

2017-18 NBA Ministry and Mission Grantees
Impact Report:
The Gathering Space
Cleveland Heights, Ohio

The **Gathering Space**, housed in Disciples Christian Church, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, was started to provide a space for the area's Bhutanese immigrant families to meet and learn basic life skills, including banking, job applications, grocery shopping, and English as a second language.

Mission Area: At-Risk Children and Youth, **Catalyst Grant:** US \$3,000

Goals, Outcomes, and Learnings:

- We were able to provide a garden space, housing improvements, transportation assistance, and help with education.
- The Gathering Space project morphed into a slightly different project than we expected. Disciples Christian Church contacted leaders in the Nepali community as to their exact needs, and what we discovered were some simple needs that we easily provided.
- First was bus passes to jobs. Those of us with available transportation often forget the mode of transportation can create obstacles. We also became aware that transportation is often a problem for obtaining groceries, getting to doctor appointments and so on.
- Secondly, we discovered the value of our community gardens. Over the years our community gardens had become overgrown and unused. The grant helped us provide gardening space for Nepali immigrants who live in apartments and have no space to grow food for their families.

- Third, we were able to hire a Nepali woman who spoke English and the native language. She was able to go into homes and discover the needs of the community. She then communicated the needs to Disciples Christian Church. This same woman is in the process of becoming a nurse. We were able to assist her in her education.



As the health and social services general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the National Benevolent Association partners with congregations, regions, general ministries, and a variety of Disciples-related health and social service providers to create communities of compassion and care. Founded in 1887 by six women responding to the needs of the day and on their doorsteps, for more than 130 years the NBA has continued to serve "the least of these." Learn more at www.nbacares.org.