

UMCG Period 3 Eligible Organization Grant Applications 2026

1. 1000 Generations DBA Safe Families for Children Wisconsin (Received \$5000 in Period 1)

Website	http://www.safefamilieswi.org
Organization Mission	Safe Families for Children is a family preservation movement fueled by radical hospitality to keep children safe and families together. We build a network of compassionate volunteers motivated by their faith and demonstrating the love of Christ to support families facing isolation. Our goals are to prevent child abuse and neglect, reduce the number of children entering the child welfare system, and support and stabilize families across Wisconsin.
Project / Initiative	The Family Support Initiative — Round Three: Scaling Sustainable Community Care
Project Summary	When parents navigating overwhelming circumstances step into our community, they are often carrying the weight of total isolation. The Family Support Initiative transforms that isolation into belonging. Having successfully met our initial project milestones, we are entering the second phase of this initiative to expand our impact and bring our vision to complete realization. Thanks to your generous support last year, we built a strong foundation; now, we are seeking an additional \$5,000 to close the remaining gap in our funding. We are remarkably close to our goal, and this final investment will provide the exact momentum needed to push us across the finish line and secure lasting results. Through this initiative, we build Circles of Support around parents, surrounding them with host families, family mentors, and local church communities who offer practical care and Christ-centered hope. Funding directly supports our Program Manager to coordinate intake, thoughtfully match families with trained volunteers, and walk alongside parents as they regain their footing. In 2026, this expansion will allow us to serve at least 30 families in Dane County, with the capacity to scale by 50%. Rather than watching families crumble under heavy burdens, we step in with radical hospitality so that no parent walks through hardship alone.
Grant Request	5000
Total Initiative Budget	60000
Annual Organization Budget	2483200
Use of Funds	Grant funds will directly power the relational infrastructure of the Family Support Initiative in Dane. Having successfully met our initial project milestones, we are entering the second phase of this initiative to expand our impact and bring our vision to complete realization. Thanks to your generous support last year, we built a strong foundation; now, we are seeking an additional \$5,000 to close the remaining gap in our funding. We are remarkably close to our goal, and this final investment will provide the exact momentum needed to push us across the finish line and secure lasting results. Specifically, these funds sustain our dedicated Program Manager, who serves as the vital bridge between families seeking help, local churches, and volunteer teams. When parents facing overwhelming circumstances reach out, our Program Manager ensures they are met with dignity, speed, and ongoing relational care. Additionally, funding covers background checks, volunteer trauma-informed training, host family preparation, and faith-centered community gatherings. These resources ensure that children are cared for safely, parents are met with honor rather than judgment, and local churches are fully equipped to embody the hands and feet of Jesus.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	At its heart, the Family Support Initiative is the Gospel in action: radical hospitality, disruptive generosity, and intentional compassion. Our volunteers offer spiritual family, they pray, share meals, host children during crises, and walk alongside parents as friends. Through these relationships, parents experience tangible grace. The impact lives in moments like this text from one of our moms: "Hi all, I just wanted to let you all know when I first met Safe Families I didn't know how to feel. After getting my children taken from me I didn't know who to trust. I walked in with fear, frustration and I was lost on hope. I questioned the thought of receiving help from this organization. I've always been the one to trust my gut feeling, the feeling I felt when I met Safe Families staff members were, warmth, safety, protection, healing and a team/family that'll do everything they can to let me know 'Never give up'. I've gained a best friend throughout my continuous journey with them, I've gained family, and more friends. There are days I

	feel like giving up and the first thing I do is call 'My family' (Safe Families) to vent and talk with them about what's bothering me. As always they never let me down. They are by far the best Support Program honestly... For their support through every obstacle I have/had to take on, I will forevermore be grateful for them. It's so much more I could say but this is only the beginning of a story we are creating together."
Scripture	"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." — Romans 12:13 At Safe Families for Children, we believe the Church, not our organization, is God's primary way to bring hope, healing, and radical hospitality to our world. Through the Family Support Initiative, Dane County congregations surround isolated parents with care—keeping kids safe and preserving families before crisis strikes. When believers open their hearts, they live out the Gospel in real time.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	This initiative aligns seamlessly with MCGF's mission to glorify God by sharing His love and truth while equipping families to thrive spiritually, physically, and emotionally. By stepping into moments of overwhelming circumstances with Radical Hospitality, our initiative honors God's heart for the vulnerable and demonstrates the gospel in living color. We address immediate physical and emotional needs by providing safe hosting environments, transportation, mentorship, and practical care. Simultaneously, we share the truth of God's redemptive love through enduring, faith-filled relationships. Families are not treated as projects to be fixed, but as image-bearers of God deserving of honor and community. By restoring hope, preserving family unity, and breaking cycles of generational isolation, this work points parents directly to the restoring love of Jesus, empowering them to flourish in Him.
New Initiative / Collaboration	No, this initiative represents the expanding second phase of our Dane County footprint for 2026. While led by Safe Families for Children, the model relies intrinsically on deep collaboration with local churches, faith communities, and local support networks. Local churches serve as volunteer hubs, mobilizing host families and mentors, while community agencies refer parents who are facing hardship without a safety net. By pairing professional coordination with mobilized local believers, we ensure families receive seamless, holistic support that combines immediate relief with long-term spiritual and emotional belonging.
Estimated People Impacted	So far this year, we've walked alongside 20 families. By the end of 2026, our goal is to serve 30 households (75–100 parents and kids) in Dane County and equip 100+ volunteers—rewriting stories from isolation to connection.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, this grant will secure the operational leadership needed to expand our reach, allowing us to serve up to 50% more families across Dane County. Key anticipated outcomes include: Enhanced Family Stability: Parents navigating hardship will experience reduced isolation, increased personal resilience, and restored parental confidence through consistent relational mentorship. Child Protection & Preservation: Children will remain safe and connected to parents who love them, preventing unnecessary entry into the foster care system. Mobilized Faith Communities: Local churches will be equipped and active in lifestyle ministry, living out radical hospitality within their own neighborhoods. Lasting Generational Hope: As demonstrated by the testimony of our families, parents will build lifelong support networks, shifting from fear and despair into active hope and spiritual community.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Having successfully met our initial project milestones, we are entering the second phase of this initiative to expand our impact and bring our vision to complete realization. Thanks to your generous support last year, we built a strong foundation; now, we are seeking an additional \$5,000 to close the remaining gap in our funding. We are remarkably close to our goal, and this final investment will provide the exact momentum needed to push us across the finish line and secure lasting results. While Safe Families maintains a growing base of church partners and individual supporters, UMCG's grant provides the precise funding required to maintain full program capacity in Dane County. Without this final \$5,000 investment, we would be forced to scale back volunteer coordination, limiting the number of isolated families we can reach during critical moments. Because our model activates volunteers and church networks that stay engaged long after a formal hosting ends, your investment creates an enduring, self-sustaining community of care that will benefit Dane County families for years to come.

2. Athletes in Action (AIA)

Website	https://athletesinaction.org/
Organization Mission	Brokenness exists in every area of life, including sport. But we believe there is a remedy to the brokenness of the world in the Gospel of Jesus. Athletes experience brokenness both personally and as part of sport-culture. They also have unmatched influence in their communities and around the globe. Since 1966, we have been helping athletes experience the hope and purpose that comes from following Jesus, and equipping them to use their platform to be part of God's mission in the world to make disciples of all nations. By serving, training, and sending athletes as influencers into the world, we are building spiritual movements everywhere through the platform of sport so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus.
Project / Initiative	Madison Athletes Taking Steps of Faith
Project Summary	Our initiative this year is three-fold. First, we have a recently graduated athlete from UW-Madison named Gracie Walker, who has stepped out in faith and decided to join us on staff with Athletes in Action full-time! Gracie will be going to our new staff orientation in January and then beginning the process of support raising before she reports to campus once she is fully funded. To encourage her and to catalyze her support raising efforts, we are raising funds to direct toward her orientation costs (to cover food, housing, and theology classes). Second, at a recent meeting we had 20 athletes express high interest in attending Ultimate Training Camp (UTC) or another AIA trip this upcoming summer. This includes a group of 10 wrestlers who we have challenged to attend UTC in the summer of 2026 and then go on a wrestling tour to Central Asia in the summer of 2027. We are raising funds to provide partial scholarships to help these athletes attend UTC and/or the wrestling trip. Third, we continue our on campus evangelism and discipleship efforts. This past fall semester, we have provided dozens of Bibles to athletes who are coming to Bible studies for the first time in their lives! We therefore have the privilege of the ongoing need to purchase more Bibles and discipleship materials (printed Bible studies, 1-on-1 discipleship curriculum, etc.).
Grant Request	7000
Total Initiative Budget	12000
Annual Organization Budget	Historically \$10-20k. That does not include our staff salaries (raised separately).
Use of Funds	Funds to help cover Gracie Walker's New Staff Orientation costs: \$3,000 Scholarships (to help send athletes to AIA's Ultimate Training Camp and/or to the Central Asia wrestling trip): \$3,000 Discipleship Materials (Bibles, Bible studies, books and other discipleship content to facilitate spiritual growth): \$1,000
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	Adding Gracie to our staff team provides a huge lift for our capacity to reach athletes for Christ at UW, Edgewood, and Madison College. As a student, Gracie has already made an eternal impact in the lives of others through leading Bible studies and discipling other students. We are very excited for her to begin doing ministry full-time. Getting her off to a healthy start to her support raising efforts is a high priority for our team as we know that being fully funded is key to her not only joining our team but staying in ministry long-term. Scholarships to UTC and/or the wrestling trip will help athletes take a step of faith to grow in a "spiritual greenhouse" type of environment. We consistently see each year that our athletes who attend UTC or another AIA trip come back to campus very equipped and excited to minister to their teammates, lead a Bible study, and even say "yes" to discipling their teammates one-on-one. Funds to purchase discipleship materials will continue to facilitate our weekly efforts to reach new athletes with the Good News of Jesus, disciple them to truly follow Jesus, and equip them to multiply their faith by reaching and discipling their teammates. Our vision is similar to Jesus' 3-12-72-500 discipleship strategy. We see that athletes have opportunities to influence first their team, then their athletic department at large, and quite possibly even the entire city of Madison or State of Wisconsin through the platforms that their sports give them.
Scripture	"for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds

	promise for the present life and also for the life to come." - 1 Timothy 4:8 "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." - 2 Timothy 2:2
Alignment with UMCG Mission	Our hope is that Gracie's life and the lives of the current student-athletes continue to be transformed by the Gospel as we help each of them grow in the depth of their relationship with God. Through the equipping materials and experiences they receive, we foresee the athletes becoming more and more confident living out their faith and sharing the Gospel with their teammates, friends, and families. These experiences and materials also emphasize the importance of lifelong community and becoming involved in a local church wherever their lives take them. This training in godliness will lay the foundation for the next 60+ years of their lives and will have an eternal impact on what their future careers, relationships, and families look like. As 1 Timothy 4:8 says, we believe that this investment in these athletes truly does hold promise for the present life and also for the life to come.
New Initiative / Collaboration	Helping fund Gracie's orientation is a new initiative. UTC and weekly evangelism/discipleship is an ongoing initiative. Sending wrestlers overseas is something we have done before but not in many years. This initiative is not in direct collaboration with any other organization; however, one aspect of spiritual growth that many of our students benefit from are the opportunities they receive to share their testimonies at local high school events like FCA Huddles and Jesus Lunch.
Estimated People Impacted	Approx. 40 directly from the materials, scholarships, and athletes personally discipled by Gracie. 80-120 as we challenge and encourage the athletes to entrust what they learn to other faithful men and women. Many more as the ripple effects continue.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, we anticipate Gracie getting fully funded, reporting to campus, and beginning to share the Gospel with and disciple athletes on campus. We also anticipate 15-20 athletes attending an Ultimate Training Camp or another AIA project where they will be further equipped to return to campus and lead a team Bible study and/or disciple fellow athletes. We anticipate hundreds of college and high school athletes receiving opportunities to hear and respond to the Gospel as they participate in spiritual conversations in the locker room, 1-on-1 discipleship meetings, Bible studies, our AIA weekly meeting, and testimony nights at local FCA gatherings and Jesus Lunches.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes. Without the grant from UMCG, we will still help Gracie get started with her fundraising, we will still purchase discipleship materials, and we will still provide some scholarships. Currently, many of these expenses come directly out of our personal AIA staff accounts (which are designated for our salaries and a small portion of ministry expenses). So without the grant, we could continue to provide the support, materials and experiences at a reduced level, and/or we would pursue other fundraising avenues to help cover the costs.

