MINISTRY IMPACT REPORT

CALLED TOGETHER | CALLED TO CARE

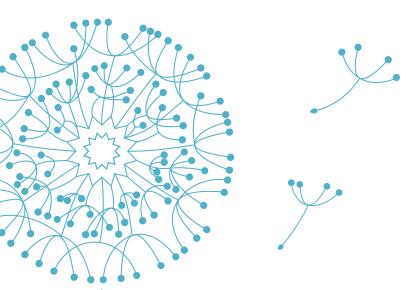




Letter from the President



"More than 130 years ago, our six founding Disciples women advocated on behalf of children and elders in need—and we have not stopped. As the NBA, and as people of faith, we seek to intentionally address the health and social service issues that impact our partners and the communities in their midst."



Dear Friends,

Reflect. Engage. Repeat.

As the health and social services general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), these words carry powerful meaning for us. As the NBA, and as people of faith, we actively reflect: through what justice issues and areas of care can we be making a positive difference?

This year, we are living into a new NBA strategic plan, which will guide our work for the coming years. With our last strategic plan, we developed the NBA XPLOR program, a prophetic movement that accompanies and supports young adults considering lives of care and service. We celebrate welcoming the fifth cohort of young people this fall, and with our new strategic plan we will launch XPLORmore. With our last plan, we created the NBA Incubate Initiative. supporting new and forward-leaning health and social service nonprofits; we introduced the NBA Mental Health Initiative, which provides expert resources and nurtures innovative mental health ministries in Disciples congregations and regions; and we commenced hosting NBA Affinity and Peer Groups for clergy and lay leaders on issues such as prison and jail ministries, mental health and congregational care, development and marketing for nonprofits, and nonprofit executive leadership.

MISSION STATEMENT: Following God's call, the National Benevolent Association exists to inspire and connect the people and ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), to accompany one another in the creation of communities of compassion and care, and to advocate for the well-being of humanity.

The fullness of NBA's ministries of compassion and care will both expand and focus in the work we have already begun. An area of growth that inspires and excites me is our strategic priority to deepen our engagement in advocacy and activism in order to transform the root causes of social injustice. In so many ways, NBA's history centers on the act of advocating and responding to God's call for us to support, champion, and accompany. More than 130 years ago, our six founding Disciples women advocated on behalf of children and elders in need-and we have not stopped. As the NBA, and as people of faith, we seek to intentionally address the health and social service issues that impact our partners and the communities in their midst.

The rhythm of reflection and engagement (then repeat!) is significant in the work we do each day. We say thanks for each and every person who is part of this shared calling to care, and we invite others to consider ways of engaging with us.

In loving service,

MARK D. ANDERSON President and CEO











Mission and Ministry Grants











Clockwise from top: Wilkinsburg Youth Collaboration, Disciples Personal Care Pantry, The Bet Away Group, Community in Action, Rise Up Project.

"With the barrage of gambling activities that have come to Northeast Ohio, we have been called to address how seniors are targeted by casinos, resulting in gambling addictions."

The Bet Away (Better Way) Group, Heights Christian Church, Shaker Heights, OH

Since NBA's founding, a core focus of our outreach has been with older adults and atrisk children and youth. In 2017-18, the NBA launched a **Mission and Ministry Grant Program**, awarding \$150,250 to 21 Disciples congregations and health and social service ministries working and serving with those communities.

Through purpose-restricted funds that date back several decades, these grants would not be available without the generous foresight of NBA's faithful donors. This program ensures that our donors' intentions from decades ago are fulfilled in meaningful, relevant ways in today's context. "We are grateful to facilitate this new granting process—a significant infusion of direct dollars to Disciples ministries," says Rev. Rebecca Hale, NBA Executive Vice President, "and we are eager to see what growth, learning, and impact are possible throughout the church with the help of these funds!"

"We discovered our church was uniquely prepared to welcome children with special needs and their families, with inclusiveness of the table being lived out."

RISE (Respect, Include, Support, Embrace) and SHINE (Supporting Hearts in New Experiences), First Christian Church, Midland, TX

Learn more about our current grantees and how to apply at nbacares.org/grants!





