funding Opportunities**

**Boeing** supports programs that promote integrated and active, lifelong learning. Focus areas include education, environment, health and human services, arts and culture, and civic engagement. To review local guidelines for your state and key aims within each focus area visit the [Boeing Corporate Citizenship webpage](#).

**Finish Line Youth Foundation** provides funding for youth athletic programs and sports-based camps serving disadvantaged children and children with special needs. [Review application guidelines](#)

*Deadline:* September 30, 2014

*Amount:* \$5,000

**Land O Lakes Foundation Community Grants Program** supports nonprofit organizations working to improve communities where Land O'Lakes operates, including those that work to alleviate hunger, those designed to build knowledge and leadership skills of rural youth, and those active in addressing and solving community problems. [Review grant guidelines](#)

*Deadline:* October 1, 2014

**Ben and Jerry's Foundation** seeks proposals for social and environmental justice projects organized by grassroots community organizing groups with annual budgets under \$500,000. [More information](#)

*Deadline:* October 15, 2014

*Amount:* \$20,000

**State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship Company Grants** support safety (disaster preparedness and recovery) and education (life skills and service learning) programs. [Apply](#)

*Deadline:* October 31, 2014

**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, 2014

*Amount:* \$200,000

# **Church-based Service Delivery**

## **Practical Tools and Process for Common Non-Profit Functions**

Many unique characteristics make churches an effective venue for social service delivery. According to the National Congregations Study, 57% of churches in the United States deliver social services. **[1]** Church-based programs should capitalize on the following strengths of congregations to serve the local community. **[2]**

- Acts of service and justice are motivated by a desire to live out personal faith.
- Informal relationships are nurtured among leadership, volunteers, and clients.
- Church community offers an extensive network of social support, emotional concern, and care.

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Like

- Integrating service recipients as contributing members of the community through leadership and service opportunities helps to restore dignity, purpose, and identity.
- The credible voice of the local church inspires behavioral change and catalyzes movements for social justice within the local community.
- Holistic approach integrates physical, emotional, social, and spiritual support.
- Existing infrastructure offers local meeting spaces and hubs for information exchange.
- Stable presence within the community enables churches to gain the trust and understand the culture of hard to reach populations
- Most Americans attend a church making this a prime setting for recruiting potential participants. Seventy percent of American adults are affiliated with a church.**[3]**
- The local church is the center of spiritual, social, and political life in many communities

Churches can most effectively deliver social services when they embrace their Christian distinctive and build on their strengths as communities that emphasize informal relationships between people. Programs such as mentoring, tutoring, and support groups are a natural fit, but many others can be contextualized for successful delivery by churches.

### **Health Promotion and Screening**

Local churches are considered by health care providers to be allies for preventive health since they share a common set of values and legacy of serving the most vulnerable. Research has recognized religious effects on health through improved health behaviors and lifestyle, coping strategies and resource, enhanced social resources, and improved self-perception and personal efficacy.**[4]** Complementary partnerships between churches and health facilities enable the broad spectrum of human need to be addressed.

- Churches are a trusted connection point between communities and available services.
- Churches can promote positive behavioral change through trained lay health educators, supportive communities, and spiritual contextualization of health messages.
- Churches can conduct health screening and train church leaders to recognize symptoms.
- Religious affiliation and church attendance have been shown to improve physical and psychological health through the positive effects of social networks and social support, and role of prayer, beliefs, and religious practices in psychological well-being.**[5]**
- Holistic well-being is aligned with Church mission and WHO's definition of health, which includes physical, mental, spiritual, and social well being.
- Connection with hard to reach populations has potential to reduce health disparities.

Churches have successfully implemented an array of health promotion programs such as high blood pressure screening,

diabetes management, weight loss and nutritional counseling, smoking cessation and substance abuse counseling, cancer prevention and awareness, and mental health care. Key roles for churches in partnership with health care organizations[6]:

- Increase availability of services through established volunteer networks, location in neighborhoods, and cultural and linguistic competence.
- Improve delivery and quality of health care by integrating spirituality within a holistic model, designing culturally competent models and messages, and communicating health information through the valued voices of faith leaders.
- Improve patient self-management of disease by promoting healthy lifestyles that reflect religious values and creating supportive networks to help sustain lifestyle changes.

