

UMCG Fourth Quarter Eligible Grant Applicants

97xFM Radio

97xFM Radio, a ministry of City Church Madison, is a Christian FM station dedicated to reaching both Christian music fans and the pre-evangelized through Christian rock and hip-hop music. The station, which broadcasts on 97.1 FM and online at 97x.fm, is a collaborative effort among Madison-area churches and ministries, with the mission of spreading the message of Jesus Christ and supporting a Christian lifestyle through godly music and positive messaging.

In November 2023, 97X moved into a new office space rented from InterVarsity and is working toward building a permanent, fully equipped radio studio. They are seeking \$4,000 to purchase professional-grade microphones, audio mixers, amplifiers, and other broadcasting equipment to enable live programming and enhance production quality. This upgrade will allow the station to better serve the Madison community by providing a professional space for volunteers and invite representatives from local Christian organizations to record interviews and promotional content. While 97X relies on donations and sponsorships to cover expenses, a grant from UMCG would accelerate the completion of this initiative, helping them reach and serve hundreds or thousands of people across Dane County through radio and social media. <https://97x.fm>

Angel Cars LLC

Angel Cars LLC is a faith-based, pay-it-forward foundation serving low-income families, single mothers, and veterans by ensuring access to safe, reliable vehicles. For more than eight years, they have offered free towing, diagnostics, and repair estimates—removing barriers that often prevent vulnerable community members from staying on the road. Reliable transportation means families can keep jobs, care for children, and meet essential commitments, making Angel Cars a lifeline for those in need.

After securing their own facility last year, Angel Cars has invested heavily to create a professional, welcoming space rooted in Christian values of compassion and service. To expand their reach, they are seeking a \$10,000 grant to purchase auto parts, new tools, and hire additional staff. This support will allow them to serve more families, complete repairs more efficiently, and grow their mission of helping people keep their promises by keeping their cars dependable and safe. <https://angelcarsusa.org/>

ATHLETES in ACTION (AIA)

Athletes in Action (AIA), a branch of Cru and a 501(c)(3) organization, is actively equipping student-athletes at UW–Madison to become Christ-centered leaders and spiritual influencers on their teams and beyond. Through its Leadership Development Group (LDG), AIA is currently discipling 10+ student-athletes who meet regularly for community, Bible study, and leadership training. These students are also encouraged to attend transformative summer experiences such as the Ultimate Training Camp, where they learn how to integrate faith and sport, share the Gospel, and return to campus ready to disciple others. The initiative aims to spark a ripple effect, empowering athletes to share what they learn with teammates and influence the broader athletic culture across campus and into the community.

AIA is requesting a \$7,000 grant to support the costs of discipleship materials, leadership group meals, printing, and scholarships for training camps and outreach at other local campuses like Edgewood College and Madison College. While not a new initiative, LDG was relaunched in Spring 2024 with renewed momentum, and its impact continues to grow—reaching 15–25 athletes directly and many more indirectly through peer discipleship and testimonies shared at events like FCA Huddles and Jesus Lunches. AIA believes that investing in these athletes will yield long-term spiritual transformation in their future families, careers, and communities, all rooted in Christ. Visit www.athletesinaction.org.

UMCG Fourth Quarter Eligible Grant Applicants

China Outreach Ministries

China Outreach Ministries is requesting a \$3,746.40 grant from UMCG to expand its International Outreach initiative at UW-Madison. This project aims to share the Gospel with over 4,000 Chinese internationals in Madison through Bible studies, evangelistic discussions, and outreach events. Activities include a Welcome Event, a Madison tour, a new Bible discussion group, and Alpha Course discussions. Funds will cover Bibles, Christian literature, outreach materials, food, and event rentals. The initiative will impact 500 individuals and aligns with UMCG's mission of hospitality, discipleship, and community-building. In partnership with Red Village Church and others, the project is designed to be sustainable through continued donor support and will lead to deeper engagement and lasting faith development. Learn More: <https://www.chinaoutreach.org>

Collaboration Project

The Collaboration Project is requesting \$8,000 in early-stage funding to support the launch of its second Neighborhood Network in Dane County, with a vision to eventually establish 17 networks across the region. These networks are designed to unite Christians across differences, deepen understanding of local neighborhoods, and foster collaborative efforts to love and serve neighbors in the name of Jesus. The funding will directly support key program elements: \$5,000 will cover two large community dinners—including food, venue rental, and a small per diem for community leaders; \$2,200 will fund an annual ministry leader retreat with food, space, and supplies; and \$1,800 will support three additional quarterly gatherings. These efforts are supported by \$14,700 in staffing to coordinate and facilitate the work.