3. Beaver Dam Mission Center

Website	http://www.missionbd.org
Organization Mission	The Beaver Dam Mission Center exists to share the saving message of Jesus Christ while serving individuals and families in moments of personal crisis in Beaver Dam and surrounding communities.
Project / Initiative	Crisis Support & Gospel Outreach Ministry
Project Summary	The Beaver Dam Mission Center's Crisis Support & Gospel Outreach Ministry exists to share the hope of Jesus Christ while walking alongside individuals and families in moments of crisis. Support is provided on a case-by-case basis and may include hotel vouchers for people experiencing homelessness, limited rental assistance, transportation, cell phone minutes, clothing, meals, or other immediate needs. In unique circumstances, we have also provided short-term emergency housing while helping individuals connect with longer-term resources. Every situation is different, so our decisions are guided by prayer, discernment, and the oversight of our Board of Directors, which supports and encourages our Executive Director and program leaders. Our ministry is intentionally relational: we listen, pray, provide mentorship, connect people with case management and community resources, offer Bible studies and rides to church, and simply spend time with people who need someone to walk alongside them. With every encounter, we offer prayer and a Bible when the individual is willing to receive them. We also conduct Gospel outreach in communities including Madison and serve low-income families through our year-round shoe ministry, providing shoes, winter boots, and Bibles through school partnerships and our annual Back-to-School Shoe Event. Through every part of this ministry, our goal is to meet real needs while faithfully pointing people to Jesus Christ through both our words and our actions.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	20000
Annual Organization Budget	30000
Use of Funds	Grant funds will support direct ministry expenses for individuals and families in crisis. Assistance is considered case by case and may include hotel vouchers for people experiencing homelessness, limited emergency assistance, transportation, bus passes, gas or food gift cards, cell phone minutes, meals, Bibles, and other immediate needs. We also assemble homeless outreach kits using donated and purchased items such as food, hygiene supplies, new gloves, hand warmers, Gospel tracts, and full Bibles. These are used during outreach in Madison and other communities, where we spend time in conversation, prayer, relationship-building, and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Funds may also support our year-round shoe ministry, including new shoes and winter boots for children in need through our annual August Back-to-School Shoe Event and ongoing school partnerships. All assistance is prayerfully considered with leadership and board oversight, with the goal of loving people through action while pointing them to Jesus Christ.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	Beaver Dam Mission Center has a direct ministry presence in Dane County through outreach in Madison and plans to continue outreach in Madison. During colder months, we set up in public areas with hot coffee, food, homeless outreach kits, new gloves, Bibles, Gospel tracts, and other practical items for people experiencing homelessness or hardship. The heart of this outreach is relational and evangelistic. We spend time listening to people, learning their stories, praying with them, sharing Scripture, and talking openly about the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ. When appropriate, we also help connect individuals with local organizations and resources in the Madison area. Our goal is not simply to distribute supplies, but to be physically present with people, meet practical needs, and use those moments to faithfully share the Gospel and demonstrate the love of Christ through action.

Scripture	1 John 3:18 — “Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” Ephesians 3:20 — “Now all glory to God, who is able to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.” We know we can do nothing without God. We are not simply nonprofit workers; we are Christians whose lives have been radically changed by Jesus, seeking to live out what Scripture calls us to do: love God, love our neighbors, and trust Him to multiply the work of our hands.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	This initiative closely aligns with UMCG’s mission to support Christian ministries that share the Gospel of Jesus Christ while using Biblical principles to transform lives. At Beaver Dam Mission Center, the Gospel is not an addition to our work; it is the reason for it. Whether we are helping a family in crisis, providing hotel assistance to someone experiencing homelessness, distributing shoes and winter boots to children, or serving people through outreach in Madison, our goal is to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through both word and action. We intentionally pray with people, share our own personal struggles and past, offer Bibles and Gospel tracts, share Scripture, build relationships, provide mentorship, and speak openly about the hope and salvation found in Jesus. We believe practical service should point beyond the immediate need to the greater hope found in Christ. Our ministry is guided by Scripture, prayer, Christian leadership, and the belief that loving our neighbors means meeting real needs while faithfully carrying out the Great Commission.
New Initiative / Collaboration	Beaver Dam Mission Center was founded in March 2025, so the organization itself is still relatively new. However, this initiative has been an ongoing part of our ministry since the beginning and continues to grow as needs, relationships, and partnerships develop. Collaboration is central to the work. We partner with area schools to identify children in need of shoes and winter boots, work with churches and Christian volunteers for outreach and ministry support, and connect individuals in crisis with local agencies, case managers, shelters, and other community resources when needs extend beyond what we can provide directly. Our annual Back-to-School Shoe Event also depends on local businesses, volunteers, churches, and community organizations working together. As the ministry grows, we continue building new relationships while keeping Jesus Christ and the Gospel at the center of how and why we serve.
Estimated People Impacted	We estimate this initiative will directly impact 500+ individuals over the next 12 months through crisis support, Gospel outreach, our shoe ministry, school partnerships, and direct relational ministry.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, we anticipate this grant will allow Beaver Dam Mission Center to respond to more individuals and families in crisis, expand Gospel outreach, and strengthen our year-round shoe ministry. Expected outcomes include providing case-by-case emergency support for individuals experiencing homelessness or financial crisis, distributing homeless outreach kits, Bibles, Gospel tracts, food, and transportation assistance, and increasing our outreach presence in Madison and surrounding communities. We also expect to provide new shoes and winter boots to children through our annual Back-to-School Shoe Event and ongoing school partnerships throughout the year. Beyond the practical assistance, our primary outcome is relational and spiritual: more opportunities to pray with people, share Scripture, offer Bibles, build ongoing mentorship relationships, connect individuals with churches and community resources, and clearly share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

	Our goal is to impact at least 500 people over the next 12 months through practical care and intentional Christ-centered ministry.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes. We serve a big God, and if we had zero dollars, our effort would not change. There may be times we cannot pay for a hotel, rent, or another tangible need, but we can always sit with someone, hear their story, share a meal, pray with them, give them a Bible, and point them to Jesus. Our ministry is relational, not transactional. In fact, some of the times we have had the least financially are the times we have seen God work most clearly. Beaver Dam Mission Center grew out of our own testimony. God restored our marriage when we were broken and brought us to surrender our lives to Jesus Christ. That led to reading Scripture together, gathering believers from different denominations for Bible study, prayer, worship, and meals in our home, and eventually going out together to love and serve our neighbors. That work became BDMC so we could serve with greater accountability and trust in our community. So do we need this grant to continue? No. We will keep serving Jesus either way. But we believe that if God provides additional resources through UMCG, He can multiply the work of our hands and allow us to say yes to more people in need while continuing to share the Gospel with the same love and urgency.

4. BLW Oasis Church Inc

Website	https://www.blwoasis.com
Organization Mission	Mission: Our mission is to reach and disciple students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ while creating a welcoming community where they can build meaningful relationships, grow spiritually, discover their purpose, and make a positive impact in their communities. Vision: Our vision is to see students transformed by the love of Christ, connected to a healthy community, equipped to fulfill their God-given purpose, and empowered to become positive leaders who impact their campuses and communities.
Project / Initiative	Bingo & Belonging: UW-Madison Student Connection Night
Project Summary	Bingo & Belonging is a large, welcoming student-focused community event designed to bring UW-Madison students together for an evening of fun, connection, encouragement, and meaningful relationships. Hosted through Oasis, the initiative will use an engaging bingo experience, prizes, food, music, games, and interactive activities to create a positive environment where students can build friendships and feel a sense of belonging. Beyond entertainment, the event will intentionally create opportunities for students to hear a message of hope rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and connect with Christian students and mentors who can continue relationships beyond the event. Students will be invited to participate regardless of their faith background, creating an inclusive environment where they can ask questions, build community, and experience genuine Christian love. The long-term vision is to make this more than a one-time event. It will serve as an entry point into ongoing Oasis campus activities, Bible studies, mentorship, service opportunities, and other programs that support students spiritually, socially, and personally.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	Food and refreshments — \$2,500 Bingo prizes — \$3,000 Venue/event setup — \$1,500 Audio/visual — \$1,000 Marketing and promotional materials — \$1,000 Bingo cards, supplies — \$500 Volunteer/event support — \$500 Contingency — \$2,500 Total: \$12,500
Annual Organization Budget	\$35,000 annual budget
Use of Funds	The requested funds will directly support the planning and implementation of Bingo & Belonging at UW-Madison. Funds will be used for student event expenses including food and refreshments, bingo prizes, venue and event setup, audio/visual needs,

	promotional materials, bingo supplies, interactive activities, and other necessary event materials. A portion of the funding will also support the intentional ministry component of the event, including Gospel-centered materials, student connection resources, follow-up activities, and opportunities to connect interested students with ongoing Oasis programs and Christian community. The goal is to remove financial barriers that could prevent us from providing a high-quality, welcoming event capable of reaching a large number of students while ensuring that the event remains focused on relationship-building, service, and sharing the hope of Jesus Christ.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	This initiative has a direct ministry component because it intentionally serves students living, studying, and participating in the UW–Madison community in Dane County. The event provides a welcoming environment where students can experience Christian community, develop meaningful relationships, receive encouragement, and hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many college students experience loneliness, stress, uncertainty, and difficulty finding a supportive community. Bingo & Belonging provides a low-pressure entry point where students can come together, make friends, have fun, and encounter people who genuinely care about them. The ministry will continue beyond the event through personal follow-up, Bible studies, mentorship, campus fellowship, service opportunities, and other Oasis activities. In this way, the event is not simply entertainment; it is an intentional outreach and relationship-building opportunity designed to connect students with Christ and a supportive Christian community.
Scripture	Hebrews 10:24–25 “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together...” This Scripture reflects our passion to create a community where students feel welcomed, encouraged, valued, and supported. Through Bingo & Belonging, we want students to experience genuine Christian love, develop meaningful relationships, and find a community that encourages them spiritually and personally.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	Bingo & Belonging directly aligns with UMCG's mission by using a practical, relationship-centered approach to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and positively impact students in Dane County. The initiative uses Biblical principles of love, service, hospitality, encouragement, community, and discipleship to create an environment where students can experience genuine care and connection. While bingo, food, games, and activities provide an accessible way to bring students together, the ultimate purpose is to build relationships that create opportunities for Gospel conversations, spiritual encouragement, discipleship, and ongoing Christian community. The project seeks not only to gather students for an event, but to transform lives through continued relationships and ministry beyond the event. This reflects UMCG's desire to support Christian ministries that share the Gospel and use Biblical principles to transform lives.
New Initiative / Collaboration	Yes. Bingo & Belonging is a new initiative being developed as a large-scale campus outreach and community-building event through Oasis at UW–Madison. Although Oasis has experience engaging students through campus ministry, this large-scale bingo initiative is a new approach designed to reach students who may not initially attend a traditional Christian gathering. The event will create a welcoming first point of connection and provide opportunities to invite students into ongoing ministry. We also intend to collaborate with student organizations, Christian campus ministries, community partners, volunteers, and other organizations where appropriate. These partnerships can provide additional volunteers, promotional support, resources, student connections, and opportunities for continued engagement. We are committed to building these relationships while maintaining the Gospel-centered purpose of the initiative.
Estimated People Impacted	We anticipate directly engaging approximately 400 students during the initial event, with additional students impacted through follow-up activities, social media promotion, and ongoing Oasis ministry.
Anticipated 12-Month	Over the next 12 months, we anticipate that Bingo & Belonging will create a sustainable