Grantees Receiving Funds for 2018

Grantee Project	Organization/Congregation
Catalyst Grants (\$1,000 - \$5,000)	
Camp Sunflower	Pine Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Wichita, KS
Community Dinner Kitchen Skills Training	University Place Christian Church, Champaign, IL
Creation of Space for Children and Families with Special Needs	First Christian Church, Edmond, OK
Disciples Personal Care Pantry	First Christian Church, Burkburnett, TX
Expanded Kitchen at The Dinner Table	Good Shepherd Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Macedonia, OH
Gathering Space	Disciples Christian Church, Cleveland Heights, OH
Health and Wellness for Seniors through Technology	Bethel Christian Church, Jonesborough, TN
Hope Academic / Tutoring Services (H.A.T.S.)	Hope Christian Church, Hammond, IN
JUMPSTART Back-to-School Clinic	First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Blue Mound, IL
Living Your Life: Coping with Depression and Anxiety	First Christian Church, Salida, CO
RISE (Respect, Include, Support, Embrace) and SHINE (Supporting Hearts in New Experiences)	First Christian Church, Midland, TX
Rise Up Project	15th Avenue Christian Church, Rock Island, IL
S.M.A.R.T. Academic and Enrichment Outreach Program	Shalom Community Christian Church, Inc., Greensboro, NC
The Bet Away (Better Way) Group	Heights Christian Church, Shaker Heights, OH
Innovation Grants (\$6,000 - \$15,000)	
A Partnership of Caring	Christian Temple, Catonsville, MD
Friends Helping Friends	Juliette Fowler Communities, Dallas, TX
Kitchen Apprenticeship Program at Sanctuary Cafe for Opportunity Youth	University Christian Church, Chicago, IL
Specialized Education for Abused, Neglected,	Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado
and Traumatized Children	Christian Home, Denver, CO
Wilkinsburg Youth Collaboration Focused on Life Skills and Arts Engagement	Christian Church of Wilkinsburg, PA
Young Change Makers	Community of Just Love, Houston, TX
Impact Grant (\$20,000+)	
Community in Action: Each One Teach One	Snow Hill Christian Church/Lowndes County Community Life Center, Fort Deposit, AL

Incubate











Highlights from the 2018 NBA Incubate Retreat in Scottsdale, AZ.

"I am restored with momentum to keep moving forward. This retreat is equipping social entrepreneurs through self-care and spiritual practices that strengthen us to face all that is before us."

Rev. Syvoskia Bray Pope, Empower Hope Center, Louisville, KY The NBA *incubates* new ministries, empowering Disciples social entrepreneurs and their projects to focus on growth, strengthen their impact, and plan for appropriate sustainability.

Equipping for Ministry Includes Rest and Renewal

Our annual **SENT Seminar** brings together Disciples-related health and social service ministry start-ups to learn and share in a variety of topics, including leadership coaching, legal principles for faith-based entities, marketing, and fundraising. After completing SENT Seminar, these *Incubate Participants* can access a variety of supportive resources for the next year, including our annual **Incubate Retreat**.

We often wonder, "What if we actually got away to rest, to pray, to find refuge, to have a moment to catch up with ourselves?"

The Incubate Retreat offers just that—creating intentional space for rest, renewal, and equipping for the ministry of social entrepreneurship.

Find social enterprise resources and learn more about Disciples start-ups at **nbcares.org/incubate**.





Rev. Dean Bucalos, Executive Director, Mission Behind Bars and Beyond, Louisville, KY



"Humbly Asking for Help Leads to Our Greatest Joy"

Incubate Participants who are interested in a longer-term relationship with NBA can apply to become an *Incubate* Partner/Affiliate. We help these entities strategically strengthen areas such as board development, capacity building, administrative mentoring, marketing and communications, fundraising and development, bookkeeping services, sustainability, Disciples relationships, and more.

Recovery Café San Jose, a recent Incubate Partner, is a healing community for those traumatized by addiction, homelessness, and mental health challenges. Housed within First Christian Church of San Jose, the Café provides a safe, sober, and supportive environment with a variety of programs, services, and connections to community resources.

