# Outreach Committee Report for 2013

This year we received funding requests from 9 agencies. We performed our due diligence to make sure that all agencies requesting funding meet the criteria of being in the St. Louis Association and having clear UCC connections with board representation.

We conducted site visits or phone conversations to the applying agencies. In these challenging economic times, every charitable organization is squeezed between increasing demand and decreasing revenues and gifts in kind. The St. Louis Association is no different. In the first quarter of 2012, there was a decrease of 17% in the giving from the churches to the Association. Therefore, we recommend a decrease of 10% for the outreach budget.

In this next year, the Outreach committee would like to invite others into a broader conversation regarding mission funding. Historically, the St. Louis Association funded three mission agencies – Metro Hope, Neighborhood Houses and Chaplaincy at City Hospital. Only one agency remains as a historical funding priority – Neighborhood Houses.

In looking into the future, the Outreach committee would like to ask the questions and receive responses to just how do the mission agencies fit into the broader scope of the mission and vision for the association. As well, we ponder do we want to stay the same in procedure and process. In other words, we are asking all of the “nuts and bolts” questions of what, where, who and how long should we be funding various mission partners. It is clear in the current funding climate, any new mission initiative, including those in Tennessee and Arkansas, can not to be funded unless an old mission agency is reduced or removed.



## Agency Summary

All of these agencies are recommended to receive less than what they have requested due to financial constraints.

### NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES

Neighborhood Houses provides faith based services to strengthen individuals, families, and communities. They provide before and after school programs at many sites around the city (800 children); early childhood education (88 children); family support services; girls nights out for young mothers (60); connecting fathers and children program (60); emergency services (1,800); and visitation services to reunite foster children with biological families.

They serve over 2,650 people in their variety of ministries on a budget of just over $2MM. The people of Neighborhood Houses are passionate about caring for their children and families, making those families stronger and more functional – thus strengthening the whole neighborhood.

### JOINT NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES

JNM is primarily a food pantry serving 14,000 people of Benton Park and other near South side neighborhoods on a budget of $176,000. However, they do much more than this. They also provide assistance with utilities, rent, and medicine. They have a festive picnic each year at the end of the summer to help students prepare for the new school year. The students not only have a good time, but they also receive a backpack that is filled with school supplies, socks, and underwear. They make sure that their neediest families have a Merry Christmas by providing presents for the children and Christmas dinner for 65 families.

JNM has done an excellent job in meeting the health care needs of their clients by the work of a Deaconess Parish Nurse. Cooking classes, exercise classes and individual health counseling and support are offered through the parish nurse.

One way that JNM is able to do so much is by working with many volunteers. The volunteers are not only their “regulars”, but they have urban experiences where youth groups from all over the Midwest come to spend a week providing service and learning what it is like to live in poverty in the middle of the city.

### ISAIAH 58

Isaiah 58 is primarily a food pantry serving 51,000 people in the Shaw Neighborhood and other near South side neighborhoods on a budget of $292,000. In this past year, Isaiah 58 has had struggles with accountability due to a former employee. Currently, they do not have UCC representation on their board. They do utilize a Deaconess Parish Nurse to improve the health of their clients through educational seminars on cooking and good nutrition. The computer lab continues to operate to help clients build their computer literacy skills and produce resumes. The clothes closet continues to operate as well.

### ST. JOHN’S COMMUNITY SERVICE MINISTRY

St. John’s Community Service Ministry has moved its location this year. Johnniest Henry continues to serve as the coordinator of the pantry. The UCC has board representation and they have been encouraged to have a working relationship with the church that they are currently renting space. The pantry receives large amounts of gifts-in-kind from the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, many area churches, and Dierberg’s Markets. The ministry needs the requested funds to cover utility expenses, times when donations are low and they need to buy groceries, and for gasoline and upkeep on the van. The van travels 66 miles twice per week to pick up the donations from Dierberg’s because they have been assigned to the store at Baxter and Clarkson Rds. They also will deliver food to those who are profoundly disabled.

### LYDIA’S HOUSE

Lydia’s House provides very intensive services to 35 women and over 50 children who have endured years of multiple forms of abuse. In this past year, they have hired a new Executive Director. Their clients are able to live at Lydia’s House for up to 2 years – receiving legal advocacy, therapy, and necessary skills to be productive, independent, and whole human beings. Lydia’s House is now providing transitional housing to complete the work of getting their clients into a safe, new life.

### DOORWAYS

Doorways are similar to Lydia’s House in that they provide very intense ministry to smaller numbers of people. Their role has changed substantially in their history. They used to be a hospice for AIDS patients when they opened. Now they are advocates for their clients – helping them achieve the stability they need to live with their disease for many years – even decades. They do this by getting many of their clients off the streets for the first time in years. Helping their clients have a stable home, nutritious food, health advocacy, and spiritual support allows them to restore their health and live in dignity. This stability is extraordinarily valuable to society because Doorway’s clients frequently restrain their risky behaviors.

We were very impressed with the professionalism, passion, and compassion of the staff. They continually look to their mission statement to measure success and keep their focus.

### ECUMENICAL CAMPUS MINISTRIES

This campus ministry use to serve three community college campuses and only is present at Florissant Valley Community College Campus. They are working in a very hostile environment. The campus leadership is not at all supportive. They were removed from the office they had occupied for many years and even removed from the campus e-mail system 2 years ago. They have a table in the cafeteria. The Outreach committee is recommending that this ministry not be funded at this time. It would be reconsidered in the future if there were more positive changes.

### UNION COMMUNION MINISTRY

UCM works to be a stabilizing force in the surrounding neighborhood of Pilgrim UCC (near Union and Delmar) by providing community activities, town hall meetings with city and neighborhood leaders, and by connecting their clients with other existing services. UCM also helps young people find positive, enriching, productive activities for the summer to help keep them off the streets and out of trouble. Finally, they also help with back to school supplies and a picnic to help the students return to school with the items they need and a positive attitude to help them succeed.

### CONCLUSION

Even though the needs continue to grow and these agencies all deserve all the help we can provide, we recommend decreasing, or in one case eliminating, funding in 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

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