Outcomes	pathway for reaching and discipling students at UW–Madison. We anticipate directly engaging approximately 400 students through the initial event and creating meaningful connections with students who may not otherwise participate in a Christian campus ministry. Expected outcomes include increased student engagement, new friendships and mentoring relationships, Gospel conversations, participation in ongoing Oasis activities, Bible studies and fellowship opportunities, and increased opportunities for students to grow spiritually. We also expect to develop stronger relationships with campus and community organizations and establish a repeatable model for future student outreach events. Our goal is that students will not simply attend an event and leave; they will find a community where they are known, valued, encouraged, and invited to explore and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes. While the UMCG grant would provide important seed funding to launch Bingo & Belonging at a larger scale, our long-term vision is for the initiative to become sustainable through a combination of ministry resources, individual donations, community partnerships, sponsorships, volunteer support, and future fundraising. The grant would allow us to establish the event successfully, build a strong student base, develop partnerships, and demonstrate its impact. After the initial event, we plan to use the relationships and partnerships developed through the initiative to reduce future costs and secure additional community support. Because the event is designed as a repeatable outreach model rather than a one-time activity, future events can be supported through ongoing fundraising, donations, sponsorships, in-kind contributions, and volunteer involvement. The UMCG grant would therefore serve as seed funding that helps establish a sustainable ministry model capable of continuing beyond the grant period.

5. Bridges of Hope, Inc.

Website	http://bridgesofhopeus.org
Organization Mission	Our mission is to build bridges of hope within the foster community and see lives and families restored. Particularly, our organization is focused on helping youth/young adults as they "age out"/exit the foster care system. We aim to help them with: 1) Resources-Providing the physical items that they need, such as cleaning supplies, diapers, furniture, etc. Additionally, we have a "Blessing Bag" apartment starter kit project. These bags are available to any youth aging out of foster care in Wisconsin. 2) Relationship-Making connections to help them with everyday tasks like moving, learning to drive, and applying for jobs/college 3) Education-We teach a Bible-based life skills class in Dane County for youth aging out of care
Project / Initiative	Blessing Bags and Beyond!
Project Summary	Currently we provide "Blessing Bag" apartment starter kits to youth aging out of foster care all over the state of Wisconsin. These are giant rolling duffel bags filled with 64 different items, such as toilet cleaner, towels, a can opener, etc. Each bag also contains a \$50 Amazon gift card and a devotional book. When completed, each bag costs about \$300 total! We have so far given out 225 bags in the last 2 years across the state. These bags have become a tool for us to minister to both former foster youth AND the case workers that work with them. This part of the project would be funding to ensure that the Blessing Bags can continue to be given out! We have titled our project "Blessing Bags and Beyond!" because we would LOVE to also go BEYOND the Blessing Bags. Though they do contain much needed resources, we often have requests for much more help. Since we are based in Dane County, most of our "hands on" interaction with the youth happens in Dane County. We often are helping youth get groceries, clothing, furniture, etc., as well as having them to our house for holidays or taking them out to lunch to get to know them. Our local youth have become like our own "kids". We want to support them in every way we can, while also seeing them work towards independence. Often times we lack the funding needed to do this, so we would like to expand our Blessing Bag project to allow us to provide for more practical needs of former foster youth in Dane County.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	10000

Annual Organization Budget	\$11,719 for our first year so far
Use of Funds	The money would be used to buy the actual bags we use for the Blessing Bags, as well as the 64 different items we put in there. We have churches/businesses donate items often for us, but we are constantly running out. It would be great to have a better supply to use so we never have to turn any request down for a Blessing Bag. Then as part of the "BEYOND" part of this project, the money would be used to help local Dane County former foster youth with practical every day needs they have. This would include things like: -groceries -grocery gift cards -gas cards -baby supplies -Target/Walmart cards -clothing -household items -kitchen supplies -restaurant gift cards to take them out -Christmas presents -birthday presents -rent assistance -help fixing cars We want to be the best support we can be to these youth as they often don't have much of a support system!
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	This has a direct ministry component because we are involved in the lives of our local Dane County youth. We are first meeting their physical needs. And meeting these needs has naturally led to many extensive discussions about God, church, faith, the Bible, etc. We meet with them regularly to stay involved in their lives and help however we can. Some of our youth attend a local church (we are sometimes able to attend with them and take them to lunch after if we are not traveling/speaking at another church!) Some of the youth attend our Bible-based life skills class, where they are also paired with a local church advocate (mentor). Because of the physical help and continued support we have given these youth, they have formed a relationship of trust with us. Our youth have a hard time trusting God because of the hardships they have faced in life. Giving them a support has naturally led to a peaked interest in finding out more about God. We have seen three youth choose to follow God so far and we hope to see many more in the future!
Scripture	We stand on Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Our young adults don't think they have hope or a future. Our mission is to show them that they DO have hope and a future in our God!
Alignment with UMCG Mission	This project conforms to UMCG's mission statement because your vision is to see everyone in the community know about Jesus! And you are doing this by focusing on community issues and finding ways to solve those issues in a peaceful, Godly way. Bridges of Hope is working towards the same thing with this project. We want to see every former foster young adult know about God...and know they have a hope and a future. Our goal is to accomplish this by becoming a support system to these young adults because of their current lack of support. Our heartbeat is, "What if the church became the support system for youth aging out of foster care? How many lives could we change?"
New Initiative / Collaboration	The Blessing Bag portion has been operating for the past two years as we have given away over 225 bags so far. It started small and has slowly been growing larger each and every month! To grow it even more, we are wanting to add this focus on "BEYOND the bags" to help the young adults even more. We have received funding direct through the Assemblies of God "BGMG" (Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge) through our missionary account (separate from Bridges of Hope) to get the project started. That funding is limited and not sustainable for the long run, so we are wanting to gain Bridges of Hope funding to ensure this project continues.
Estimated People Impacted	300+, this number is hard to estimate. So far 225 young adults have received a bag and then we have helped many, many more with other needs they have.
Anticipated 12-Month	Expected outcomes

Outcomes	-Being able to continue to supply Blessing Bags for youth aging out of foster care all over Wisconsin. We are averaging over 100 bags a year so far. -Being able to support local Dane County former foster youth in additional ways. This means not having to turn down requests for items that former foster youth are in need of to live stable, successful lives -Expanding our reach with Dane County youth to use these resources to get to know them better, spend time with them, and become a trusted support system -Seeing more former foster youth begin a relationship with God -Have the resources to help former foster youth find stability and support
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	This project is very limited without the Grant from UMCG. -We can continue to do Blessing Bags, but will soon run into not having the funding to meet every request we get. We don't want to turn anyone down! -The BEYOND part of this project, is not sustainable with the Grant from UMCG as this is something we dream of one day being able to do! We can help every so often with a youth's needs, but it is dependent on donations we receive. Our hands are tied with not being able to meet many needs due to finances. The grant from UMCG would free up so much ability for us to become more of a trusted resource for our former foster youth!

6. Charis Classical Academy

Website	http://www.charisclassical.com
Organization Mission	Charis Classical Academy is a private classical school serving Christian families in Dane County. Our unique co-teacher model offers a hybrid of university style and home-schooling, utilizing the classical education model that is proven to successfully help children grow into responsible adults and bless their communities. Undergirding everything Charis does is our commitment to the gospel. We believe that a gospel-centered education orients children to the truth and aids in their understanding of the world around them. We believe that the pursuit of truth is not a subjective venture. Rather, all truth belongs to and stems from God through Christ as found in the Word of God, our ultimate reference point.
Project / Initiative	Tuition Assistance for Full-time Ministry Families
Project Summary	We feel it is important to our mission to remain independent and thus not accept any state voucher funds, and thus we need private support to allow us to ensure that parents are able to enroll their children regardless of financial concerns. This is especially important for families where one or both parents are in full-time Christian ministry and are challenged to budget for private school tuition. Charis seeks to bless full-time ministry parents by offering tuition assistance for their children. This will lessen the financial burden for those who are serving the church and spreading the gospel in our community. For the 2026-27 school year, this need involves assisting 4 families and equates to total tuition assistance of over \$31,880. For context, Charis has a K-12 enrollment of 185 students for the new school year, serving 85 families. The school celebrates its 15th year of serving Dane County families this year.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	31880
Annual Organization Budget	1040000
Use of Funds	Provide tuition support to families with a parent in full-time Christian ministry. Four pastors in our community have chosen Charis to be the education choice for their children. This tuition support makes this choice possible for these families where money for private schools is a challenge.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	Dane County's local churches need godly men in their pulpits who can give their full energies to their calling. These men with their wives who have school-aged children may seek a Christian school, but tuition can be a burden for what is often a tight family budget. When Charis is able to grant tuition support to full-time ministry families who choose this school, both the family and their church is blessed.
Scripture	"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

Alignment with UMCg Mission	The work of Charis is the discipling of children into the next generation of Christ followers, impacting their communities with the truth and life-changing impact of the gospel. Additionally, the church of Jesus Christ is only as strong as the local church - where the gospel is preached, the saints are edified, and the lost are called to repentance. Churches that have godly men able to give themselves fully to their calling, without undue financial stress, will make disciples that will influence the culture for Christ. We believe this tuition assistance program targeted toward our local pastors helps achieves these goals and thus this aligns with United Madison Christian Givers' mission.
New Initiative / Collaboration	Providing tuition scholarships to families in full-time Christian ministry has been the practice of Charis for the last 8+ years. Charis is able to extend this support thanks to individuals, churches, and foundations who fund the initiative.
Estimated People Impacted	Financial assistance is needed by 4 families in full-time Christian ministry, totaling 10 children. Additionally, the rest of our 80+ Charis families benefit because their tuition rates are not increased to cover the cost of the tuition support here.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Full-time ministry families choosing Charis will have their financial burden lessened through this assistance. Additionally, these parents will enjoy greater peace of mind with the ability to choose the education they determine is best for their children. Lastly, their churches will be blessed by a Pastor not overwhelmed with the cost of private education.
Sustainability Without UMCg Grant	God has faithfully provided the means for Charis to extend this tuition assistance to Pastors and their families for nearly 10 years. Each year we have called out to God for the necessary provision. Once again this year we have this need and call out to God and his people to provide for the needs of Charis' Tuition Support for Full-time Ministry Families program.