**Tips for church-based health promotion:**

- Invest in ongoing collaboration between congregations and local health centers
- Monitor health status and health behaviors of participants
- Intervene at multiple levels of influence to affect positive changes in health behaviors: [5]

Individual	Tailored communications and motivational interviewing
Social	Family programs, lay health advisors, and support groups
Organizational	Pastoral leadership and church-sponsored education and events
Environmental	Local farmers markets, walking trails, and community coalitions

- Involve congregation members in program delivery by training lay health educators who can adapt and implement health guidelines in a culturally appropriate way
- Incorporate a spiritual element by using scriptures that link religion and health
- Emphasize a holistic perspective of health
- Train workers to be culturally competent and sensitive to ethnic and religious values
- Recognize and utilize church and community strengths and assets
- Identify attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors as well as barriers and motivators
- Build local capacity by hiring and training church members to conduct focus groups, recruitment, intervention, and evaluation activities.

In addition to these health programs, The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership[Z] has identified the following ways that churches can participate in government efforts toward supporting healthy children and families:



- Connect adults and children to healthcare by educating the community about how to access health benefits described on [www.Healthcare.gov](http://www.Healthcare.gov) and [www.InsureKidsNow.gov](http://www.InsureKidsNow.gov).
- **Find health centers** in the local community and identify offered services and programs.
- Join the **Let's Move! Initiative** to reduce childhood obesity by starting a community walking club, building community gardens and farmers markets, and hosting summer food service program sites at churches.
- Encourage parents to sign up for **Text4Baby** to promote healthy pregnancies and babies through informational text messages and appointment reminders.
- Partner with a local health clinic to host an **HIV/AIDS testing day** during June.

### **Youth Development**

Religious youth programs play a unique role in shaping spiritual development, nurturing health and well-being of young people, and facilitating strong community based youth development.

- Churches see youth development as integral to their mission.
- Churches offer the potential for varied, strong inter-generational relationships.
- Church leaders are trusted by congregants and are committed to nurturing youth
- Church volunteers can be trained to support positive youth development
- Church youth workers can provide passionate leadership to others in their community around youth issues across multiple sectors and faith traditions
- Churches have access to families and can enhance the ability of parents to be responsible sources of support, control, and values for youth
- Churches emphasize service and values which are key developmental assets for youth

### **Vision for Positive Youth Development in Congregations**

**Congregations are hubs of activity for youth in the community and safe places where they are valued and supported. Churches engage young people in challenging, exciting activities, and encourage them to develop positive values, interests, and skills. Youth feel welcomed and are recognized as resources within local churches where they have many opportunities to make a positive impact in the community. They are taught to evaluate the community and their church, and be creative in identifying ways to improve them. Youth programs share a mutual goal across sectors and faith traditions to ensure that all youth are connected to resources that meet their needs. Both volunteer and professional youth leaders understand adolescent needs and have regular access to training and resources. Leaders have clearly defined their congregation's role in positive youth development and most congregation members are committed to caring for youth, connecting with them in an inter-generational**

**community. The church is a resource for parents. The congregation has clear goals related to asset building and enhancing young people's spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical development. Church youth workers join and lead networks for idea-swapping, resource sharing, and mutual support, joint training activities across congregations and sectors, which see each other as allies. Young people are thriving and gaining assets. Youth are empowered to contribute to others and be agents of positive community change. Youth energy, enthusiasm, and idealism benefit the whole community.**

*\*Adapted from Search Institute's Youth Development in Congregations*[\[3\]](#)

Key themes for effective youth development within churches include developmental responsiveness, positive vision, relational focus, youth leadership, focus on the whole person, inclusion of all youth, cooperation among youth-serving systems, and training and networking for youth workers.

### **Characteristics of Effective Positive Youth Development in Church Context**

- Responsive to complex developmental needs and strengths of youth at various ages
- Begin in grades 6-8 when young people are more likely to be involved with churches
- Encourage thinking among young adolescents and train older youth as peer helpers
- Challenge young adolescents to think critically about their values and personal identity
- Churches have a positive perception of the assets, strengths, and potential of youth
- Focused and clearly articulated mission that is matched with appropriate strategies
- Youth are valued as resources and contributors to the youth program and church
- Build assets by activating the capacity of people within the church to build relationships with young people to nurture growth-enhancing values, skills, and commitments.
- Nurture positive connections through cooperative learning, small groups, and mentoring
- Congregation-wide commitment to youth and building inter-generational community where youth can form caring relationships with senior citizens, their parents' peers, and young adults, and become mentors and friends to younger children in the congregation
- Regular community service and leadership development opportunities for youth
- Challenge youth to demonstrate competence, achievement, and social consciousness
- Integrate spiritual, social, intellectual, emotional, and physical development
- Youth development is for all types youth, regardless of risk level and culture

