

1 **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**



2 We celebrate with you this new venture as the north and south conferences
3 in Indiana become one. May God richly bless that uniting. Congregations
4 and individuals within both the Indiana and Kentucky conferences of the United Methodist
5 Church continue to be prime supporters of Church World Service through the Blankets+
6 Program, the Kit Program, community-wide CROP Hunger Walks, One Great Hour of Sharing
7 offerings, and in other ways as they witness in their communities on behalf of our program.
8 More than \$1 million was raised throughout Indiana and Kentucky through these efforts.

9
10 CROP Hunger Walks continue to be a strong foundation in our fund-raising efforts. During the
11 2007-08 fiscal year, there were 29 CROP Hunger Walks plus one Canvass-by-Mail and one
12 Friendship Farm in Indiana and Kentucky, raising more than \$473,200. The region doubled its
13 online giving over the previous fiscal year, raising more than \$25,000 electronically. For the
14 current fiscal year, 30 Walks have been held (four of them new events), in addition to the
15 Canvass and Farm with total income of more than \$450,000. For 2009-10, plans are in place
16 for continuing 30 Walks, reviving 1 Walk, and starting 7 new ones (including our first joint Ohio-
17 Kentucky Walk in the Covington/Newport/Cincinnati area)!

18
19 The Tools and Blanket Program underwent a face-lift last fall, rebirthing as the Blankets+
20 Program. Be sure to pick up the new Congregational Kit from the CWS display to assist in
21 planning your next emphasis for this valuable program. During the last fiscal year, \$119,600
22 was raised to help build lives in more than 80 countries. Twenty Caring Community banners
23 were sent to the top ten churches in Indiana and in Kentucky. Maple Grove United Methodist
24 (Auburn) was #1 in Indiana, earning their 14th banner with an average \$53 per their 20 attending
25 members. Old Union Christian in Lexington, Kentucky, was #1 for that state, earning their 11th
26 banner with an average of \$25.83 per its 80 members. Mentone UMC was #4 earning their first
27 banner with an average of \$19.39 per attending member. No other UMC churches made it into
28 the top ten in either state for 2008. Thank you to all who bring this important program to your
29 congregation. These funds help provide thousands of families with such diverse resources as
30 woolen and lightweight blankets (including baby blankets), antibacterial hand and face wipes,
31 large plastic water jugs and buckets, generators, animals, vegetable seeds, canned meat, wells,
32 irrigation systems, life skills training, and leadership development support.

33
34 The goal for our 2007-08 Regional CWS Kit program was to generate 3,000 School Kits.
35 Though we were just a little short on a couple items, we were able to assemble and ship 2,803
36 School Kits thanks to the generous efforts of 200 groups and volunteers from Indiana and
37 Kentucky. The Indiana Women’s Prison, under the leadership of Chaplain Catherine Bowie
38 accepted the challenge of sewing 350 school bags for us. Much of the support for this program
39 comes from UMC churches through their partnership with Church Women United.

40
41 During 2008, School Kits were shipped to Bosnia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya,
42 Liberia, Malawi, Moldova, Mongolia, Peru, Sierra Leone, Syria, Zimbabwe, and the United
43 States (Alaska, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Texas, and Wisconsin). Thank you for helping to make
44 this possible.

45
46 We have just completed our 2008-09 Kit Program collecting resources for 3,000 Hygiene Kits.
47 They were assembled in Indianapolis during May. Visit the Church World Service display for a
48 final report of this effort. Baby Kits will be the focus for 2009-10, with a goal of 1,000 of this new
49 kit for our efforts; pledge forms are available now!

1 Each Advent, more and more congregations are discovering the wonderful Alternative
2 Markets/Fairs which offer their members a way to provide gifts rooted in messages of help and
3 hope while at the same time lessening the materialism of the season. Packets are available to
4 help you organize this great giving opportunity.

5
6 Opportunities abound to help around the world, and around the corner. As you plan your
7 congregation's mission projects, I hope you include Church World Service. Helping to organize
8 a CROP Hunger Walk in your community), spreading the word about the CWS Regional Kit
9 program, encouraging Alternative Fairs, and inviting Rev. Judy Dunson to speak at one of your
10 gatherings are ways to do this. Rev. Dunson spent several weeks in December visiting CWS-
11 supported programs in the West Bank/Jerusalem, Jordan, and Egypt. She offers a "Sunday
12 morning package" of sermon, children's message, Sunday school class, and after-church dinner
13 program as an effective way to tell the Church World Service story.

14
15 Joe Smith (Elkhart) and Perry Richards (Shelbyville) have ably represented the Indiana Area
16 UMC on the CWS Regional Advisory Board. Other United Methodists who serve on the Board
17 are Dan Gangler, Director of Communications, Joyce Ancil (Russiaville representing Church
18 Women United), Hazel Clark (Indianapolis), Rita Gaither-Gant (Indianapolis), John Gaus
19 (Bloomington), Duane Loos (Sunman), and Brian White (Columbus). Thank you for being part
20 of more than 60 years of help and hope in partnership with Church World Service. The IN-KY
21 CWS Office is located at 1100 W. 42nd St., Ste. 140, Indianapolis IN 46208, 888/297-2767 (toll
22 free) or 317/923-2938 (Indianapolis). The Regional Director, Rev. Judy Dunson, can be
23 reached by calling that office or at jdunson@churchworldservice.org. The CWS website is
24 www.churchworldservice.org.

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26 **Rev. Judy Dunson, Regional Director**
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