7. Chesterton Academy - Queen of Martyrs

Website	https://www.chestertonqofm.com/
Organization Mission	Under the patronage of G.K. Chesterton and in partnership with families and the Church, the mission of the Chesterton Schools Network is to foster a Culture of Life by forming a new generation of joyful leaders and saints, educated in the classical tradition and grounded in the truths of the Catholic faith. Chesterton Academy - Queen of Martyrs in Sun Prairie, a member of the Chesterton Schools Network, aims to aid parents in raising up a new generation of joyful leaders who are faithful to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church and striving to be counted among the saints. Students will engage in the pursuit for the Truth through our content-rich and integrated classical Chesterton Schools curriculum. www.chestertonqofm.com/who-we-are
Project / Initiative	Furnish the new school building
Project Summary	In September 2026, Chesterton Academy – Queen of Martyrs begins its 3rd academic year. As the student body grows, the school plans to move to larger accommodations. The current space, rented from St. Albert Church, came furnished, but the new accommodations will not. Furnishing a new school is a significant financial investment. While used and donated items will be sought, some furnishings are better purchased new to exactly fit the school's needs. High school lockers reduce physical strain from heavy backpacks, secure valuable electronics or gear, clear hallway clutter, and teach teens personal responsibility. Having adequate locker space helps establish an orderly environment conducive to learning. Good seating and classroom furnishings are vital in high school because they directly impact student health, physical comfort, and focus during long academic periods. Chesterton Academy wishes to purchase lockers for 40 students to allow for continued growth. Any funds remaining would help furnish classrooms.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	100000
Annual Organization Budget	430000
Use of Funds	This money will be used to purchase lockers for 40 students, which should be adequate for the next five or six years, presuming a moderate growth rate for a newer Christian

	school. Chesterton Academy plans to have a maximum of 80 students once fully established. Any funds beyond what is needed for lockers would be very helpful in furnishing classrooms.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	All families whose children attend Chesterton Academy – Queen of Martyrs live in Dane County. Service days give the students an opportunity to give back to organizations around Dane County. The east side of Madison has an established ecosystem of K-8 Catholic schools. When these students graduate from 8th grade, they face a long commute to continue Catholic schooling, or they must transition to public high schools. Given the ideological commitments of some public high school educators and administrators today, Christian families often prefer to give their children an opportunity to grow in a more encouraging and supportive environment. Chesterton Academy responds to this need.
Scripture	“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (Jn 10:10) expresses the hope that Chesterton Academy has for all its students. Through daily opportunities to foster a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, Chesterton Academy places academic and skills development in its true context and prepares students for the abundant life Christ wants for his disciples.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	Chesterton Academy shares the Gospel explicitly through daily prayer and study opportunities, encouraging habits for life. Habits are a core feature of lifelong transformation. Chesterton Academy’s namesake wrote, “You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink.” Our school takes this sentiment to heart. Chesterton Academy aims to practice St. Paul’s exhortation to “pray always”, mindful that we can’t pray always if we don’t pray at specific times. The full assembly of the school prays together at the beginning and end of each day. Each day begins with a gathering “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”, the trinitarian formula from Matthew 28:19. Each class period (including lunch) also begins with prayer. Theology is required three days each week for all four years. The Bible is one of the central texts of the theology course, along with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which refers to the Bible on almost every page. Freshmen study the Old Testament and Sophomores study the New Testament. In these ways and more, Chesterton Academy shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ and uses Biblical principles to transform lives.
New Initiative / Collaboration	Chesterton Academy – Queen of Martyrs began when several parents came together in 2022 with the idea of bringing a Catholic high school to Madison’s east side. Chesterton in Sun Prairie is a member of the Chesterton Schools Network (CSN), which counts more than 80 independent Chesterton Academies as members. CSN “inspires and supports new Catholic high schools across the nation, empowering parents as the primary and principal educators of their children. CSN delivers a turn-key academic and operational model that speeds the launch of affordable, classical, joyfully Catholic high schools and helps ensure sustainability and success.”
Estimated People Impacted	The impact is felt most directly by students. In the first 3 years, about 20 students have benefited. By the end of 8 years, we expect more than 25 students to have graduated. Current and future families of students will also benefit.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Chesterton Academy plans to begin classes in its new space in January 2027, so furnishing will happen before then. However, given certain contingencies like zoning and financing, it is possible that classes will begin in the new space in September 2027. The current space is leased until the end of the current school year, and no renewal is foreseen due to space constraints. This grant will have an immediate, foundational, and enduring impact by providing a suitable learning environment when Chesterton Academy moves to its new location. Specifically, students will be able to take for granted that they have a place to store their books and other learning materials. Students will benefit from learning to organize their own school materials, and will be able to access them efficiently between classes.
Sustainability Without UMCG	Chesterton Academy has enjoyed wide community support since it began organizing

Grant	four years ago. Each year, the gala draws hundreds of generous supporters. Starting a private Christian school takes tremendous resources. Chesterton Academy is casting a wide net in search of more community partners to enable it to fulfill its mission. As an independent Catholic school, Chesterton receives no direct support from parishes or the diocese, though Bishop Donald Hying has publicly endorsed our efforts. Because in these early years the student body is so small, educating each student costs more than tuition, so the project is not sustainable without generous help from partners who share our mission.
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8. Clear Hits Radio Inc.

Website	http://www.clearhitsradio.com
Organization Mission	Clear Hits Radio broadcasts Christian Hip Hop to reach young adults—bridging culture to Christ.
Project / Initiative	Bridging Culture to Christ: Madison
Project Summary	Clear Hits Radio will host Bridging Culture to Christ: Madison, a free Christian Hip Hop outreach event designed to create a welcoming place for people throughout Dane County to encounter the hope of Jesus through music, testimony and relationships. The event will feature Christian Hip Hop artists whose music and personal stories clearly point people to Christ, along with an intentional presentation of the Gospel and an opportunity for attendees to respond. Clear Hits Radio team members, volunteers and local ministry partners will be available for prayer, spiritual conversations and encouragement. Our goal is not simply to host a concert. We want to create a bridge from an event to lasting discipleship. By partnering with Dane County churches and ministries, attendees who want to grow in their relationship with Jesus will have opportunities to connect with a local church and Christian community. After the event, Clear Hits Radio will provide an ongoing connection through our 24/7 Christian Hip Hop station, free mobile app, artist testimonies and Gospel-centered programming—continuing to point listeners toward Jesus long after the event ends. Christian Hip Hop is the bridge. Jesus is the destination.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	12000
Annual Organization Budget	25000
Use of Funds	The \$10,000 UMCG grant will directly support Bridging Culture to Christ: Madison, a free Gospel-centered Christian Hip Hop outreach event in Dane County. Funds will be used for: \$6,000 – Artists & Ministry Guests: Honorariums and travel expenses for Christian Hip Hop artists who will use their music, testimonies and platforms to point attendees to Jesus. \$1,500 – Venue & Production: Venue rental, sound and production needs. \$1,000 – Dane County Marketing & Outreach: Digital advertising, printed materials and community promotion. \$750 – Gospel & Follow-Up Resources: Bibles, Gospel materials and resources connecting attendees to local churches and next steps with Jesus. \$500 – Event Operations: Insurance, security, permits and other event expenses. \$250 – Transportation: Transportation of our team, equipment and outreach materials to Dane County. Clear Hits Radio will raise additional funds for expenses beyond the grant through donors, sponsors and ministry partners.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	This initiative builds on ministry and relationships Clear Hits Radio has already established in Dane County. In 2025, we helped bring Harvest Season Fest to Olin Park in Madison, a free Christian Hip Hop outreach centered on music, community and the Gospel. We saw God move in a powerful way, including four baptisms—one of them a

	UW–Madison student. Madison's large college population creates a unique mission field. Christian Hip Hop gives us a bridge to reach students and others who may not initially walk into a church but will attend an event centered around music and culture. Our previous outreach has also allowed us to connect with Dane County churches and ministries, including Christian Café, Geneva Campus Church and Door Creek Church. This initiative will build on those relationships while creating new connections with campus ministries and local churches. The Gospel will be clearly presented through Christian Hip Hop, artist testimonies and an intentional Gospel message. Ministry partners will be invited to pray with attendees, have spiritual conversations and connect people with local churches for continued discipleship. Our goal is not simply another event, but a pathway from music, to Gospel encounter, to Christian community and a growing relationship with Jesus.
Scripture	**Romans 10:14–15** — “And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”* This is the heartbeat of Clear Hits Radio. We go because people need to hear. Christian Hip Hop gives us a unique way to enter spaces, build relationships and earn an audience for the Gospel. The music may open the door, but our desire is that people hear about Jesus, know Him and follow Him.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	UMCG’s mission is to support Christian ministries that share the Gospel of Jesus Christ while using Biblical principles to transform lives. **Bridging Culture to Christ: Madison** directly aligns with that mission. Clear Hits Radio uses Christian Hip Hop as a bridge to reach people with the Gospel in a language and culture they understand. At this free Dane County outreach event, attendees will hear Christ-centered music, authentic testimonies of lives transformed by Jesus, and a clear presentation of the Gospel with an opportunity to respond. But we do not want the ministry to end when the music stops. Through collaboration with Dane County churches and ministries, attendees will have opportunities for prayer, spiritual conversations, connection to a local church and continued discipleship. We have already seen the potential of this approach in Madison. At our 2025 outreach at Olin Park, four people were baptized, including a UW–Madison student. That experience strengthened our desire to return and continue planting seeds. Our goal is simple: meet people where they are, introduce them to Jesus, and help them take their next step toward becoming a disciple of Christ. Christian Hip Hop may open the door, but Jesus is the reason we walk through it.
New Initiative / Collaboration	Yes. **Bridging Culture to Christ: Madison** will be a new initiative created and led solely by Clear Hits Radio. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity we had to be part of Harvest Season Fest in Madison in 2025 and for what God did through that outreach, including four baptisms. That experience opened our eyes to the opportunity for continued Gospel ministry in Dane County and helped inspire us to return with an outreach uniquely connected to the mission of Clear Hits Radio. While Clear Hits Radio will lead and be responsible for this initiative, we believe strongly in working alongside the local church. We plan to invite Dane County churches, campus ministries and Christian organizations we have developed relationships with to participate through prayer, volunteers, promotion and follow-up. Our goal is not to compete with ministries already serving Dane County, but to bring

	what God has uniquely entrusted to Clear Hits Radio—Christian Hip Hop, artist relationships, radio and culture—and use it to create another bridge between people, the Gospel and the local church.
Estimated People Impacted	We estimate 300–500 people will be directly impacted through the event, with additional impact continuing through relationships with local churches, follow-up ministry, and ongoing connection to Clear Hits Radio.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, we anticipate **Bridging Culture to Christ: Madison** will create both immediate Gospel impact and lasting relationships in Dane County. Our anticipated outcomes include: * Reach **300–500 people** through a free Christian Hip Hop outreach event. * Clearly present the Gospel of Jesus Christ and provide an opportunity for attendees to respond. * Create opportunities for personal prayer, spiritual conversations and testimonies. * Connect attendees seeking continued spiritual growth with Dane County churches and ministries. * Build new relationships with college students and campus ministries in the Madison area. * Strengthen Clear Hits Radio’s relationships with local churches, ministries and Christian artists. * Introduce attendees to Clear Hits Radio as an ongoing source of Christ-centered music, encouragement and Gospel-focused programming. Most importantly, we hope this event creates relationships that continue long after the stage is taken down. Our goal is not simply attendance, but to plant Gospel seeds, help people take meaningful next steps toward Jesus, and establish a foundation for Clear Hits Radio to continue serving Dane County in the years ahead.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes. Bridging Culture to Christ: Madison can happen without UMCG funding, but it would take place on a much smaller, more local scale. Clear Hits Radio is committed to bringing Gospel-centered Christian Hip Hop outreach to Dane County regardless of the outcome of this grant. Without UMCG support, we would build the event primarily around local and regional artists and rely on our existing donors, sponsors and ministry relationships. UMCG’s investment would allow us to significantly expand the reach of the event by pursuing a nationally recognized Christian Hip Hop artist such as Aaron Cole or Miles Minnick. An artist with an established audience can help us reach people who may never otherwise attend a ministry event, particularly college students and the next generation throughout Dane County. The artist is not the mission—the Gospel is. The larger platform simply creates more opportunities to share it. Our long-term goal is to use this first Clear Hits-led Madison event to build local relationships, demonstrate impact and develop the donors, sponsors, churches and ministry partnerships necessary to sustain future Dane County outreach. With or without the grant, we will show up. UMCG would help us reach farther.