"When you step out in faith to start a nonprofit, it's not long before you find out how much you don't know, and how many things you don't do well. ... The miracle is this-through asking others for help, we have met board members, volunteers, and donors who have walked the precipice of addiction with their own children and families. Being involved brings them, and all of us, a sense of being truly connected to one another. So, we live in this irony: our need to humbly ask for help leads to our greatest joy."

Rev. Dana Bainbridge, Founder and Development Officer, Recovery Café San Jose, CA



















Highlights from NBA's March 2018 visit to Recovery Café San Jose, CA.

Initiate





2018 NBA XPLOR Reunion; Leaders from North Hill Christian Church, Spokane, WA.

"The four cornerstones of the XPLOR experience have changed every aspect of my life. A word we use in XPLOR is intention, and I live my life so intentionally. I'm so grateful I ever got this opportunity, and I will live with this for the rest of my life."

Tim Campbell, 2016-17 NBA XPLOR Resident in North Hollywood, CA; from Guelph, Ontario, Canada The NBA *initiates* ministries designed to establish and grow partnerships with health and social service supporters and providers—like **NBA XPLOR**, a 10-month, congregationally hosted residency program designed for young adults exploring a life of faith and the work of justice.

Four Cornerstones of NBA XPLOR:

- 1. Hands-On Service/Justice Work
- 2. Simple Living in Community
- 3. Spiritual Discernment on Vocation
- 4. Disciples Leadership Development

NBA XPLOR Host Sites: Ebb and Flow

Over the years, some locations of our NBA XPLOR host sites have shifted, as the program grows and responds to the needs of our Disciples communities and regions. For 2018-19, we are pleased to welcome **XPLOR Spokane**, a partnership with North Hill Christian Church, Country Homes Christian Church, and the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)!

So far, three sites have concluded their partnership with XPLOR: Quad Cities, IL/IA; and North Hollywood and Golden Gate, CA. We are grateful for the transformational experiences they have provided with young adults. Our thanks to everyone working with the local host teams to make these communities possible!

Learn more about the XPLOR Residency and how to apply at **nbacares.org/xplor**.



Elsie Almodovar-Reyes, 2015-16 NBA XPLOR Resident in North Hollywood, CA; from Toledo, OH



"Creating a Village of Mutual Care and Concern"

As the Residency begins its fifth program year in August 2018, we are excited to launch XPLORmore. This special opportunity is for Residents who have gone through XPLOR already, to have another, new experience going deeper into the program's four cornerstones.

NBA XPLOR is collaborating with NBA Incubate Partner QC Family Tree in Charlotte, NC, for an intensive learningby-living model of "ministry in place." Two XPLORmore Residents ("R2s"), ages 21-30, will be placed in this setting for 2018-19. R2s will live on the QC Family Tree campus and may work in a multitude of settings: working with neighborhood youth, helping to plan semi-monthly community dinners and weekly "devos," or assisting with the West Side Community Land Trust. Additional opportunities include on-site urban gardening, a pottery studio, art and yoga classes, helping maintain the community's Airbnb. and more.

"We're trying to figure out, 'How can we live into a way of abundance, out of a way of scarcity? How can we do that creatively and faithfully?' We're creating a village of mutual care and concern. We're cultivating community in a post-Christian era. That's quite a big challenge, and it's quite a joyful ride."

Rev. Helms Jarrell, Co-Founder of QC Family Tree, Charlotte, NC

















Highlights from QC Family Tree, Charlotte, NC.

Connect









Highlights from participants in the NBA Advocacy & Activism and NBA Prison & Jail Ministries Peer Groups.

"Prison and jail ministry can be lonely...This is about having a group of people where you can come and share, to talk about your journeys, your experiences. We may not always agree on the 'what' and the 'how,' but we do have the same type of passion."

-Rev. Sharyn Cosby, President, Oklahoma Family Empowerment Center, Tulsa, OK

Watch Peer Group videos and learn more at nbacares.org/prison-and-jail.



The NBA connects, resources, and amplifies Disciples health and social service ministries, providing access to a constellation of support and services that help ministries learn, collaborate, and grow stronger.

Peer Learning Groups: Honing Their Craft

Our peer group model is an effective way to help practitioners hone their crafts and find support in the company of colleagues.

