

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries <jheight@nazarene.org>

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June Resource eNews - Youth Development

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June 2013

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About NCM USA/Canada

NCM partners with local Nazarene churches around the world to clothe, shelter, feed, heal, & educate the least of these.

Mission

Following the example of Jesus, NCM partners with local Nazarene congregations around the world to clothe, shelter, feed, heal, educate, and live in solidarity with those who suffer under oppression, injustice, violence, poverty, hunger, and disease. NCM exists in and through the Church of the Nazarene to proclaim the Gospel to all.

My Fellow Leaders,

The work you, your staff, and volunteers do each and every day is critical. It goes back to the very roots of our denomination. Our compassion comes from who we are in Christ and the love that compels us to reflect Him to those we serve.



We want to support you in your important work.

Reflect Him well today!

Your partner in ministry,

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

**Signature Theme:
Youth Development**

Best Practices, Innovations, Funding Opportunities

The Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs defines

proclaim the Gospel to all people in word and deed.

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 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

Positive Youth Development[1] as an intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances youths' strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.

Young people face a variety of risks and challenges on the road to adulthood. **Risk factors** such as family and neighborhood poverty, living in a single parent home, exposure to violence and proximity to crime, lack of positive parental involvement, poor school engagement and performance, and negative peer influences place youth at risk for delinquency and involvement in the juvenile justice system[2] and continued generational poverty.



Protective factors in a young person's environment can increase resiliency to overcome risks and adversity. The Search Institute identified 40 Developmental Assets[3] that are needed to help youth thrive, avoid risk behaviors, and grow into healthy, responsible, and resilient adults:

External Assets

Support

Family support; Positive family communication; Other adult relationships; Caring neighborhood; Caring school climate; Parent involvement in schooling

Empowerment

Community values youth; Youth as resources; Service to others; Safety

Boundaries & Expectations

Family boundaries; School boundaries; Neighborhood boundaries; Adult role models; Positive peer influence; High expectations

Constructive Use of Time

Creative activities; Youth programs; Religious community; Time at home

Internal Assets

Commitment to Learning

Achievement motivation; School engagement; Homework; Bonding to school; Reading for pleasure

Positive Values

Caring; Equality and social justice; Integrity; Honesty; Responsibility; Restraint

Social Competencies

Planning and decision making; Interpersonal competence; Cultural competence; Resistance skills; Peaceful conflict resolution

Positive Identity

Personal power; Self esteem; Sense of purpose; Positive view of personal future

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
General Email:
ncmusacan@nazarene.org

Coordinator: Jay Height
Direct Line: (317) 281-6768
E-Mail:
jheight@nazarene.org

Assistant Coordinator:
Keith Davenport
Direct Line: (913) 577-2876
Email:
kdavenport@nazarene.org

GCM Contact: Nate Owens
Direct Line: (913) 577-2877
E-Mail:
nowens@nazarene.org



Youth Development aims to identify, build on, and employ youth assets to promote youth resilience and ability to flourish, and prevent future delinquency.

There are many types of youth development programs that emphasize varying areas of focus:

After school programs engage school-aged children in out-



of-school time activities including academics and enrichment, community service projects, field trips, physical activity and nutrition. The most effective activities adapt to individual and small group needs and incorporate hands-on activities related to students' interests.[4]

Mentoring programs match and support at-risk youth in relationships with trained adult mentors who can provide guidance and opportunities for youth to succeed in life and meet their goals. Successful mentoring programs establish at least a 12 month commitment to weekly match meetings; carefully match screened, trained mentors with at-risk youth; incorporate activities to facilitate relationship building; and continuously monitor and support matches.[5]

Service Learning integrates meaningful community service with instruction and self-reflection to support academic learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Successful service learning initiatives actively engage participants in meaningful and personally relevant service activities, intentionally use service activities to meet learning goals, incorporate challenging reflection activities to promote deep thinking and analysis about oneself and one's relationship to society, promote understanding of diversity and mutual respect, provide youth with a strong voice in planning, implementing, and evaluating projects with guidance from adults, and address real community needs.[6]

Youth Employment programs focus on helping youth transition to the world of work through identification of personal interests and skills, exposure to career options, developing soft and technical skills, and employment experience. Methods include mentoring, assessment and counseling, job search assistance, soft skills development, vocational and job training, apprenticeships, and internships.[7]

Each of these strategies has best practices and specific outcomes of its own, but all incorporate the **Key Principles of Positive Youth Development**[8] to build youth assets and resilience:

- Intentional and proactive process to promote protective factors in young people.
- Complements efforts to prevent risk behaviors and attitudes, and address negative behaviors.
- Acknowledges and employs youth assets and capacity for positive growth and development.
- Enables youth to thrive in their teen years, and prepares them for a happy and safe adulthood.
- Involves youth as active agents. Adults may set the structure, but youth are valued and are encouraged to bring their assets to the table. Adults and youth work in partnership.
- Encourages youth leadership development but doesn't require youth to lead. They can attend, actively participate,

- contribute, or lead through positive youth development activities.
- Promotes civic engagement-youth contribute through service to their communities.
 - Positive youth development involves and engages every element of the community-schools, homes, community members, and others. Young people are valued through this process.