- View diversity as a strength and conduct outreach to attract under-served youth
- Churches cooperate with families, schools, and community-based organizations to support consistent expectations and caring relationships for youth in the community
- Educate parents and engage them significantly in the church youth program
- Integrate youth into congregational life instead of creating an isolated youth subculture
- Train church youth workers to implement a developmental assets framework[8]
- Offer networking opportunities for youth workers to gain peer support and swap ideas
- Religious youth leaders are catalysts that unite communities for adolescents

### **Tearfund[9] Ten Keys for Impact among Faith-Based Organizations:**

1. Encourage spiritual passion among leadership, staff, and volunteers by taking time to pray, worship, and review your work together.
2. Aim for professional excellence by defining your vision and plan for achieving it, regularly evaluating your work, learning from other organizations, and using a quality assurance tool.
3. Be strategic about meeting needs, monitoring your process to make need improvements, forming partnerships, and packaging lessons learned into a format that churches can deliver. Hold regular Vision days with all staff and volunteers to look at where you are, where you want to go, and how you are going to get there
4. Create sustainability by developing a cohesive and diverse PR, marketing and fundraising plan rather than doing things ad hoc, and capturing evidence of positive change to share with potential donors
5. Nurture your team by encouraging everyone to come up with ideas, being clear with volunteers about expectations and commitments, and incorporating fun.
6. Protect against burn-out by encouraging leaders, staff, and volunteers to take personal time to maintain physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.
7. Involve your community through networking, incorporating feedback from service users, and building relationships with local community and government partners.
8. Communicate your Christian distinctive by being clear that you are faith-based but not faith-biased and will love and serve everyone, regardless of their beliefs.
9. Meet with other church leaders, community organizations, government entities to identify how to create complementary partnerships that will benefit the community.
10. Take time out with God to keep things in perspective, and share inspiring, encouraging stories regularly, and meet with service users to remember why you're doing this work.

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[1] [Health Programs in Faith-Based Organizations: Are They Effective?](#)

[2] [When the Service Delivery System is a Congregation](#)

[3] [Youth Development in Congregations](#)

[4] [Public Health and Health Education in Faith Communities](#)

[5]

Church-Based Health Promotion Interventions: Evidence and Lessons Learned

[6]

Sharing a Legacy of Caring: Partnerships between Health Care and Faith-Based Organizations

[7]

Partnerships for the Common Good: A Partnership Guide for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership

[8]

Search Institute 40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents

[9]

Tearfund The Ten Keys Project video series

Resources

The **Faith and Service Technical Education Network (FASTEN) website** offers many resources for churches involved in compassionate ministries.

Most federal agencies provide capacity building resources and connection points for churches through their **Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (FBCI)** offices:

- HUD Partnership Center Capacity Building **Workshop Series**
  - SAMHSA's Capacity Building **Materials and Seminar**
  - CNCS **Resource Center**

The **White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership** has created Partnerships for the Common Good: A **Partnership Guide** for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnership.

**Tearfund** has created several resources for mobilizing the local church to meet the needs of the community:

- **Umoja** - Transforming Communities **Coordinator's Guide**
  - Mobilizing the Church **Pillars Guide**

Signature Themes: Church-based Service Delivery

<div>Food Security</div>	<div> <div>One in six Americans struggle to put food on the table at some point during the year. Churches play an important role in promoting food security within their communities. A comprehensive approach may include the following elements:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosting food pantries to provide emergency food assistance.</li> <li>• Sharing information about <b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program</b> (SNAP) with your congregation and those attending food pantries.</li> <li>• Feeding children when they are out of</li> </ul> </div>
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and Nutrition	<p>school through partnership with USDA's Summer Food Service and Child Care Food <b><u>programs</u></b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting a community garden to increase access to fruit and vegetables within the neighborhood, encourage community members to be good stewards of the land, and provide safe, recreational and learning space in urban areas. <b><u>Instructional Videos</u></b> from Trevecca Urban Farm in Nashville</li> </ul>
Youth Development	<p>Churches can promote student achievement and build a culture of educational excellence within communities by partnering with local schools to create, implement, and support programs that have been shown to boost school attendance, decrease negative student behavior, improve academic performance, and increase access to post-secondary education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting mentoring relationships between students and caring adults</li> <li>Providing academic tutoring and homework assistance</li> <li>Creating meaningful service learning opportunities that link academic objectives to actual community needs and emphasize Youth Voice</li> <li>Instilling positive values through character education</li> <li>Hosting summer and afterschool programs with support from <b><u>21st Century Community Learning Centers program grants</u></b> or sponsoring a <b><u>USDA Summer Food Service Program</u></b> site.</li> <li>Host education events to provide information to local families about post-secondary options and how to apply for financial aid. Partner with local high schools and refer to <b><u>www.college.gov</u></b> for resource materials.</li> </ul> <p>Christian Association of Youth Mentoring Best Practices <b><u>guidelines</u></b></p> <p>The Search Institute's Developmental Assets <b><u>Framework</u></b></p>
	<p><b><u>World Relief's Church Leader's Guide to Immigration</u></b> outlines principles for immigration reform that have been affirmed by various faith-based organizations, including the Church of the Nazarene. Immigration Reform should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respect the God-given dignity of every</li> </ul>