From 2016-18, the **Prison and Jail Ministries Peer Group** has connected ministry leaders in a small setting designed to cultivate support, mutual dialogue, spiritual renewal, and learning. This first cohort focused on public narrative—how to share their stories and clearly convey the significant impact of ministries through the context of prisons and jails. The NBA helped participants workshop and prepare their narratives, and then recorded and produced videos with each ministry.

NBA's mission to "advocate for the well-being of humanity" calls us and our partners to deepen engagement in advocacy and activism. Launching in August 2018, the Advocacy and Activism Peer Group will provide opportunities for Disciples to share experience and expertise on social justice issues, explore the theological foundations of social justice, and engage in action and advocacy efforts together. This cohort begins with an in-person gathering in St. Louis, marking and reflecting on the fourth anniversary of Michael Brown's murder in Ferguson, MO.

"It can be an incredible experience of faith, for you, to encounter the existential wrestlings and wisdom of people who have been incarcerated."

Rev. Tiffany Curtis, Pastor, First Christian Church, Santa Fe, NM



Mental Health Initiative: "The Growing Energy Is Palpable"

The NBA encourages the sustainability and innovation of mental health ministries in congregations, regions, and the general Disciples community.

Through Hispanic Outreach with Obra Hispana, we are adapting, implementing, and evaluating mental health ministry with Disciples Hispanic communities. Throughout 2018-19 assemblies and conferences, the Mental Health Initiative will present SoulCare Moments, mental health and wellness workshops, and a bilingual "Train the Trainer" webinar series, featuring topics such as Mental Health 101, How to Manage Crisis/Trauma, Healthy Pastoral Care for Self and Others, and Making Local Connections.

The Georgia Mental Health Initiative

has provided education, support, and infrastructure development to pastors and congregations in Georgia. Over this 2016-18 pilot program, the NBA and Georgia Region have worked together to engage clergy through town hall meetings, workshops, and a comprehensive survey; implement a strong leadership structure and onboard team participants; and prepare for the sustainability of this ongoing regional ministry.

Find Mental Health Initiative videos and other resources at nbacares.org/mental-health.









Highlights from the NBA Mental Health Initiative, focusing on Hispanic Outreach and with the Georgia Region.

"Involvement in the Georgia Mental Health Initiative forges together parts of my identity that too long have been disparate: my spirituality and passion for mental health/wellness. The growing energy on this topic in the region is palpable! I excitedly await the ways in which this work evolves, taking shape and expanding in the years to come."

Terry Crump, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Owner of Crump Wellness Services, Marietta, GA

Partner Directory











The NBA continues to support a rich network of Disciples-related health and social service ministries. Our goals are to connect, resource, and amplify these ministries as they serve as the "hands and feet of God" in their communities. Learn more and get involved at *nbacares.org/directory*!

West

All Peoples Community Center** Los Angeles, CA Christian Church Homes Oakland, CA Oakland Peace Center* Oakland, CA Recovery Café San Jose* San Jose, CA Serra Center Union City, CA SquareOne Villages Eugene, OR Tennyson Center for Children Denver, CO **UrbanMission Community Partners*** Pomona, CA Yakama Christian Mission** White Swan, WA

Southwest

Chain Reaction Ministries
Disciple Homes Management Group
Disciples Retirement Community
of Oklahoma
Inman Christian Center**
Juliette Fowler Communities
Manistee Manor Apartment Homes
Oklahoma Family Empowerment Center*
Reach Beyond Mission*
SHARE (Sharing Hands, A Respite Experience)
Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries**
Tulsa's Table, a project of
StoneSoup Community Venture, Inc.*

Houston, TX Gladewater, TX Oklahoma City, OK

San Antonio, TX
Dallas, TX
Glendale, AZ
Tulsa, OK
Austin, TX
Midland, TX
Los Fresnos, TX
Tulsa, OK



^{**} Disciples Home Missions (DHM) Mission Centers





Midwest

Child Saving Institute Omaha, NE Cleveland Christian Home Cleveland, OH Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry Columbia, MO Hiram Farm Hiram, OH Kansas Christian Home** Newton, KS Patchwork Central / Sozo Health Ministry Evansville, IN Woodhaven Columbia, MO