9. Convergence Resource Center

Website	https://www.convergenceresource.org/
Organization Mission	Empowering survivors, strengthening communities, and creating pathways toward healing and restoration. Convergence Resource Center is a faith-based nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting women rebuilding their lives after trauma, including survivors of human trafficking and justice-involved women. Through advocacy, education, outreach, and trauma-informed services, we help individuals discover hope, healing, and purpose.
Project / Initiative	From Prevention to Recovery: Supporting Survivors of Human Trafficking
Project Summary	CRC provides a comprehensive, survivor-centered response to human trafficking, supporting women from intervention through safety, healing, and long-term recovery. Our work encompasses education, prevention, outreach, crisis intervention, case management, and 22 trademarked Solace™ programs that address the complex mental health and recovery needs of survivors and their families. Our prevention and education efforts raise awareness of trafficking, exploitation, grooming, manipulation, and coercion, helping individuals recognize risks before they escalate into greater danger. Our HEMAD (Human Trafficking Educators Working with Men and Boys to Stand Against the Demand) campaign has engaged 65,000+ men in standing against the demand that fuels trafficking. Through community education, survivor-informed speaking engagements, media, and partnerships with over 50 organizations statewide, we connect individuals to information, resources, and support. For women experiencing exploitation, CRC's warm line and trauma-informed Case Management provide a trusted point of contact and pathway to individualized support. Lived-Experience case managers coordinate services including mental health care, housing, transportation, emergency assistance, workforce development, and crisis intervention. Long-term recovery services help survivors rebuild stability, confidence, and independence through mental health support, family services, workforce programming, and survivor leadership opportunities.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	770500
Annual Organization Budget	770500
Use of Funds	Funding will support CRC's Madison office and staff time needed to provide trauma-informed case management into 2027. Approximately one-third of our clients live in the Madison area, making a local presence important for women who are working to rebuild their lives after trauma, trafficking, or justice involvement. For women leaving "the life", healing does not happen through one service or appointment. A CRC case manager walks alongside each woman, helping her identify goals, navigate challenges, connect with resources, and access the combination of services that fits her needs. Case managers coordinate care across CRC's programming and with community partners, connecting women to housing, mental health care, transportation, employment, education, legal assistance, and more. They provide the consistency, encouragement, and advocacy that can help a woman move from crisis toward safety, and stability. This support also connects Madison women to CRC's continuum of care, including 22 Solace™ programs and two faith-based offerings: T.R.I.U.M.P.H. support group, and Unlocking the Wounded Heart, a long-term healing class. Funding will help make sure women have a trusted person walking beside them as they take steps toward healing.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	CRC's Madison office was created in 2022 in response to the growing number of survivors in Dane County and nearby areas, representing nearly 30% of our statewide client base. We provide a direct ministry presence to women rebuilding their lives after human trafficking, trauma, and justice involvement. Expanding Case Management and Direct Services: Increasing local staff capacity allows CRC to provide compassionate, consistent support in Dane County rather than requiring women to rely on Milwaukee-based services. This includes practical assistance such as bus passes, gas cards, and hygiene supplies, as well as counseling, family support, and individualized case management. Employment and Training Support: Building connections with Madison-area employers and training programs helps women develop financial independence, stability, and greater opportunities for their future.

	Strengthening Local Partnerships: Collaborating with organizations including Project Respect and the Dane County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force allows CRC to coordinate care, fill service gaps, and avoid duplication while strengthening the local network of support. CRC's faith-based ministry is woven into this work through programs such as T.R.I.U.M.P.H., a support group, and Unlocking the Wounded Heart, a long-term healing class. Together, these efforts create opportunities for women to experience practical help, compassionate relationships, faith, and hope as they move toward lasting healing.
Scripture	CRC's passion is rooted in the belief that every woman is a "Work of Art," created by God with purpose and potential. Our Brushstroke Strategy reflects this belief: we stabilize women with compassion, ground them in God's Word, and help them envision a hopeful future. 1 Kings 19:3 reminds us to meet immediate needs; 2 Timothy 3:16-17 calls us to equip women for good works; and Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that God has plans for hope and a future.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	At the heart of our ministry is the belief that every woman is created in God's image, fearfully and wonderfully made, and worthy of dignity, love, compassion, and hope, regardless of what she has experienced or the choices she has felt compelled to make. For women who have experienced trafficking, trauma, or incarceration, healing begins with being met without judgment. CRC staff walk alongside each woman with patience, encouragement, compassion, and a spirit of servant leadership. Through trusted relationships and intentional programming, women are given space to understand that their past does not define their worth or their future. They are reminded that they are children of God, created for good works and capable of living lives of purpose and impact. This is the transformation we seek: not simply helping a woman move from crisis to stability, but helping her recognize her inherent value, reclaim her sense of identity and agency, and discover the gifts God has given her. As women experience God's love through the compassion and acceptance of others, they are empowered to heal, grow, and ultimately extend that same love and encouragement to others. In this way, our ministry puts principles into action while helping women move toward lives of hope, purpose, and service.
New Initiative / Collaboration	For more than 20 years, CRC has helped more than 8,000 women move from exploitation and trauma toward healing, stability, and empowerment, with more than 300 women served annually, primarily across Milwaukee and Dane Counties. CRC's Madison office was created in 2022. Our comprehensive model combines survivor leadership, culturally responsive local care, specialized outreach, and individualized case management to connect women, including those often missed by traditional systems, with resources that support long-term recovery. Services span education, prevention, outreach, intervention, and sustained recovery, addressing mental health, housing, employment, and family stability. CRC's staff and volunteers bring diverse professional expertise and lived experience, and partnerships with more than 50 local, national, and international organizations extend CRC's reach across communities and systems. At the heart of our work is a simple belief: human trafficking is a people problem, and people working together are the solution.
Estimated People Impacted	100
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over 12 months, CRC expects women served through this initiative to experience greater emotional stability, improved mental health and well-being, increased safety and self-worth, and stronger connections to supportive relationships and community. Through consistent, relationship-centered support, women will have opportunities to build confidence, strengthen family relationships, access mental health care, establish safer housing, and make progress toward education, employment, and greater independence. CRC also hopes women will increasingly see themselves as children of God—fearfully and wonderfully made, created in His image, worthy of love, and capable of good works. Faith-based programs provide opportunities for women to experience encouragement, healing, and connection with their sisters in Christ. CRC will monitor progress through participant feedback, case management evaluations, pre- and post-assessments, counselor observations, and indicators such as increased engagement in mental health services, improved housing stability, stronger relationships, reduced crisis incidents, and progress toward employment or

	education goals. Participant satisfaction and changes in confidence, connection, and hope will also inform our assessment. Ultimately, success means women are not only more stable, but increasingly able to recognize their value, envision a hopeful future, and use their own strengths and gifts to positively impact others.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	CRC's Dane County efforts supported by this grant are designed as an ongoing initiative that extends beyond any grant period. To ensure continued funding, we are focusing on identifying new revenue streams and optimizing support from previous and existing funders, including foundations, corporations, government sources, and individual and faith-based contributors. While we consistently pursue diverse funding sources, we maintain firm ethical boundaries in our fundraising practices. Because a significant portion of our staff are survivors of human trafficking and exploitation, many cannot function in a traditional nonprofit fundraising capacity that relies on personal storytelling, donor cultivation, or public appeals. Asking survivor-staff to repeatedly recount or leverage their lived experiences for fundraising purposes risks re-traumatization and exploitation; therefore, we intentionally direct fundraising responsibilities away from these staff members to protect well-being, dignity, and long-term healing.

10. Door Creek Church

Website	http://doorcreekchurch.org
Organization Mission	Joining God in changing people into devoted followers of Christ who change the world with His love. By God's grace, we desire to be a Christ-centered church for all people where the power of the gospel is continually transforming lives, renewing our city and changing the world.
Project / Initiative	Homeless Outreach Ministry Evangelism (HOME)
Project Summary	We provide ministry to men and women experiencing homelessness (Our friends) through monthly free hot breakfast, clothing give away, hygiene items, fuel and grocery cards, bibles, and we host an evangelistic worship experience for them. The worship experience includes singing, testimony sharing, a short sermon, and an invitation to follow Jesus. We invite the men and women back to church on Sunday. We serve an average of 25 people per month. The ministry is held every last Saturday of the month from 9am-11am, at Door Creek Church's Northside Campus location. We send a chartered bus to the Beacon to transport our friends to the church for the event. Once the outreach event is over we transport them back to the Beacon. We provide two volunteers to ride on the bus so that our friends can feel welcomed. We have witnessed many men and women give their lives to Christ during our invitation prayer. We know that our friends are very transient, however, we do see many regulars and they sometime will lend their singing voice, tamborine skills, or other instrumental abilities. We sing songs like "This little light of mine". They are sort of not just physically homeless, but also spiritually homeless. We are hoping to expand our ministry to providing 4 ethnically featured meals to our friends in 2027 (African American-Mexican-Italian-Chinese).
Grant Request	5000
Total Initiative Budget	10000
Annual Organization Budget	Our annual outreach budget is \$180,000 for Door Creek Church.
Use of Funds	Worship Service, breakfast, transportation (Bus cost), dinners, clothing, hygiene items, bibles, fuel and grocery cards, and emergency hotel stays (In cases of illness/special needs).
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	We are helping to provide food, clothing, fellowship, and a pathway to follow Jesus. We are serving men and women who use the Dane County Emergency Shelter system and the other homeless providers in the county. We will be located less than 5 miles from the new men's emergency shelter to open September 1st, 2026.
Scripture	Matthew 25:35-36 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'
Alignment with UMCG Mission	We are sharing the gospel to our friends who are experiencing homelessness. Through the sharing of the gospel it is our prayer that their minds and lives will be transformed as a result of hearing the gospel. Faith comes by hearing!

New Initiative / Collaboration	This is not a new initiative. We collaborate with Boomerangs, The Beacon, Porchlight, and Chick fil-a. Boomerangs provides vouchers for many of our friends; The Beacon allows us access to invite our friends; Porchlight announces our outreach opportunities to the guests; Chick fil-a provides sandwiches every first Monday for our friends as they stop by the church to receive gift cards and receive prayer.
Estimated People Impacted	30 per month (This. number includes some walk-ins from the community too); 300 per year. These are mostly unduplicated counts.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	*Provide 12 breakfasts and 4 community meals *Give out bibles and clothing to those requesting the need *Provide 80 fuel and grocery cards *See some of our friends attend our Sunday morning worship service and become a part of the fellowship *Rejoice with our friends who accept Jesus into their hearts.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	The ministry is sustainable but we will not be able to reach the anticipated numbers without more funding. We would eventually have to cut back on the transportation and fuel/grocer cards.