The program builds on the success of the East Neighborhood Network, which has engaged participants from over 15 churches and nonprofits, helping them build trust, understand community needs, and collaborate more effectively. Rooted in Acts 2:42–47 and aligned with UMCG's mission, this work aims to create a thriving, gospel-centered church ecosystem where collaboration and shared witness lead to real community transformation. For more information, visit www.collaborationproject.us.

Focus Church

Focus Church in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, is committed to helping people find their place in God's plan through its mission of "Loving God, Loving People, and Doing Something." One of its key outreach efforts is Burst Thursdays, a free afterschool program created in 2021 in partnership with Royal Oaks Elementary School to support families during early Thursday dismissals. Running weekly from 1:30–3:30 PM, the program provides kids with games, snacks, Bible lessons, praise, and mentorship. Over the past 3.3 years, it has served 411 unique students with nearly 9,000 check-ins and has led to deeper connections with families—over half of the participants have gone on to engage in other church activities.

Focus Church is requesting a \$10,000 grant to replace worn-out equipment and expand programming as they enter their fourth school year. This includes laptops, games, sports gear, audio tools, and t-shirts to enhance the experience for the growing number of students. Burst Thursdays meets a real need in the community and introduces children and families to the hope in Jesus Christ. Visit <https://findfocus.org>

UMCG Fourth Quarter Eligible Grant Applicants

Foster of Dane County (Ties that Bind)

FOSTER of Dane County is requesting a \$7,500 grant to support "The Ties That Bind: Reclaiming Family" initiative, which aims to strengthen families through intergenerational engagement. The program will host monthly Family Fun Days, offering activities that encourage family bonding, promote physical and mental wellness, and provide intergenerational learning. Each session will include a nutritious meal, family team-building exercises, and resource sharing for family stabilization. The initiative is designed to address the growing needs of vulnerable families in Dane County, particularly grandparents caring for grandchildren, by reducing isolation, offering emotional support, and fostering spiritual growth through the love of Christ. The project is expected to impact over 500 individuals, including grandparents, parents, and children, and will result in improved social, emotional, and financial support, ultimately leading to enhanced family well-being. A grant will go toward the costs of meals, activity supplies, transportation, household essential kits, and stipends. This project aligns with FOSTER's mission to support marginalized individuals and families, promoting leadership, reducing social isolation, and offer a foundation of faith while contributing to the reduction of social challenges in the community.

Greater Things Now

Greater Things Now Inc. is requesting a \$5,525 grant from UMCG to support the Greater Things Now Christian Women's Conference being held November 1, 2025. This full-day event, featuring a worship band, local speakers, prayer teams, and craft activities, aims to engage, equip, and inspire women in Dane County and beyond. It provides a space for women from all backgrounds to deepen their understanding of biblical truth, experience fellowship, and connect with local Christian resources. The funds will cover event expenses such as advertising, venue rental, worship team costs, and logistics. This conference addresses the need for fellowship and support, particularly after the isolation caused by COVID-19. It also provides a platform for local nonprofits that serve disadvantaged women, fostering community connections. The conference, now in its third year, has already impacted 300 women. The anticipated outcome of the grant is to increase attendance, broaden its reach, and empower women to live out their faith. The event is expected to become self-sustaining through growing visibility, donor, and volunteer support, aligning with UMCG's mission to spread biblical truths and strengthen communities.

Hands for Harvest, Inc.

Hands for Harvest is a team of regenerative growers committed to demonstrating the love of Christ by addressing food insecurity and building resilient families in Dane County. A key part of this mission is the Boys' Discipleship Program, that launched in summer 2025. Each week, boys ages 10–14 spend a full day on the farm learning hands-on skills such as planting, harvesting, caring for livestock, and basic woodworking—all guided by founder Aaron and the team. These practical lessons teach responsibility, leadership, and service to others.