Northeast

Live in Hope Foundation Philadelphia, PA Safe Haven Day Shelter Falls Church, VA



Southeast A Small Hand Edinburg, VA Christian Care Communities Louisville, KY Christian Services for Children in Alabama Selma, AL Florida Christian Center Jacksonville, FL **HER Faith Ministries*** Memphis, TN Kentucky Appalachian Ministry** Berea, KY **New Communion** Winston-Salem, NC Louisville, KY Mission Behind Bars and Beyond* West Charlotte, NC QC Family Tree* Southern Christian Services for Jackson, MS Children and Youth

Lynchburg, VA

Louisville, KY



Puerto Rico

The Summit

Urban Spirit**

Garden of Eden Health Center Jayuya, PR



Photos: In March 2018, we visited several ministry partners across Texas, Ohio, and California with General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens.

Visit nbacares.org/events/nba-ogmp for more photos, video highlights, and reflections from the road!

Financials



Disciples Mission Fund

We are deeply grateful for the financial support we receive from Disciples congregations, women's groups, and individuals through Disciples Mission Fund (DMF). DMF continues to be our single largest source of funding (nearly \$250,000 a year), given directly to provide for the mission and ministries that you read about here. Your gifts make a difference!

Financial Report

In accordance with the bylaws of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and with guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the NBA's consolidated financial records are audited by independent auditors. Below is a snapshot of our 2017 financials. For a full audit report, go to *nbacares.org/financials*.



Planned Giving through Christian Church Foundation

As a ministry called to respond to the daily needs of neighbors and communities in our midst, we are thankful for the "clouds of witnesses" and donors who remembered the NBA with planned gifts. Their foresight and generosity embody a faith that values investing in the future. We give thanks for the partnership of the Christian Church Foundation and their support to steward the many endowed funds, charitable gift annuities, and legacy gifts that help make possible the health and social service ministries of NBA today.

Blessing Boxes

A special thanks to the many leaders and members of Disciples Women's groups—more than 390—who support NBA and the wider church through the Blessing Box offerings! Your generosity inspires us, and we are strengthened by your daily prayers.

National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 2017 (Dollars in Thousands)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash and investments	\$78,905	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$273
Bequests and other recei	vables \$165	Note payable to affiliate	\$365
All other assets	\$913	Due to affiliated organizations	\$4,392
		Annuity obligations, trust funds, and other liabilities	\$5,363
Total Assets	\$79,983	Total Liabilities	¢10.202
		Total Liabilities	\$10,393
NET ASSETS	\$69,590		
	407,070		

Donors

In 2016-17, Disciples gave generously to create the Rev. Dr. Ben Bohren NBA Leadership Fund through the Christian Church Foundation (CCF). You've helped us raise more than \$50,000—in honor of Ben's 50+ years of ministry—which will ensure programs supporting leadership development, like NBA XPLOR, will continue to be part of NBA.

We are deeply thankful for all of you!







Rev. Dr. Ben Bohren NBA Leadership Fund: 2016 - 2017

Individuals

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Ben Bohren Susan Bowman

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Gary Zimmerman

Congregations

First Christian Church of North Hollywood First Christian Church, Visalia Union Avenue Christian Church

Donors

The community of individuals, families, congregations, and legacy donors listed here makes our mission possible. In 2017, the NBA commemorated **130 years of Disciples ministry**, and many of you made special gifts celebrating this milestone! Whether it was committing to give \$13 a month, or making gifts of \$130 or more, we are so thankful for the ways you honored NBA's past by strengthening the foundation for our future.

Annual Fund: 2017

Individuals

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In memory of Bob and Eura Merriam

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In memory of Paul Jones

Richard Jones and Linda Wallace

Stacey Jones

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"We are ever grateful for your many gifts of support, and for all the ways you join NBA in creating communities of compassion and care!"

Jackie Compton Bunch, Chair, NBA Board of Trustees, Columbus, OH



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For any questions about gifts to the NBA, please contact nba@nbacares.org or (314) 993-9000 ext. 5479. Thank you!

We invite you to be part of our shared work! Your gifts help support Disciples health and social services across the life of the church.

Learn more and make your gift today at nbacares.org/donate.

Thank you for your generosity!

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