11. Every Daughter

Website	https://everydaughter.com/
Organization Mission	Every Daughter is a group of volunteer women from Dane County churches who meet regularly to contact and offer assistance to women who are sexually exploited and trafficked in Greater Madison and Dane County.
Project / Initiative	Every Daughter Stable Housing / Solid Transportation Initiatives
Project Summary	The objective of this initiative is to help sexually exploited and trafficked women get into stable housing AND solid, dependable transportation options, whether public transport or automobiles. We use our funds and collaborate with other local organizations to carry this out.
Grant Request	7500
Total Initiative Budget	Stable Housing - \$5,500; Solid Transportation - \$ 4,500; Note: \$2,500 already received from UMCG in April towards Stable Housing. This grant would provide 100% funding for that initiative AND the remainder would fund Solid Transportation.
Annual Organization Budget	8500
Use of Funds	The goal of these combined initiatives will be to get 10-15 women into stable housing as we help them with i.e. apartment application fees, cost of background checks, basic groceries while applying for Foodshare, with the addition of solid transportation via bus passes, car repair / licensing / initial insurance coverage, including costs to restore drivers licenses.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	We share the love of Jesus Christ directly with the women we serve, offering them prayer, friendship, and the simple gospel of his transforming power to save, heal, and deliver them into a new life with him.
Scripture	"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing..." - Psalm 68:5-6a NIV
Alignment with UMCG Mission	By sharing the transforming love and good news of Jesus Christ through authentic friendship and practical support for our women to get into stable housing and solid transportation.
New Initiative / Collaboration	No ~ it has been one of our core initiatives since we began in 2016. We collaborate with Project Respect, Yada Project, Zeteo Community, The Road Home, Salvation Army, YWCA, and the CC Benevolence Program, among others.
Estimated People Impacted	10-15 women ~ depending on the particular expenses each one needs to have covered.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	The goal of these combined initiatives will be to get 10-15 women into stable housing as we help them with i.e. apartment application fees, cost of background checks, basic groceries while applying for Foodshare, with the addition of solid transportation via bus passes, car repair / licensing / initial insurance coverage, including costs to restore drivers licenses.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes ~ we will use whatever funds we have on hand for our objective while simultaneously raising more by approaching our monthly supporters and other churches / organizations who have helped us in the past. However, a UMCG grant for these initiatives would allow us to develop an expanded future base of funding while moving forward with secure funding in the present.

13. Extended Hands Pantry Inc

Website	http://www.extendedhandspantry.org
Organization Mission	To serve our area families and individuals with compassionate acts of love. To encourage, educate, and nourish our children as a servant-hearted expression of Jesus Christ. Extended Hands Pantry is a volunteer-driven, faith-based, non-profit organization with a two-fold purpose. To provide groceries and essential household items to individuals and families facing food insecurity, and to provide a light afterschool meal and school supplies for children living in low-income neighborhoods.
Project / Initiative	Nourishing Health, Dignity, and Belonging Through Culturally Appropriate Food
Project Summary	This grant will support the purchase of culturally appropriate foods that are difficult for many immigrant and refugee families to access. While traditional food assistance programs provide important support, staple foods commonly used by the families we serve, including specific grains, flours, beans, spices, halal products, and traditional produce, are often unavailable or in limited supply through local food banks. As grocery prices continue to rise, families frequently face the difficult choice between purchasing the foods their families eat every day or paying for other essential household needs. By providing culturally familiar groceries, we help families maintain healthy diets while preserving important cultural traditions and strengthening their sense of belonging in our community. Our bilingual environment and welcoming volunteers and staff ensure families are treated with respect and compassion. As a food pantry specifically focused on serving immigrant and refugee families. Through partnerships with Second Harvest Foodbank, Connecting Farms to Families, Geezer Gleaners, and Lighthouse Church and School, we provide nutritious food to nearly 80,000 individuals annually. As a faith-based organization, we seek to demonstrate the love of Christ through practical service to our neighbors. This project will directly increase access to culturally appropriate food, and bring hope and dignity to immigrant and refugee families throughout Dane County.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	204000
Annual Organization Budget	564000
Use of Funds	The full \$10,000 grant will be used to purchase culturally appropriate food for immigrant and refugee families served by Extended Hands Pantry. Many of the staple foods our families rely upon are not regularly available through traditional food recovery channels and must be purchased. Grant funds will be used to buy items such as rice, beans, lentils, masa flour, corn flour, wheat flour, cooking oils, culturally preferred spices and seasonings, halal food products, and other staple foods requested by the communities we serve. These purchases help bridge gaps in the food supply and ensure families have access to nutritious foods that meet their cultural, dietary, and household needs. By supplementing donated food with culturally appropriate purchases, we can provide healthier options, reduce food insecurity, and better serve the strangers in our midst.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	Extended Hands Pantry was founded as a Christian ministry and seeks to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through practical acts of compassion, hospitality, and service. Every individual and family who visits the pantry is welcomed with dignity, respect, and genuine care, regardless of their background, culture, or faith tradition. Many of the immigrant and refugee families we serve have experienced significant hardship, including poverty, displacement, language barriers, and social isolation. Our volunteers intentionally build relationships with pantry guests, offering encouragement, friendship, and support. Volunteers are available during pantry hours to pray with individuals and families who desire prayer, providing spiritual encouragement during difficult seasons of life. As relationships develop, we also help connect interested families with local churches and faith communities where they can find fellowship, support, and opportunities for spiritual growth. Through these connections, some families have become involved with local congregations, including Lighthouse Church. Our ministry is not simply about distributing food. It is about being the hands and feet of Christ by meeting practical needs while demonstrating God's love in meaningful and

	personal ways. We believe that caring for our neighbors, welcoming strangers, and serving those who are struggling are tangible expressions of the Gospel and an opportunity to share Christ's love throughout Dane County.
Scripture	"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Matthew 25:35 (NIV) By providing cultural foods, welcoming families with dignity, offering prayer and encouragement, and helping connect people to local churches, we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ. Through this work, we strive to demonstrate God's love in practical ways while caring for both the physical and spiritual well-being of our neighbors.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	This initiative aligns closely with UMCG's mission of supporting Christian organizations that demonstrate the love of Christ while addressing community needs. Extended Hands Pantry is a faith-based ministry that serves vulnerable families through compassionate action inspired by Christian values. The project addresses a significant unmet need by providing culturally appropriate food to immigrant and refugee families throughout Dane County. It combines practical assistance with a Christ-centered approach to service, ensuring individuals are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion. By helping meet people's most basic need for food, we build meaningful relationships and establish trust within the communities we serve. This trust opens doors for deeper connections, allowing us to introduce families to local churches and faith communities where they can find spiritual encouragement, fellowship, and additional support. Our ministry demonstrates Christ's love in tangible ways, creating opportunities for ongoing relationships that extend beyond food assistance. Through this initiative, we seek to honor Christ by serving our neighbors, caring for those experiencing food insecurity, and building a stronger, more welcoming community for families from diverse backgrounds while connecting them to faith communities that can support their spiritual growth.
New Initiative / Collaboration	This is not a new initiative. Providing culturally appropriate food has been a core part of Extended Hands Pantry's mission for years and has become increasingly important as the number of immigrant and refugee families we serve continues to grow. The initiative is strengthened through collaboration with several community partners, including Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, Connecting Farms to Families, Geezer Gleaners, Lighthouse Church and School, and numerous local congregations, businesses, and volunteers. These partnerships help us acquire food, reduce costs, expand outreach, and increase our impact throughout Dane County. While these partnerships provide valuable support, grant funding is essential to purchase specific culturally appropriate foods that are not consistently available through donations or food recovery programs.
Estimated People Impacted	The culturally appropriate food purchased through this grant will benefit thousands of immigrant and refugee individuals served through nearly 22,000 annual pantry visits.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, this grant will increase access to culturally appropriate food for immigrant and refugee families throughout Dane County. Specific anticipated outcomes include: • Distribution of thousands of pounds of culturally appropriate food that is not consistently available through donated sources. • Improved food security for the thousands of individuals served through Extended Hands Pantry each year. • Reduced financial pressure on low-income households, allowing families to dedicate more of their limited resources to housing, transportation, healthcare, and other necessities. • Deepened relationships and trust between pantry staff, volunteers, and the families we serve. • Increased opportunities for encouragement, prayer, connection to local churches, and meaningful conversations about the hope found in Jesus Christ. As we continue meeting families' practical needs through culturally appropriate food assistance, they experience Christ's love through consistent care, compassion, and support. These trusted relationships create natural opportunities to connect individuals with local churches and share the hope and love of Jesus Christ.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes. This initiative is sustainable without the grant, but its impact would be reduced. We have operated successfully through a combination of individual donor support,

	foundation grants, church partnerships, food recovery programs, and thousands of hours of volunteer service. Individual donors are our largest source of financial support, followed by foundation funding, providing a strong and diverse funding base for our ongoing operations. We will continue providing culturally appropriate food regardless of whether this grant is awarded. However, demand continues to grow, and purchased food plays an essential role in meeting the needs of the immigrant and refugee families we serve. UMCG funding would allow us to purchase larger quantities and a wider variety of culturally appropriate foods that are not consistently available through donated sources. Beyond our financial resources, our ministry is sustained by a deep faith in God's provision. Throughout our years of service, we have repeatedly witnessed God provide the resources, volunteers, partnerships, and opportunities needed to meet the growing needs of our community. While we carefully steward the support entrusted to us, we ultimately trust in God's faithful provision to sustain this ministry and enable us to serve our neighbors with compassion and dignity. The grant would expand our reach to families while our established organizational infrastructure ensures the program can continue well beyond the grant period.
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14. Family Connect of Wisconsin

