

2017-18 NBA Ministry and Mission Grantees
Impact Report:
The Better Way Group (A Bet Away)
Shaker Heights, Ohio

The **Better Way Group (A Bet Away)** is envisioned as the first faith-based recovery group for problem gamblers in the area, many of whom are seniors. Problem gambling has been added to the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). Our congregation, Heights Christian Church, needs to form coalitions, survey research, and create a faith-based supplement.

Mission Area: Older Adults, **Catalyst Grant:** US \$2,750

Goals, Outcomes, and Learnings:

- Rev. Michele Moreland, Director of the Program, obtained membership on the Cuyahoga [County] Problem Gambling Coalition (CPCC), Problem Gambling Network of Ohio (PGNO), and the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG)
- The CEO of Program Gambling Network of Ohio (PGNO) is coordinating with Rev. Moreland about undertaking national level certification through the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board (NCPG) for clergy and other faith-based workers who are proficient in gambling addiction prevention education, awareness, supportive outreach, and non-clinical care.
- Rev. Moreland had the opportunity to give a presentation from a faith-based perspective at the Cuyahoga Problem Gambling Coalition (Northeast Ohio)'s invitation-only strategic planning meeting.

- Ohio is at the forefront of prevention and treatment of problem gambling and seniors are primary targets of the three major casinos everywhere in the State. Our presence, through just one Minister has kept spiritual formation and development in the forefront of this emerging problem rapidly spreading in Ohio.
- Through Problem Gambling Network of Ohio membership, A Bet Away has access to contractors who can design brochures, workshops, presentations, slogans, and giveaways such as pens for gatherings of clergy, lay leaders, senior groups, etc. Most of these services will be provided at no cost to A Bet Away.

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.