The program integrates weekly scripture-based devotionals that tie directly to the day's farm work, encouraging boys to develop Christ-centered character and a sense of purpose. By discipling youth during these formative years, Hands for Harvest equips them to become leaders who serve their families and communities with both their hands and hearts. The \$10,000 grant will directly support the program's operations and growth, allowing it to reach more boys across Dane County. By nurturing faith alongside practical skills, the program plants seeds of lifelong discipleship that ripple outward—strengthening families, churches, and neighborhoods as these young men carry the gospel into their homes and communities. For more information, visit <https://www.hands4harvest.org/>

UMCG Fourth Quarter Eligible Grant Applicants

International Friendship Center, Inc.

The International Friendship Center (IFC) is requesting a \$3,000 grant to support its ongoing ministry serving international students in Dane County. Through a combination of English language classes, Bible studies, and cultural events, IFC builds relationships with international students, enabling them to practice English, experience American culture, and learn the life-saving gospel of Jesus Christ. These activities are offered free of charge, and the grant will be used to purchase Bibles, Christian resources, food, supplies for activities, and hospitality items to support these events. The initiative serves 200-250 international students from universities like UW-Madison, Edgewood, MATC, and WESLI. By offering free resources and a welcoming environment, IFC provides a space where students can explore faith in Jesus and form life-changing friendships. While the initiative collaborates with other local ministries, IFC operates independently with its own schedule of events.

The anticipated outcomes for the next 12 months include deepening relationships with international students, planting seeds of faith, and witnessing life transformations as students engage with the gospel. Though the initiative is sustainable without UMCG funding, this grant would significantly expand its impact by ensuring the continuation of free classes and activities, enabling IFC to further its mission of sharing Jesus's love and transforming lives within the international student community. IFC's work aligns with UMCG's mission by offering spiritual support to those who may not otherwise have access to Christian teachings, providing a tangible expression of love and care.

Living Springs International Church

Living Springs International Church started "Madison For Christ," in 2015 that involved door-to-door evangelism, community outreach, and distributing food and supplies while sharing the gospel. The church also engages with the community at local events like the African Festival by offering free water and spreading Christ's message. The church is requesting a \$10,000 grant to support their \$25,000 initiative to expand their outreach through home cells (small groups) in different Dane County neighborhoods. These groups will focus on Bible studies, fellowship, and evangelism. The grant will fund leader training, transportation, and group meeting expenses. The project aims to continue growing the church's presence and outreach in local communities. The project has impacted over 400 people at events and provides transportation for more than 40 college students. With the grant, the church hopes to expand its campus ministry and reach more people. While sustainable without the grant, the funding will help accelerate growth and success.

Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin

Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS) is requesting a \$5,000 grant to support mental health counseling services in the Madison area. The initiative aims to address the growing demand for professional mental health support, particularly for those who are uninsured or underinsured. LCFS provides licensed counseling services to individuals, children, and families dealing with anxiety, depression, trauma, and other mental health concerns, focusing on a holistic approach that integrates Christian values. LCFS operates two satellite locations in Sun Prairie and Fitchburg, along with telehealth options, and serves a high number of clients, with over 1,200 sessions conducted in 2024. The grant will allow LCFS to expand its capacity to serve more individuals in need, helping them develop coping strategies and achieve better mental health outcomes. LCFS's sustainable model includes private insurance, grants, donations, and thrift store proceeds, allowing the organization to maintain its services while keeping overhead costs low. This initiative demonstrates Christian compassion and provides essential services to the community. The anticipated outcomes include improved mental health for clients, measured through individualized treatment goals and progress assessments.

UMCG Fourth Quarter Eligible Grant Applicants

MAGNUM OPUS

This initiative combines a bold ballet production with scholarships for children to study Christian fine arts, using the arts as a direct ministry tool. The organization is seeking \$5,000 to make this possible. Of that amount, \$3,000 will cover theatre rental, projection, and a technical director—ensuring the gospel message is presented with excellence in downtown Madison and surrounding communities. The ballet is expected to reach several hundred people across Dane County and beyond, planting and watering seeds of faith through a powerful and memorable performance.