Website	http://www.familyconnectwi.org
Organization Mission	Family Connect of Wisconsin builds Community Networks that connect child-serving agencies with local churches and community partners who meet the direct needs of vulnerable families through the CarePortal technology platform. We put churches at the central point of care where they can make meaningful connections with families while delivering essential items. With a focus on strengthening families, this type of support is designed to prevent family separation by bringing help and hope to families when they need it most.
Project / Initiative	Dane County Community Network
Project Summary	The story of many families in Wisconsin is a hard one: - 1 in 3 children live in homes struggling to support basic needs - 1 in 4 adults say they don't get the support they need - On any given night, nearly 6,000 kids are in foster care While these figures are sobering, many caring churches and community members want to help, but often don't know of the specific needs or how to respond effectively. We address this problem by building Community Networks to connect churches and community members with local families facing real-time needs. As child-serving agency workers identify urgent needs, they enter a request into CarePortal, the technology tool we use to share needs across communities. The local network of churches, businesses, and individuals are alerted and collaborate to source the needed items. Church Response Teams deliver the items directly to the family, making personal connections that can offer lasting support. The Dane Community Network currently has 8 child-serving agency partners: The Road Home, Care Net, Every Daughter, Lighthouse Christian School, Pierre Outreach Services Safe Home, Shelter from the Storm, The Playing Field, and The Yada Project. This summer, Dane County Human Services joined as an agency partner to increase support for the children and families they serve. This opportunity is a privilege as churches are invited to show up directly on the doorstep of these families, truly being the hands and feet of Jesus in hard places in our city!
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	The total annual operating budget for the Dane County Community Network is \$91,000, which provides comprehensive training and support for all churches, agencies, and community partners within the network.
Annual Organization Budget	552000
Use of Funds	These funds would be used to cover expenses for our Dane County Regional Manager as she onboards 150 new social workers from Dane County Human Services, delivering training and providing hands-on support as they begin submitting and managing needs in CarePortal. With the influx of new social workers entering needs, she will be working hard to recruit and train additional church and community partners to respond to the increasing number of requests. A well-resourced Regional Manager is essential to building the trust, relationships, and

	capacity that allow the Community Network to function well, and this funding will help to ensure that families in need receive quick and effective support directly from churches in their community.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	The Dane Community Network directly ministers to fragile families in Dane County, increasing collaboration and efficiency, empowering churches to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and providing essential support for families facing real-time needs. Since launching in July 2024, the Dane Community Network has: Served 600+ children Trained 200+ volunteers from 20+ church partners Established partnerships with 6 local businesses as Community Champions A recent example reflects the direct ministry made possible by our model of care: A young mom of 4 who aged out of foster care and is a human trafficking survivor was recently moving into a new apartment. She had to leave many belongings behind due to a bug infestation. Yada Project submitted a CarePortal request for this family, and multiple churches worked together to gather all the necessary items for their new start. When their new apartment fell through at the last minute, Yada and local churches came together to help them stay off the streets until new housing was secured and set up. This mom said that without that support, she would have had to resort to unthinkable things to provide for her children. That would have been her reality, but through collaboration between Yada Project, the Church showed up to provide help and hope when this family needed it most. By focusing on collaboration, we don't duplicate services — we connect and mobilize what already exists, working together to see children safe, secure, and loved.
Scripture	Our passion for this work is rooted in God's heart for the vulnerable. James 1:27 says pure religion is 'to look after orphans and widows in their distress.' As churches carry this out, they become what Paul calls 'the aroma of Christ' (2 Cor. 2:15), making God's love evident to the families they serve.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	The Dane County Community Network mobilizes the local church to care for the vulnerable in their distress, which aligns with UMCG's mission to see the Gospel shared while using Biblical principles to transform lives. Supporting the Dane Community Network means supporting an entire network of 20+ churches, not just a single nonprofit, to be the hands and feet of Christ in caring for vulnerable children and families. Through CarePortal, churches deliver items directly to a family's doorstep – such as a bed for a child, diapers for a struggling new mom, or household essentials. They connect and open the door to ongoing relationship that can grow into opportunities to pray with families, share the love of Jesus, and invite them into a local body of believers. Biblical principles are the foundation of this work: providing for those in need, loving their neighbors as themselves, showing that love not only in word and deed but in action and in truth, and equipping churches to work together in unity. Our training equips lay Christians to serve compassionately, exploring topics like the image of God in all people, the impact of poverty and trauma, and the importance of dignity and respect for all families. Our collaborative way of working means UMCG funding for this initiative would also support our Christian agency partners who are engaged in Gospel-centered, Biblically grounded work as well. It extends their impact as families receive both practical help and lasting hope.
New Initiative / Collaboration	The Dane County Community Network was established by Family Connect in July 2024. Our model is rooted in partnership and we currently collaborate with over 20 partner churches and 8 child- and family-serving organizations: The Road Home, First Care Clinic, Every Daughter, Lighthouse Christian School, Pierre Outreach Services Safe Home, Shelter from the Storm Ministries, The Playing Field, and The Yada Project. Additionally, we partner with Dane County Human Services. Our collaborative approach is set apart by its simplicity and dignity. Families tell us our model of care seems "too good to be true" since they're accustomed to endless forms and bureaucratic hurdles. In contrast, when a caseworker from a partner agency submits a need through CarePortal, churches respond quickly to provide help with no strings attached, no paperwork, and no expectations of repayment. It is truly a model of neighbors helping neighbors, and this grant represents an investment in building a connected, compassionate community where no family faces challenges alone.

Estimated People Impacted	We estimate serving 650-700 people, including 500 children, through CarePortal requests in Dane County. Additionally, 175 social workers will be positively impacted through this new source of support and connection for the families they serve.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	With Dane County Department of Health and Human Services now on board as a referral partner, we anticipate strong growth in our local church response network over the next 12 months. We project 5-10 new church partners joining our Community Network, 50-100 new church Response Team members trained and equipped, and approximately 200 CarePortal requests met through CarePortal. Beyond these numbers, we anticipate deeper engagement: churches showing up, connecting with one another, and serving families together. We are looking to expand training for Response Team volunteers to equip churches to support families on a deeper level, moving beyond meeting a single need toward walking alongside families and building supportive relationships. We anticipate that through these connections, families will witness and experience the love of Christ through His Church. As trust is built over time, we pray these fragile families will connect to a local body of believers, hear the gospel, and receive prayer and ongoing support. Ultimately, we anticipate that the next year looks like more churches partnering, more families served with dignity, and growing Dane County as a place where the local church is known as a trusted source of hope for families in crisis.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes, the Dane County Community Network is sustainable beyond funding from UMCG. Our funding strategy is built on fiscal sustainability through diversification, intentionally securing multiple funding sources for each initiative rather than relying on any single grant or donor. The Dane County Community Network currently receives funding from a mix of local and state sources, including: 100 Men of Dane County grant - Lilly Endowment grant - Wisconsin Department of Children and Families This diversified base allows the Network to continue operating even if any one funding source changes or ends. Beyond funding, sustainability is also built into the model itself. Local churches and business partners contribute volunteer hours, in-kind resources, and funding for requested items, reducing long-term dependence on outside grants. Community Champions (local businesses and groups) also provide funding for requested items and in-kind resources to fulfill CarePortal requests. A UMCG grant would strengthen and accelerate this work in the coming year, particularly around expanding church partnerships and deepening Response Team training, but the Dane County Community Network's core operations, infrastructure, and mission to connect families with local churches would continue with or without this specific grant.

15. Five24

Website	https://five24.org
Organization Mission	Five24 raises awareness and educates communities about exploitation, while operating social enterprises that create dignified employment and real alternatives for survivors and young people at risk. Additionally, Five24 seeks to build reconciliation between believers and non-believers in Madison, Wisconsin, by embodying Christ-centered values of justice, humility, and love through its work and community presence. (Please note Ethical Trading Company changed its name to Five24 on Jan 1 2025)
Project / Initiative	Third Space – Madison
Project Summary	Third Space – Madison is a community-based gathering hosted by Five24 that creates a welcoming, contemplative environment for people of diverse beliefs to connect, rest, and engage in meaningful conversation. Building on a previously successful Third Space initiative operated in partnership with Common Grace Church, this project offers a consistent “third space” outside of home and work where neighbors can gather around coffee, quiet reflection, and facilitated dialogue rooted in dignity and mutual respect. Through regular open gatherings, Third Space – Madison fosters reconciliation between believers and non-believers in Madison by encouraging thoughtful conversation, shared commitment to justice, and a culture of hospitality grounded in Christian values. The project strengthens community ties, reduces social isolation, and creates space for spiritual curiosity and relational trust to grow naturally over time.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	13250
Annual Organization Budget	Five24’s projected annual operating budget for the current fiscal year is approximately \$300,000.
Use of Funds	Grant funds will be used to launch Third Space – Madison, a community gathering that advances Five24’s mission by creating a welcoming, dignified environment for connection, reflection, and reconciliation across difference. Funds will support the purchase of durable, mobile hospitality equipment, including a high-quality bean-to-cup coffee machine, hot water boiler for tea, cold water unit, and rolling carts to allow the space to be easily set up and removed from the church narthex. Additional funds will cover safety partitions and signage to ensure accessibility, clear wayfinding, and responsible use of shared space at Trinity Lutheran Church. Grant support will also fund ethically sourced coffee, beverages, cups, and sanitation supplies needed to host regular gatherings. Outreach and visibility will be supported through year-long advertising in the East Side News and printed materials to invite neighbors into the space. Finally, a modest portion of funds will support program coordination and administrative overhead to ensure the project is well-managed, sustainable, and aligned with Five24’s mission of fostering community, dignity, and reconciliation.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	Third Space – Madison serves as a direct ministry to the people of Dane County by creating a consistent, hospitable environment where relationships can form across difference and Christian values are embodied through presence, hospitality, and care. Hosted at Trinity Lutheran Church, the project offers a welcoming space outside of traditional worship settings where neighbors are invited into conversation, quiet reflection, and community without pressure or exclusion. The space is hosted by faith-based volunteers from local churches who serve as attentive listeners, conversation facilitators, and gracious hosts. Ministry occurs through these relational encounters—modeled on Christ-centered values of dignity, humility, and love—creating opportunities for trust, spiritual curiosity, pastoral conversation, and prayer when welcomed. Through consistent presence and local volunteer engagement, Third Space – Madison provides a tangible, relational expression of Christian ministry rooted in and serving the Dane County community.
Scripture	Amos 5:24 — “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” This verse embodies Five24’s passion for justice expressed through

	lived relationships, hospitality, and reconciliation within the community.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	Third Space – Madison aligns closely with United Madison Christian Givers’ mission by providing a Christ-centered, relational ministry that shares the Gospel through lived practice rather than coercion. Rooted in Biblical principles of hospitality, reconciliation, justice, and love of neighbor, the project creates space for lives to be shaped and transformed through authentic relationships and consistent Christian presence. By hosting an open, welcoming environment facilitated by faith-based volunteers, Third Space – Madison embodies Gospel values through listening, humility, and care, meeting people where they are while reflecting the love of Christ in tangible ways. The initiative supports spiritual curiosity, pastoral conversation, prayer when welcomed, and reconciliation across difference, offering a meaningful expression of Christian ministry that strengthens individuals and the broader community in Dane County.
New Initiative / Collaboration	Yes. Third Space – Madison is a renewed initiative that builds on a previously successful community gathering while launching a new phase under Five24. While the Third Space concept was previously hosted in partnership with Common Grace Church, this iteration represents a fresh start in a new location with expanded community partnerships. The project is being launched in collaboration with Trinity Lutheran Church, which is hosting Third Space – Madison in its narthex and providing an accessible, visible space for the surrounding neighborhood. In addition, Five24 hopes to reconnect with and invite volunteers from Common Grace Church who previously participated in Third Space to join this renewed effort, strengthening continuity, shared ownership, and cross-church collaboration. Together, these partnerships support a community-rooted, faith-based initiative that emphasizes hospitality, reconciliation, and shared commitment to serving the people of Dane County.
Estimated People Impacted	We estimate that approximately 250–350 individuals in Dane County will be directly impacted during the first year of Third Space – Madison.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, this grant will enable Five24 to successfully relaunch Third Space – Madison as a consistent, welcoming community gathering that fosters reconciliation, hospitality, and Christian presence in Dane County. Grant support will allow the project to establish a reliable, mobile hospitality setup that enables twice-weekly gatherings hosted at Trinity Lutheran Church, creating a predictable rhythm of presence within the neighborhood. Through these regular gatherings, Third Space – Madison is expected to engage approximately 250–350 individuals over the course of the year through repeat participation and relational connection. Guided by faith-based volunteer hosts, participants will encounter a space marked by dignity, listening, and care, contributing to reduced social isolation, deeper relationships, and increased trust across differences of belief and background. Additional outcomes include strengthened collaboration between local churches, renewed volunteer engagement from previous Third Space participants, and increased community awareness of Five24’s mission. By the end of the grant period, Five24 anticipates being positioned to expand Third Space – Madison to four gatherings per week in the following year, further deepening community impact and extending this ministry of reconciliation and justice.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes. Five24 is committed to launching Third Space – Madison regardless of grant funding; however, support from United Madison Christian Givers will significantly strengthen the project’s quality, consistency, and community reach. Without grant funding, the initiative would rely on older, shared equipment and minimal visibility, limiting the hospitality experience, reducing the frequency of gatherings, and significantly narrowing the number of people reached due to the absence of ongoing neighborhood outreach. With UMCG support, Five24 will be able to invest in durable, mobile hospitality

	equipment, consistent year-long advertising, and reliable operational capacity that allows Third Space – Madison to function as a predictable and welcoming presence. These investments create a foundation for long-term sustainability by reducing ongoing costs, supporting volunteer engagement, and positioning the project for growth beyond the grant period. Even without grant funding, Five24 would continue the initiative at a reduced scale and with limited reach; however, UMCG’s investment enables Third Space – Madison to more fully embody its mission of hospitality, reconciliation, and Christian presence within the Dane County community.
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16. Greater Things Now