<b>Immigration</b>	<p>person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect the unity of the immediate family</li> <li>• Respect the rule of law</li> <li>• Guarantee secure national borders</li> <li>• Ensure fairness to taxpayers</li> <li>• Establish a path toward legal status and/or citizenship for those who qualify and who wish to become permanent residents</li> </ul> <p>Challenge congregations to think about immigration from a Christian perspective through the <b><u>"I Was a Stranger" challenge</u></b>.</p>
<b>Addiction</b>	<p>The National Recovery Month theme for September 2014 is "Join the Voices for Recovery: Speak Up, Reach Out." This annual observance promotes the societal benefits and effectiveness of prevention, treatment, and recovery for mental and substance use disorders. Visit SAMHSA's Recovery Month <b><u>website</u></b> for information about local events and resources for organizing your own event.</p> <p>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions <b><u>book</u></b> explains how participants in Alcoholics Anonymous and related programs can recover from addiction</p>
<b>Strengthen Families</b>	<p><b>Family Volunteer Day</b> is coming up on November 22, 2014!</p> <p>Family Volunteer Day <b><u>Guide</u></b> and <b><u>Grants</u></b></p> <p><b>National Family Week (November 23-29, 2014)</b> is an annual celebration observed during the week of Thanksgiving to catalyze economic self-sufficiency, transportation, child care, healthcare, education and training, and affordable housing for families. National Family Week <b><u>toolkit</u></b></p> <p>Churches can encourage responsible fatherhood to prevent young people from dropping out of school, being involved in the criminal justice system, and becoming teen parents. <b><u>The President's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative</u></b> provides information about being a father or mentor, and supporting fatherhood and mentoring in your community. Churches also play an important role in helping formerly incarcerated individuals transition back into our communities in a way that is safe, healthy, and responsible. <b><u>Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships</u></b> at the Department of Justice works with churches to support responsible reentry.</p>
	<p>Churches play a vital role in both preparing for disaster and in ensuring an inclusive and participatory community-wide recovery from a</p>

<p><b>Disaster Response</b></p>	<p>disaster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host a "Ready America" preparedness workshop for your community to learn how to build an emergency kit and develop a Family Emergency Plan by using templates and checklists available on <a href="http://www.Ready.gov">www.Ready.gov</a> and become aware of the community's emergency preparedness plan</li> <li>• Ensure your organization is prepared by following practical <a href="#">templates</a> to create an Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Plan.</li> <li>• Join or start a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in your community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <a href="#">Start</a> a CERT program.</li> <li>◦ Access the CERT <a href="#">Basic Training course</a></li> <li>◦ Additional CERT <a href="#">training materials</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Economic Development</b></p>	<p>Churches can participate in creating jobs and economic opportunity by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connecting members to local <a href="#">One-Stop Career Center</a> for employment and training services</li> <li>• Seeking Department of Labor competitive <a href="#">grants</a></li> <li>• Creating a job club to provide peer support and employment networks. Community of Practice <a href="#">website</a> for local congregations that host job clubs</li> <li>• Promote small business programs that encourage entrepreneurship, community development, and economic growth within your community through partnership with the Small Business Administration (SBA)</li> <li>• <a href="#">SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program</a> assists small businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals over 9 years through one-on-one coaching, training workshops, specialized management and technical assistance, enhanced subcontracting opportunities and access to sole source and limited competition federal contracts.</li> <li>• Become an intermediary for SBA's local <a href="#">Micro-Lending Program</a></li> <li>• Revitalize rural communities through <a href="#">USDA's Rural Development</a> programs</li> </ul>

**Nazarene Compassionate Ministries**

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