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Nazarene Compassionate Ministries

Compassion as a lifestyle

January 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. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to support

Happy New Year!

In September we began the conversation about the Church's response to Appalachian poverty. We hosted an event in West Virginia to address the challenges, needs, and ways the Church can help. Although there is still much to learn, we found this time to be successful and plan to host this event again.

We will continue to learn more about Appalachian poverty and develop strategies for compassionate services over the next several years. We've been encouraged to hear and see how many churches and Compassionate Ministry Centers are actively living out this calling to help our neighbors. We would love to hear your stories too!

The millions of families struggling in Appalachia need the compassion and love of Christ - **and that's exactly what you are.**

Keep fighting the good fight,

Jay Height
jheight@nazarene.org
Coordinator, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada

Current Funding Opportunities

American Honda Foundation invites applications for youth education

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 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

Toll Free Number: 1-800-306-9950
Fax: (913) 577-0893

programs focused on STEM, environment, job training, and literacy. **Apply**
Application Deadline: February 1, 2014
Award Amount: $75,000

eWomenNetwork Foundation announces grants for small organizations that support women and children. Focus areas include health, wellness, and safety. Eligible organizations must have been in existence for at least three years and have an annual budget of $25,000 to $1 million. **Information**
Application Deadline: March 31, 2014
Award Amount: $6,000

National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program is accepting grant applications for community-wide reading programs. Grants must be matched 1:1 with non-federal funds. **Apply**
Application Deadline: January 28, 2014
Award Amount: $2,500 - 20,000

Bringing Theory to Practice is accepting proposals for campus engagement and civic development projects aimed at strengthening the relationship of engaged learning, civic development and psychosocial well-being of college and university students. Grants must be matched 1:1 by the institution. **Apply**
Application Deadline: March 14, 2014
Award Amount: $10,000

General Mills Foundation Champions for Healthy Kids program awards grants to nonprofit organizations working to improve nutrition and physical fitness behaviors for youth ages 2-18. **More information**
Application Deadline: March 15, 2014
Award Amount: $10,000

U.S. Department of Labor Youth Career Connect program is providing grants aimed to prepare high school students for college and future careers through restructuring curricula to focus on career opportunities, and building relationships with universities and employers to supplement classroom instruction. Applicants must address six core elements: Integrated Academic and Career-Focused Learning, Employer Engagement, Individualized Career and Academic Counseling, Work-based Learning and Exposure to the World of Work, Program Sustainability, Program Performance and Outcomes. Applicants must contribute a 25% non-federal match. **View the RFP**
Application Deadline: January 27, 2014
Award Amount: $2 million - $7 million

Signature Theme: Appalachian Poverty

Best Practices, Innovations, Resources, Funding Opportunities

Appalachia is the 420-county region that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi and includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia [1].

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Forty-two percent of Appalachia's 25 million residents live in rural areas, and 93 Appalachian counties are classified as economically distressed. Uneven economic gains in this region over the past 50 years have brought some communities up to par with the rest of the United States while many others still lack basic infrastructure such as roads and water and sewer systems [1].

Although Appalachia's economy has progressed from dependence on mining, forestry, agriculture, chemical industries, and heavy industry, **16% of its population still lives in extreme poverty**. Economic distress, high poverty, unemployment, poor health, lack of educational attainment, depression, prescription drug abuse and hunger characterize the Region1.

A broad range of interventions and program areas are needed to improve the economic situation of Appalachia and improve quality of life for its residents.

Assets-based Development [2] helps communities identify and leverage local assets topositively impact the economy through creating jobs, building prosperity, and preserving local character:

- **Cultural assets** *(traditional arts, heritage, local entrepreneurship, tourism)*
- **Natural assets** *(recreational opportunities, value-added farming and timber harvesting)*
- **Structural assets** *(brownfield redevelopment, adaptive reuse, downtown development)*
- **Leadership assets** *(partnership, education, research institutions, civic entrepreneurship)*

Activities include **(1)** asset mapping, **(2)** strategic planning, **(3)** education and training, **(4)** financing, and **(5)** marketing.

Community Infrastructure [3] focuses on providing water and wastewater services to support business and community development and alleviate public and environmental health hazards.

Activities include **(1)** construction of water and sewer infrastructure, **(2)** volunteer community clean-up, **(3)** public awareness campaigns, and **(4)** brownfields redevelopment.

Education and Training [4] to improve workforce skills, early childhood education, prevent dropout, and improve college attendance.

Activities include **(1)** equipment and facility improvement, **(2)** classroom and worksite training, **(3)** job search assistance and career counseling, and **(4)** social support services *(transportation, childcare, financial assistance)*.

Entrepreneurship and Business Development to diversify Appalachia's economy, increase competitiveness of existing businesses, encourage use of innovative technologies, and enhance entrepreneurial activity through microcredit and revolving loan funds, training and technical assistance, and business incubators.

Resources for Entrepreneurship and Business Development

Health strategies include targeted wellness and disease prevention

approaches, health education for children and families, and use of technology to reduce health care costs.

Leadership Development and Capacity Building involves individual skill building, community participation, strategic planning, and cross-sectoral collaboration. **Strategic Planning Resources**

Telecommunications infrastructure allows distance learning, telemedicine, business communications, and workforce training for remote rural areas. **Resources for Telecommunications**

Tourism Development includes historic building rehabilitation, artist training, planning to maximize local cultural assets, and investing in new technologies.

