

MISSION GRANT STORY

"HELPING HANDS" INITIATIVE \$100,000

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) National Housing Support Corporation (NHSC) has been working throughout the United States for seven years. As a wholly owned subsidiary of the LCMS, their mission is to rehab the homes of those low-income, disabled, and/or elderly residents who live near LCMS churches and whose home repairs have become critical. The funds from this LWML grant will be crucial to their work. The initiative has proven to be a vital tool in enabling local LCMS congregations to reach out to their neighbors with physical assistance and spiritual restoration through the Word of God.

The homes of these families are selected based on need (as identified by municipal code violations). Helping Hands asks the partner congregations to locate these homeowners; recruit volunteers for both physical work and paper work; approve a final list of families to be assisted; act as the contact for coordination of the projects; and follow-up with the families inviting them to participate in church activities and give spiritual support.

Many groups are involved in making Helping Hands a success. These include NHSC, Laborers for Christ, Lutheran Social Services, local community agencies such as community development groups, and most important, the local congregational members. Our mite offerings adding up to this \$100,000 grant will play a big role in the success of their work.

Helping Hands plans to repair 10 homes with this \$100,000 grant based on their past experience with the project in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This includes construction materials, fees for Laborers for Christ and RV parking, construction materials and funds for financial literacy training for the recipients which would be continued through congregational volunteers.

At the heart of this mission grant are four central values. These include: their work is Christ-centered and filled with the Grace of God; they are committed to spiritual and profession growth of their workers and the welfare of the congregations they serve; they pursue collaboration with other individuals, congregations and organization who share their passion to serve; and they believe that showing mercy through their service to others is a true reflection of the mercy God shows us.

Read more at www.national housingsupport.org/2016/04/11/nhsc-awards-helping-hand-initiative-grants/

