



NBA COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANTS

1
million

Grant Dollars
Awarded

117

Disciples
Organizations
Received a Grant

173

Total # of Grants
Awarded

43%

of Grants for Food
Assistance Programs

Learn more at:
[NBACares.org/
coronavirus](https://NBACares.org/coronavirus)



2019 NBA Disciples Immersion Trip to San Diego and Tijuana to focus on Immigration and Detention justice issues

Committing to Activism & Advocacy with New NBA Community Engagement Program

Since the NBA's founding in 1887, there has been a central theme to our work: to accompany Disciples as they create communities of compassion and care.

In recent years, the NBA has heard and responded to many calls for justice, equity, and healing. We have worked with activists in St. Louis & Ferguson following the shooting death of Michael Brown; brought together community organizers for an extended Activism & Advocacy Peer Learning & Wellness Group; and organized Disciples clergy, community activists, and denominational leaders to the California-Mexico border for an Immigration Detention Immersion Trip that bore witness to the injustices related to immigration, detention, and mental health/trauma.

The work of supporting communities engaged in social justice does not just exist in these moments. We acknowledge that these instances of injustice are daily struggles and, as core to our mission, the NBA is committed to intentional, consistent efforts to advocate and raise awareness through the NBA Community

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XPLOR: Rev. Dr. Ben Bohren on the Heart of NBA XPLOR

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE: Growing Sustainable New Ministries



Rev. Héctor J. Hernández Marcial M.Div., MAMFT, NBA Director of Community Engagement

concerns through collaborative partnerships and best practices in community organizing. We will continue to share resources on how congregations and Disciples can support social justice movements happening inside and outside the life of the church.

The program is led by Rev. Héctor J. Hernández Marcial who serves as the Director of Community Engagement. In his new role, Héctor’s primary responsibility is to identify, establish, and deepen collaborative relationships that strengthen all NBA programs. His work will also address leadership development and advocacy, activism, and organizing initiatives. Additionally, Hector will collaborate with all NBA programs to ensure diverse voices are included

and heard equitably.

“The creation of the Community Engagement Program at NBA is really a continuation of the work we’ve been doing since 2016. This program is an intentional next step,” says Hernández Marcial. “We’ve been imagining the type of collaborations we could have with Disciples communities, our NBA health and social service partners, and even new groups we have yet to connect with. The Community Engagement program will allow NBA to continue to seek out opportunities to support and sustain communities doing ministry in nontraditional ways.”

Learn more about the Community Engagement program at NBAcare.org/stories-and-news.

Engagement Program.

This program consists of three emphasis areas: Leadership Development, Advocacy & Activism, and Collaborative Partnerships. With these areas, NBA seeks to accompany Disciples congregations, health and social service ministries and local organizers as they address injustices. A central commitment of the program will be to address root causes of injustice and systemic issues.

We will support emerging leaders responding to local

Transitions and Celebrations in the NBA Mental Health & Wellness Initiative

After more than five years of service, Rev. Angela Whitenhill-Shields transitioned out of her role as NBA’s Mental Health & Wellness Initiative Manager in February. During her time at NBA, Angela brought expertise in psychotherapy, religious trauma, identity development, and stigma reduction through speaking, training, and program development. “Angela’s work has been instrumental in designing and implementing a vision of mental health and wellness within the context of the church,” says NBA President & CEO, Mark D. Anderson. “Angela allowed us



Whitenhill-Shields (far left) with members of the Georgia Mental Health Initiative Team, who worked on holistic ministry and wellness for clergy and congregations in the Georgia Region.

to recognize that our shared humanity requires us to faithfully address, embrace, and heal from our traumas so that we can be our full selves.”

To read the full story of Angela’s work, visit NBAcare.org/mental-health.

Social Entrepreneurship Grows New Ministries from Ideas to Sustainable Organizations

In January, NBA announced the inaugural SENT Cohort. The group of 10 members attended the 2020 SENT Seminar and demonstrated an interest in working with NBA's social enterprise team on a deeper level to launch and grow their new social service organizations. This new model takes SENT participants from a one-time collective gathering, the SENT Seminar, to a practice of collective gatherings throughout the



The 2021 SENT Cohort held their first 'huddle' on Zoom. View the cohort members' project pitches on our YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/NBAcares](https://www.youtube.com/NBAcares).

year. Innovative Disciples-affiliated health and social service organizations that have been founded within the past 10 years are encouraged to learn more.

Incubate Partners receive up to six years of access to professional consultants, learning opportunities, peer support, and grant funding. **Learn more at [NBAcares.org](https://www.NBAcares.org).**

Rev. Dr. Ben Bohren on the Heart of NBA XPLOR

Rev. Dr. Ben Bohren has retired from his role serving as Mission Specialist for NBA XPLOR. Ben worked with NBA staff and various partner leaders to build a residential service program to support young adult Disciples exploring the connections between a life of faith and the work of justice. The program is now in its eighth year with more than 120 XPLOR alums. During coronavirus, the XPLOR program had to respond and adjust yet the mission remains the same. "The heart of XPLOR are all the many interactions - shared meals, exchanging of stories, daily work, activities, learning moments, fun times - that a Host Team, Host Pastor, and Community Engagement site has with the XPLOR Residents. The partnerships and deep connections have been wondrous for me to



Rev. Dr. Ben Bohren

be part of and to observe over the years," said Bohren. Please visit the NBA Rev. Dr. Ben Bohren Leadership Fund to find out how you can honor and celebrate Ben's leadership. **Read more of Ben's thoughts on the Heart of XPLOR at [NBAcares.org](https://www.NBAcares.org).**



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

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**NBA is a grateful recipient of Disciples Mission Fund support.
Your contributions help make stories and ministries like these possible. Thank you!**

Give Generously to NBA Ministries!

Compassion. Healing. Justice.

At the National Benevolent Association, if you were to listen in on our meetings, emails, phone calls, or ZOOM gatherings - one or all of these words would be found or heard in the midst of the conversations and daily work of being the health and social service general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). By the end of 2020, the NBA granted over \$1 million dollars of support directly to 117 Disciples ministries and churches across 25 Disciples regions. With your generosity, NBA supports and accompanies health and social service ministries and leaders actively offering care and compassion for people, families, and communities in need.

This important work of creating communities of compassion and care continues.

Join us. Make a gift. Thank you!

ENGAGE WITH THE NBA!

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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.



National **Benevolent** Association
CALLED TOGETHER | CALLED TO CARE