The remaining \$2,000 will fund scholarships for families who cannot afford tuition, directly impacting a dozen or more children and their families by allowing them to participate in Christian fine arts education. These classes not only develop artistic talent but also bring Jesus into students' lives in a personal way, shaping their character and strengthening their faith. Together, this investment will touch hundreds of lives—both through community-wide gospel outreach and by equipping the next generation of young artists to carry their faith into their homes, schools, and neighborhoods.

Mercy Dental Mission (Previously Affordable Dental Care, Inc.)

Mercy Dental Missions is committed to providing compassionate, life-changing dental care for those in need, with a special focus on vulnerable populations such as missionaries, church laborers, and low-income families. Through the Agape Grant Program, patients who cannot afford even reduced fees are given additional financial assistance to cover essential treatments like exams, fillings, extractions, and dentures. Each grant relieves pain, restores dignity, and empowers individuals to return to work, ministry, and daily life free from the burden of untreated dental disease. Rooted in Christian faith, Mercy Dental Missions also ministers to patients spiritually by offering free Bibles, Scripture displays throughout the clinic, and opportunities for prayer and encouragement. With the support of a \$10,000 grant, the Agape Program will expand its reach, directly funding urgent dental care while strengthening the Christ-centered environment of the clinic. Every smile restored becomes a testimony of God's love in action, offering hope, health, and renewed strength to serve Him and others. For more information, visit <http://www.mercydentalmissions.org>

Mount Zion Baptist Church – Midwest Gospel Preaching Summit

Mt. Zion Baptist Church is seeking a \$10,000 grant to support the Midwest Gospel Preaching Summit (MGPS), an annual gathering designed to strengthen churches through preaching, leadership development, and collaboration. The Summit equips pastors, preachers, ministry leaders, and laypersons with biblical teaching, practical workshops, and spiritual renewal opportunities that directly enhance their ability to serve. Grant funds will cover speaker honorariums and travel, scholarships for emerging leaders and small-church pastors, program materials, meals, and hospitality. By investing in these areas, the Summit ensures accessibility and excellence, empowering leaders to proclaim the Gospel with clarity, conviction, and cultural relevance.

Now in its fourth year, MGPS will impact over 100 participants—with at least 50 leaders from Dane County receiving scholarships or reduced registration so financial barriers do not prevent their participation. The Summit also hosts worship services open to the public, directly blessing the local community while fostering unity across churches and ministries. The ripple effect extends far beyond the event: stronger preaching, healthier church systems, and more vibrant congregations will equip pastors and leaders to disciple families, engage their neighborhoods, and multiply the reach of the Gospel throughout Dane County and the Midwest. This grant represents a direct investment in the spiritual health of leaders and the long-term strength of the churches they serve.

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Northside Christian Assembly

Northside Christian Assembly (NCA), a 501(c)(3) organization based in Madison, Wisconsin, is launching Fall Fest, a community outreach event designed to engage children, teens, and their families with the love and message of Jesus Christ. Rooted in NCA's mission to bring the love, power, and truth of Christ to everyone, Fall Fest seeks to reach underserved and unchurched families in the surrounding neighborhoods through a welcoming, fun, and spiritually impactful experience. The event will feature outdoor activities, age-appropriate games, food, prizes, and a family worship service where the gospel will be shared by youth and attendees will be invited to commit their lives to Christ. With an expected attendance of 200–250 people, Fall Fest aims to break down barriers such as transportation and cost, creating an accessible and Christ-centered environment. NCA plans to collaborate with local schools, community centers, and faith-based groups to promote the event and build long-term connections. The requested \$5,000 grant will help cover essential costs including food, equipment rentals, transportation, outreach materials, and prizes—enhancing the quality and reach of this new initiative. Ultimately, Fall Fest is more than an event—it is a gospel-driven effort to foster community, develop leaders, and draw families into lasting relationships with Christ and His Church. For more information, visit <https://ncamadison.com/>