Through the Flourishing Children Initiative[9], Child Trends developed a set of national indicators and survey scales for measuring youth development to assess trends in positive outcomes:

Personal Flourishing	Flourishing in School/Work	Flourishing in Relationships
<u>Gratitude</u>	<u>Diligence and Reliability</u>	<u>Positive Friendships with Peers</u>
<u>Forgiveness</u>	<u>Educational Engagement</u>	<u>Positive Relationships with Parents</u>
<u>Hope</u>	<u>Initiative Taking</u>	Relationship Skills <u>Empathy</u> <u>Social Competence</u>
<u>Goal Orientation</u>	<u>Trustworthiness and Integrity</u>	Helping Others to Flourish <u>Altruism</u> <u>Helping Family and Friends</u>
<u>Life Satisfaction</u>	<u>Thrift</u>	
<u>Purpose</u>		
<u>Spirituality</u>		

Questionnaire scales for these and other positive development indicators are available [here](#).

Best Practice Recommendations for Promoting Positive Youth Development[10]:

Physical and Psychological Safety: Youth develop and post ground rules. Staff and youth are trained in team building and recognizing symptoms of cliques, bullying, and hazing.

Appropriate Structure: Low youth-to-adult ratios for supervision, welcome youth when they arrive, and balance different learning styles.

Supportive Relationships: Youth share interests with adults, and staff is trained to prevent conflict and withdrawal, and to engage youth without singling them out.

Opportunities to Belong: Engage youth in small group activities, provide structured team building, and incorporate opportunities for youth to share in each activity.

Positive Social Norms: Engage youth in creating an environment that is respectful of diversity.

Opportunities to Make a Difference: Goal setting, service



learning, and peer support for youth.

Opportunities for Skills Development: Youth progress toward mastery and application of skills.

Integration of Family, School, and Community Efforts: Engage parents through activities and communication, and coordinate with the school calendar.

Youth Development Program Descriptions and Tools:

[Youth Development Program Directory](#)

[Guide to Evidence and Innovation](#)

[Federal Resources](#)

[OJJDP's Model Programs Guide](#)

[1] [Positive Youth Development](#)

[2] [Risk/Protective Factors](#)

[3] [Search Institute 40 Developmental Assets](#)

[4] Beckett, M., Borman, G., Capizzano, J., Parsley, D., Ross, S., Schirm, A., & Taylor, J. (2009). [Structuring out-of-school time to improve academic achievement.](#) Institute for Education Sciences.

[5] [Mentoring](#)

[6] [Service Learning](#)

[7] [Youth Employment](#)

[8] [Key Principles of Positive Youth Development](#)

[9] [Child Trends Positive Indicators](#)

[10] Eccles J. S., & Gootman J. A. (Eds.) (2002). [Community programs to promote youth development.](#) Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

Tell Us About Your Youth Development Efforts!

We would love to learn more about the innovative youth development work that is being done by compassionate ministries centers. This information helps us better target our searches for grant opportunities by matching the work you do with donor interests. Please complete our [Youth Development Strategies Survey](#). (Expected time: < 10 minutes)

Youth Development Funding Opportunities

Singing for Change funds projects that promote health, education, and protection of children and their families. Most likely to be considered are projects that foster self-esteem and self-sufficiency, and that teach nonviolence, tolerance, and creative problem-solving. For more information, click [here](#).

Application Deadline: Ongoing

Award Amount: \$1,000 - \$ 10,000

Kinder Morgan Foundation supports academic, arts education, and environmental education programs for grades K-12 in communities where the company operates. [Apply Here](#).

Application Deadline: January 10, March 10, May 10, July 10, September 10, and November 10

Award Amount: \$1,000 - \$5,000

GTech After School Advantage Program donates state-of-the-art



computer labs to non-profit community agencies serving inner-city, at-risk children aged 5-15 during the after school hours in the following states: *Rhode Island, Texas, Georgia, California, Kentucky, New York, Arizona, Kansas, Michigan, New Jersey, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri,*

Virginia, Tennessee, Florida, Nebraska, and South Dakota. [**Apply Here.**](#)

Application Deadline: Ongoing

Award Amount: In-kind computer lab, value \$15,000

Edna McConnell Clark Foundation invests in direct-service organizations that help economically disadvantaged young people ages 9-24 to improve their educational skills and achievement, prepare for the world of work, and avoid irresponsible, unproductive behaviors. To review eligibility requirements and complete the online [**Youth Organization's Survey Form.**](#)