Aims of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) include [5]:

- Increase job opportunities and per capita income the same level as the nation
- Strengthen capacity of the Appalachian people to compete in the global economy
- Improve infrastructure to decrease isolation and improve quality of life

Measures

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) designates five levels of county economic status based on a composite ranked index of 3-year average unemployment rate, per capita market income, and poverty rate **[6]**:

- **Distressed** - the most economically repressed counties, ranking in the worst 10 percent
- **At-Risk** - counties at risk of becoming economically depressed, ranking in the worst 10-25 percent of the nation's counties
- **Transitional** - counties transitioning between strong and weak economies, ranking between the worst 25 percent and best 25 percent of the nation's counties
- **Competitive** - counties that are able to compete in the national economy, ranking in the best 10-25 percent of the nation's counties
- **Attainment** - the economically strongest counties, ranking in the best 10 percent

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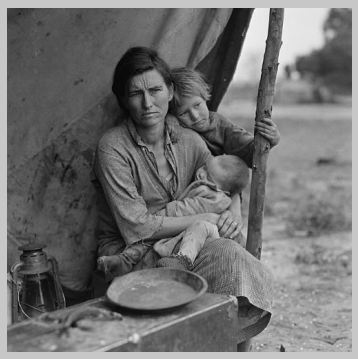
[1] **The Appalachian Region**
[2] **ARC Guidelines for Asset-Based Development Projects**
[3] **Community Infrastructure Projects**
[4] **Evaluation of The Appalachian Regional Commission's Vocational Education and Workforce Training Projects**
[5] **About the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)**
[6] **Source and Methodology: Distressed Designation and County Economic Status Classification System, FY 2007 - FY 2014**

Resources for Addressing Appalachian Poverty

Appalachian Regional Commission provides **examples of effective projects** in each of its priority program areas.



Census Data and ARC Economic Status Designation for All Appalachian Counties **Review Tables**

Appalachian Studies Association hosts an annual conference and publishes the **Journal of Appalachian Studies**.

Appalachia Funders Network is a group of public and private grant-makers who envision an Appalachian economy that providers opportunity for all while sustaining environmental and cultural assets of the region. The network collaborates to discover innovations and deepen collective understanding of the issues, challenges and opportunities of Appalachia. **Review annual conference videos and findings of working groups in food security, entrepreneurship, healthcare, and capacity**.

Appalachian Poverty Funding Opportunities

Appalachian Community Fund supports community-led, change-focused projects in Central Appalachian counties of West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. Appropriate topics include: educational opportunity and equity, environmental action, cultural and artistic participation for social change, community based economic development and opportunity, women and girls issues, multi-cultural and racial justice, community media, youth outreach, health care and child care, non-violent communities, and civil liberties and human rights. **More Information**

Heifer International Seeds of Change Initiative aims to build resilient local economies and end poverty in Appalachia through the extraordinary potential of locally produced food. Areas of focus include increasing production of local small-scale farmers, connecting local farmers to more profitable markets, improving services and infrastructure, farmer-to-farmer mentorship and collaborative innovation, and increasing access to resources and capital. **How to become a partner**

Benedum Foundation funds programs that nurture leadership, public-private partnership, and innovation for communities in West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania. Areas of focus include education, economic development, community development, and health and human services. **Apply**

W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Secure Families Program supports community-based organizations working to create optimal conditions for children to develop, learn, and grow through family economic security.

Efforts to increase families' economic and social mobility include access to financial resources and services, education and skills training, asset building, and employer engagement. **Apply**

Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation funds nonprofit organizations in Central and Southern Appalachia that help low-wealth people build assets and transform economic conditions in their communities. **More information**

Berea College Appalachian Fund supports nonprofits in the Southern Appalachian region that are working to improve access to quality health services and health education, improve access to education, improve lives of women and children, and build community leaders among low income people in under-served communities. **Apply**

Abelard Foundation East supports nonprofit organizations east of the Mississippi that have budgets less than $300,000 and seek to empower low-income communities and develop local leadership to protect human rights and control of decisions affecting their lives. **More information on how to apply**

Blue Moon Fund invests in programs that apply innovations to reduce environmental degradation and dependence on unsustainable resource extraction while creating economic opportunities for local communities in Central Appalachia. **Apply**

The Steele-Reese Foundation funds projects that serve rural Appalachian communities in Kentucky with education, social services, conservation and preservation, health, and arts and humanities. **More information**

William and Helen Thomas Charitable Trust funds nonprofit organizations in Appalachia that promote educational opportunities for deserving and needy students, preservation of the natural environment, and assistance for the poor. **For more information**

Charles M. and Mary D. Grant Foundation supports community and economic development, health and human services, and environment and education projects serving the southeastern United States. **Application guidelines**

Ford Foundation supports programs that seek economic fairness poor households in Central Appalachia and the Black Belt region of the U.S. South. Areas of focus include building economic security over a lifetime, ensuring good jobs and access to services, expanding livelihood opportunities for poor households, improving access to financial services, and promoting next generation workforce strategies. **Review the application process**

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awards grants for projects that address ARC's four strategic goals and can demonstrate measureable results. Areas of focus include leadership and civic development, internationalization of the Appalachian economy, telecommunication and technology, building entrepreneurial economies, and assets-based development. **For more information**

ARC works with the following federal agencies to administer grants for the Appalachian Region:

USDA Rural Development administers a variety of grant programs that support business and cooperative development, housing and community facilities, and utilities in rural communities. **Details**

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grants support projects that strengthen communities through the arts and contribute to the livability of communities.
Art Works Program
Our Town Program

National Trust for Historic Preservation grants support projects that build sustainable communities, re-imagine historic sites, promote diversity, and protect historic places on public lands. **Guidelines and Eligibility**

Upcoming Newsletter Themes

If you would like to submit a story about innovative work you are doing or a description of successes you have had within these thematic areas for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter, please send it to **jheight@nazarene.org** by the stated deadline.

February 2014	Counseling and Addiction Services	Submit by: January 13, 2013

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