Our Lady of Hope Clinic

Our Lady of Hope Clinic, a Direct Primary Care Clinic serving uninsured patients, seeks a \$10,000 grant to support its mission of providing primary and pro-life fertility care. The clinic's goal is to expand its services by hiring a new medical provider and launching a marketing campaign aimed at increasing clinic revenue, fundraising, and patient engagement. This initiative will directly support the care of uninsured individuals and grow the clinic's capacity for long-term sustainability. The total project budget is \$333,000, which includes a two-year salary commitment of \$100,000 for the new provider and \$133,000 for the marketing campaign. The grant will offset operational costs, ensuring the clinic's ability to provide ongoing free care while enhancing public awareness and outreach to prospective patients and donors. The project aligns with UMCG's mission by exemplifying Christ's call to serve "the least of these" through compassionate, pro-life care. This initiative will impact approximately 2,000 people, including uninsured patients, NaPro members, and Direct Primary Care members, over the next two years. The project is designed for sustainability through increased membership and revenue generation, ensuring continued growth without reliance on external grants.

Safe Families for Children WI - Dane County –1000 Generations

1000 Generations is a new nonprofit ministry of Safe Families for Children focused on keeping children safe and families together by building a network of faith-driven volunteers. Motivated by Radical Hospitality, Disruptive Generosity, and Intentional Compassion, they partner with local churches and organizations to support families facing crisis and isolation. Their mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect, reduce entries into the child welfare system, and offer stability through Christ-centered care. They are requesting a \$10,000 grant to recruit and train 75–100 new volunteers in 2025. These volunteers will provide practical help—like childcare, transportation, and meals—as well as emotional and spiritual support through prayer and mentorship. Funds will be used for outreach, training materials, background checks, staff coordination, and volunteer care. With partnerships already established with over 10 churches and a variety of community organizations, Safe Families aims to serve at least 50 families next year. This ministry not only meets urgent physical needs but also fosters lasting transformation by helping families experience God's love through the care and presence of His people.

UMCG Fourth Quarter Eligible Grant Applicants

Salvation Army of Dane County

The Salvation Army of Dane County is requesting a \$6,000 grant to support the creation of Bible Journaling kits for participants in their Women's and Family Shelter Bible Study groups. These kits will include a Journaling Bible, pens, gel highlighters, pencils, stencils, washi tape, a blank journal, and a carrying case. The goal is to enhance Bible study by encouraging creative expression and daily personal Bible exploration.

The grant will cover the costs of purchasing the materials and shipping. The initiative will impact 56 participants in the shelter Bible study groups over the next year, deepening their understanding of God's Word and fostering personal relationships with Him. The project aligns with UMCG's mission by serving an underserved community through intentional Bible teaching.

While the project is not new, the provision of the kits is expected to encourage further participation and deeper engagement. In the future, the initiative will be sustained through the Salvation Army's annual budget and private donations.

Wisconsin Inmate Education Association – Operation Transformation

The Wisconsin Inmate Education Association and its Operation Transformation program, is dedicated to transforming incarcerated men through biblical education that equips them to impact their families, fellow inmates, and communities. Participants pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies with a minor in Psychology, engaging deeply with Scripture and its relevance to their lives. This journey often leads to profound personal and spiritual transformation that ripples outward into the prison environment, creating a culture of hope and renewal.

This Fall, twelve new students are beginning their studies, and the Association is seeking a \$2,300 grant to cover the costs for one student. Funding will provide tuition, books, materials, and the academic and pastoral support necessary for success both inside and outside the classroom. By supporting one student's education, donors help plant seeds of change that extend far beyond the individual, fostering restoration and transformation within prison walls and beyond. For more information, visit <http://wisinmateedu.org>

Young Life Dane County

Young Life Dane County is requesting a \$7,500 grant to provide camp scholarships for 15 low-income teenagers. The initiative aims to ensure that financial barriers do not prevent students from experiencing the transformative Young Life Camp, where they can grow in their faith, build relationships with mentors, and strengthen their identities in Christ. This program directly serves the community by promoting equity among teens and their families, offering an opportunity to engage in faith-based adventure and mentorship. The requested funds will contribute to partial scholarships of \$500 each, alleviating financial burdens and supporting the holistic development of youth.

This initiative aligns with UMCG's mission to provide access to life-changing opportunities for underserved populations, reflecting Jesus' love and care for the marginalized. Without this grant, Young Life Dane County would struggle to meet the increasing financial needs of their growing base of low-income participants.