



November 2018

Mission Grant Story

Sharing Jesus with People with Disabilities - \$100,000

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well (Psalm 139:14).

Bethesda Lutheran Communities (Bethesda) is a nationally recognized organization that provides homes, support, and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities. It has had a mission to provide services that will enhance lives with the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ for over 110 years.

Bethesda, through its "Lifting Up Bethesda" program, works to break down barriers for people with intellectual disabilities so that they can become part of their church body; and ministry consultants work to ensure the individuals are welcomed in the Word and Sacrament.

The costs associated with the integral faith-based support part of their services are not subject to state reimbursement. These services rely heavily on volunteers, ministry partners, congregational support and private

donors. Travel is an essential part of their faith-based support services. Bethesda provides services to over 1900 individuals in over 13 states.

Mission Grant #15, Sharing Jesus with People with Intellectual Disabilities, will assist with the travel expenses of the Bethesda ministry consultants who visit the individuals they support, as well as, assist with visits to congregations and other faith partners. This grant will help in funding the ministry consultants completing the Faith in Action workbooks with each individual; will aid in connecting individuals with congregations of their choosing; will assist in educating and training congregations and church leaders; and will promote increasing congregational awareness and support of these faith-based services.