



No child should go to bed hungry.

"I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the [righteous] are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the [Ruler] will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'" – Matthew 25:35-40 MSG

Intergenerational parishioners and volunteers from Pleasant Run United Church of Christ, in Indianapolis, IN, fully embody this passage from Matthew 25. As 2015 Neighbors in Need grant recipients, they were able to feed 950 students in their community.

Students from Manual High School and Emma Donnan Middle School received a "snack pack" of fourteen nutritious food items prior to the start of the Christmas holiday break in December 2015. Both schools have a high population of disadvantaged students who depend on free or reduced meal programs throughout the school year. Without those meals, these students could find themselves hungry and/or malnourished, during the holidays, and must rely on other sources, such as this program.

Neighbors in Need 2016
Special Mission Offering

According to www.FeedingAmerica.org, "Nearly one in five children, i.e. 16 million kids, in America live in households that struggle to put food on the table. They may look no different than children you see in your neighborhood because child hunger in America is often invisible. Nevertheless, they are hurting, just the same. Hungry kids are more likely to experience serious short- and long-term health issues. They tend to have trouble learning and are more prone to behavioral and emotional problems."

Snack Pack project coordinator, Robert Lindemann, believes "there are many aspects of faith, encouragement, hope, and ministry that are components of Pleasant Run's on-going efforts to address the issue of hunger for these young students in our neighborhood schools. There is the recognition and acceptance of the challenge to take on a difficult task in the name of our Christian beliefs."

"Volunteers join in packing each of the 950 bags," Robert says, "including a special needs class for the middle school who volunteered. "To see these young students wanting to do something for others, engaging eagerly in the packing, was worth all the effort that was necessary to accomplish the task. Or course, there is the actual joy expressed by the students when they each receive a bag of food. It is joyful for us as well, in knowing that we have helped young people who we do not know personally. We believe God calls us to serve others."



To learn more about
**Pleasant Run UCC's
Snack Pack Project,**
visit pleasanrunucc.org/
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Indianapolis, IN on Facebook.

**With your generous support, The United Church of Christ, through
the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering, helps its members
live out their beliefs via acts of service.**

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**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