Susan A. and Donald P. Babson Charitable Foundation supports enrichment and empowerment of people to prevent exploitation, poverty, and injustice. View the [**application guidelines.**](#)

Application Deadline: February 28, annually

Award Amount: \$1,000 - \$10,000

US Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program awards grants to State Education Agencies, which in turn manage statewide competitions for eligible local education agencies and community organizations to provide after-school academic enrichment for children who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. State department of education contacts, websites, and application due dates available [**here.**](#)

World We Want Foundation Invites Applications from Youth for Social Change Projects Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to youth between the ages of 13 and 25 who want to make a difference through community service and service-learning projects. Qualified applications must have a project team of one or more youths, a partner organization that supports and sponsors the team, and a project mentor to guide and advise the team. [**Apply Here.**](#)

Donor Spotlight Grant Maker Profile



Mustard Seed Foundation provides grants to churches and Christian organizations worldwide that are engaged in ministry including outreach, discipleship, and economic empowerment. **The Foundation's Guiding Principles are reflected by its giving priorities:**

Prioritize grassroots projects that will be locally managed

Small and Startup	and sustained. Does not provide ongoing support for projects started more than three years ago.
Individuals in Community	Partner with local congregations that identify, equip, and support their members who are called to specific areas of ministry.
Dynamic	Fund creative initiatives that offer innovative approaches to local church-based ministries and projects that show the love of Jesus in word and action.
Local Church Accountability and Financial Support	A church must be willing to invest financially (1:1 cash match) in a project for Mustard Seed to consider funding it. Projects initiated by organizations or denominational bodies will only be considered if there is clear evidence of financial support from a local church or multiple congregations.
Partnership	Encourage self-sufficiency and reliance on the local church by only funding up to 50 percent of the total cost of a project in any given year.
Urban	Approximately 80 percent of all grant awards support projects in major urban centers, which are particularly strategic as the world rapidly urbanizes. Focus communities in the United States include: Chicago, New York City, Philadelphia, Houston, Los Angeles County, Miami/Dade County, and Washington, DC. Special interest in smaller multi-ethnic churches that have indigenous and/or minority people in leadership.

Church-Based Grants provide seed funding for small, start-up projects of churches and Christian organizations to encourage self-sufficiency and reliance on the local church. Projects should focus on:

Outreach - Sharing the gospel with non-Christians through church planting, social outreach, youth programs, and cross-cultural missions.

Empowerment - Generating income and economic decision making opportunities to poorer Christians through revolving loan funds and microenterprise programs.

Discipleship - Equipping Christians to better proclaim and demonstrate the gospel through short-term, non-formal education programs.

Mustard Seed Foundations makes 1:1 matching grants to local churches and Christian organizations in urban centers. Award amounts range from \$800 - \$20,000, and the average award amount is \$5,000.

To apply, click [here](#).

Current Funding Opportunities

DHHS Administration for Children and Families Street Outreach Program is currently accepting applications to provide street-based services to runaway, homeless, and street youth designed to increase their safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency. Full RFP available [here](#)

Application Deadline: June 28, 2013
Matching Requirement: 10% total project budget
Award Amount: \$100,000 - \$200,000 per year
Award Period: 3 years

Best Buy Children's Foundation Seeks Applications for Youth Technology Grants Community grants will be awarded to organizations providing direct services to teens between ages 13 and 18 for program activities such as computer programming, digital imaging, music production, robotics, gaming, and mobile app development. [Apply here.](#)

Application Deadline: July 1, 2013
Award Amount: Up to \$10,000

Ribbons of Hope-Invest in Women Seeks Applications from Nonprofit Organizations that Benefit Women and Girls. One grant will be awarded to an organization that promotes education, health, economic independence, social well-being, and/or human rights for women and girls. For more information, click [here.](#)

Application Deadline: August 1, 2013
Award Amount: \$100,000

RGK Foundation invites proposals to support a broad range of human services, community improvement, abuse prevention, and youth development programs.

For more information or to apply, [click here.](#)
Application Deadline: June 14, Sept 20

TD Charitable Foundation Nonprofit Training Grant Program supports approved training courses that will enhance job performance of employees at organizations that promote affordable housing, small business development, financial literacy, or after-school enrichment programs for low income families. Organizations must be located in TD Banking market area. For more information, click [here.](#)

Application Deadline: Ongoing
Award Amount: Up to \$1,000 per year

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) invites applications to the Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program (RAPP) that propose strategies for incorporating agriculture and food systems to improve the lives of refugee families through sustainable and/or supplemental income, improved access to healthy foods and better nutrition, and enhanced integration into communities by refugee families.

Full RFP [here.](#)
Application Deadline: July 2, 2013
Award Amount: \$85,000 per year
Award Period: 3 years
Matching: None required

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries
Global Ministry Center
17001 Prairie Star Parkway
Lenexa, KS 66220, USA
Phone: 1.800.310.6362 * Email: jheight@nazarene.org

[Forward email](#)