Website	http://www.greaterthingsnow.org/
Organization Mission	To engage a diverse population of women in Southern Wisconsin, across church borders, both church and unchurched, with an opportunity to connect and learn to deepen their understanding of biblical truth, and the message of Jesus Christ, encouraging and inspiring them to live in faith, hope and joy.
Project / Initiative	Christ's Connection
Project Summary	Christ's Connection is a Greater Things Now program where women gather to worship, grow in their relationship with Jesus, and strengthen their calling as disciples. Through shared teaching, prayer, and authentic community, women are equipped to live out their faith in ways that draw others toward Christ. This is a space to deepen connections, encourage one another, and shine His love so that more hearts are inspired to know Him.
Grant Request	5000
Total Initiative Budget	7500
Annual Organization Budget	28500
Use of Funds	These funds will support our church outreach work, conference planning retreat, 2 - 3 Christ-centered Bible studies throughout the year that help women connect with God's Word, and the practical needs that make our ministry possible—including supplies, rental space, faith-based movie events and worship nights. Every dollar helps create meaningful spaces where women can grow in Christ and invite others into a deeper relationship with Him.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	Christ's Connection serves women throughout Dane County by offering a direct, relational ministry that meets them where they are. Through Bible studies, worship gatherings, and intentional discipleship, the program creates welcoming spaces for women to encounter Christ, build meaningful connections, and grow in their faith. As women are strengthened and equipped, they naturally extend that impact into their families, workplaces, and neighborhoods—helping more people in Dane County experience the hope and love of Jesus.
Scripture	In John 15:4-5, Jesus says, "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." This passage captures the essence of what Christ's Connection is all about: staying rooted in Christ, growing through Him, and bearing fruit that naturally draws others to Him. It reflects the program's desire to cultivate deep spiritual connection, authentic discipleship, and a life that points people in Dane County, and beyond, toward Jesus.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	Christ's Connection lives out the mission of Greater Things Now by providing intentional, biblically grounded support that helps women encounter the Gospel and experience real transformation in their daily lives. Through worship, discipleship, and community-centered ministry, the program equips women to grow in Christ and share His love with others. In doing so, Christ's Connection becomes a direct expression of United Madison Christian Giver's commitment to strengthening Christian ministries and using Biblical principles to change lives within our community.
New Initiative / Collaboration	Christ's Connection is the new name for a growing extension of the Greater Things Now Women's Conference—created to bring women together not just once a year, but throughout the year. This ministry provides ongoing opportunities for women to draw closer to God, build meaningful relationships, and live out their calling as disciples. As more women express a desire to learn about Jesus or deepen their walk with Him, Christ's Connection offers a welcoming space where faith can grow and be shared with others. Additionally, Greater Things Now has partnered with 12 different women focused, faith-based resources from around Dane County. Many of these organizations support families with services and help for the challenges in their daily lives. Greater Things Now and Christ Connection gives these organizations needed opportunities to connect with women who could use their services.
Estimated People Impacted	Greater Things Now has touched the lives of over 750 women across Wisconsin and continues to grow. Through social media, word of mouth, and other channels we can't fully track, many more women have drawn closer to Christ through this ministry.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, Christ's Connection is poised to see deeper spiritual growth, stronger community bonds, and an expanding reach to women throughout Dane

	County. As more women participate in Bible studies, worship nights, and discipleship gatherings, the ministry will cultivate new leaders, welcome women who are seeking a closer relationship with Jesus and create consistent spaces for faith to flourish. This steady rhythm of connection and discipleship will help Christ's Connection grow both in number and in spiritual impact, extending the mission of Greater Things Now throughout the year.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Christ's Connection can continue operating without the grant, but doing so would require all gatherings to be fully self-funded. While the ministry would remain active, women who lack the financial means may be unable to take part, limiting the reach and inclusiveness of the program. These women are often the ones most in need of spiritual community and discipleship. Grant support ensures that every woman, regardless of her circumstances, can grow in Christ and be part of this community.

17. Hands for Harvest, Inc. - Received \$5000 in Period 1

Website	https://www.hands4harvest.org/
Organization Mission	Hands for Harvest is a team of regenerative growers working to demonstrate the love of Christ in word and deed by helping families in Dane County combat food insecurity and live resilient lives.
Project / Initiative	Hands for Harvest Boys' Discipleship
Project Summary	Hands for Harvest's boys' discipleship program is a cornerstone of our mission to foster resilient communities in Dane County. Each summer, beginning in 2025, boys ages 10–14 in the Hands for Harvest network come to the farm once a week for a full day of learning, mentoring, and spiritual growth. Guided by our founder, Aaron, and our team, they gain hands-on experience in practical skills meant to equip them to grow into leaders and providers for their communities. They learn how to plant, tend, and harvest crops, care for livestock, and practice basic woodworking – skills that build character and responsibility. Through devotionals, the boys are equipped with scripture and biblical principles that give meaning and purpose to the hands-on skills they learn. Each week, Aaron leads the boys in a devotional grounded in scripture that connects tangibly to that day's farm work. Our goal is to encourage boys to be leaders who not only provide for and serve others with their hands, but also live as men who serve Christ and their neighbors with their hearts. Through the discipleship program, we strive to create resiliency in the communities we feed, creating sustainable solutions led by Christ-centered young men.
Grant Request	\$10,000 (NOTE: They received a Tier 2 Grant in Period 1 of 2026 in the amount of \$5000.)
Total Initiative Budget	\$18,667 + \$2,400 = \$21,067
Annual Organization Budget	89100
Use of Funds	We are requesting \$10,000 to support our operations, directly allowing for the expansion and sustainability of our boys' discipleship program. Funds will be used in two ways: Part-Time Gardeners (\$2,400): To free Aaron's time for discipleship, we will hire three part-time gardeners to manage essential summer garden tasks. Two gardeners will each work 1–2 hours weekly at \$100 per month for four months (\$800 total), and one gardener will work 6–8 hours weekly at \$400 per month for four months (\$1,600 total). Their support will ensure that farm operations continue smoothly while allowing Aaron to devote more focused time to mentoring the boys. Aaron Lopp's Salary (\$7,600): Aaron, our founder and only full-time staff member, carries responsibility for both daily operations and leadership of the discipleship program. We are still working toward fully funding his \$56,000 annual salary for the upcoming year (\$18,667 for the summer months when the discipleship program is running). This grant would cover \$7,600 toward that goal, directly sustaining his leadership and ensuring the continuation of both the discipleship program and the broader mission of Hands for Harvest.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	This initiative directly advances the gospel in Dane County by introducing boys to the life-changing message of Christ and grounding them in God's Word. Through weekly devotionals, prayer, and Christ-centered mentoring, the program discipless youth in a way that helps them not only hear the gospel but also apply it to their daily lives. By investing in boys at a formative age, the program plants seeds of faith that can grow into lifelong discipleship, strengthening both families and churches across Dane County. The impact is not limited to the participants themselves—the transformation of these young men equips them to carry the gospel into their homes, schools, and

	neighborhoods, multiplying ministry throughout the community.
Scripture	“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6) This verse fuels our passion at Hands for Harvest. We believe that investing in boys through hands-on skills, biblical teaching, and Christ-centered mentorship empowers their growth into Christ-centered men. Every seed planted—whether in the soil or in their hearts—is an opportunity to guide them toward lives of purpose, leadership, and devotion to Christ and community.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	Hands for Harvest’s boys’ discipleship program directly reflects UMCG’s mission of sharing the gospel of and applying biblical principles to transform lives. The program introduces boys to the life-changing message of the gospel at a formative age, and provides Christ-centered mentorship that roots them in faith and encourages them to grow as followers of Christ and servant leaders in their communities. By pairing hands-on skill development with spiritual formation, the initiative demonstrates how biblical truth can be lived out in everyday life. This not only transforms the lives of the boys we disciple but also impacts their families and communities as they carry the gospel forward in word and deed.
New Initiative / Collaboration	This initiative was piloted last summer, and with grant funding, will kick off in full capacity this upcoming summer. This program is not a direct collaboration with other organizations.
Estimated People Impacted	We aim to disciple 6 boys next summer. Their growth in faith, skills, and character will ripple out, positively impacting countless lives within their families, schools, and communities.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	This Grant will increase the capacity of our team, allowing for more time to be put into the development of the discipleship program. We anticipate the following outcomes, as measured by the corresponding success indicators: Outcome 1: Increased youth engagement in Christ-centered discipleship. Success Indicator 1: Enrollment will grow from 3 to a goal of 6 boys, reflecting expanded reach and access to gospel-centered mentorship. Outcome 2: Strengthened practical skill development to equip boys for service. Success Indicator 2: The development and implementation of a structured skills process schedule will ensure each participant achieves proficiency in woodworking, animal husbandry, and plant cultivation. Outcome 3: Deepened youth understanding of biblical principles. Success Indicator 3: A formal discipleship plan will be implemented to guide weekly devotionals, encouraging participation and engagement with scripture-based lessons.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	The discipleship program will continue into the upcoming summer regardless of grant funding, as our team is committed to mentoring boys in Dane County. However, grant support would allow our paid staff to dedicate time to developing a formal discipleship curriculum and to take on additional disciples/mentees, providing deeper, more consistent mentorship. Without this funding, our ability to expand the program and invest fully in each boy’s spiritual and practical growth would be limited.

18. International Bible Ministries, Inc.

Website	https://internationalbibleministries.org
Organization Mission	International Bible Ministries advances the Christian faith through Bible teaching, evangelism, and discipleship. We serve adults who still believe in Jesus but no longer have a church community.
Project / Initiative	Sanctuary: A Local Way Back to the Table
Project Summary	Sanctuary is our free ministry for people who left church without leaving their faith. This project builds its local Dane County arm. Two things happen here. First, we find and verify trustworthy house churches and small gatherings in and around Madison, so a local person searching at 11pm finds real options near them instead of a national map with nothing nearby. Second, we staff a person who makes the introduction by hand, one at a time, so that someone who is nervous about walking into a room alone has a name to meet rather than an address to find. We are honest that the local coverage does not exist yet. Today one Dane County gathering is mapped. This grant is what builds the rest.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	22000
Annual Organization Budget	\$50,000 in cash, plus roughly \$125,000 in donated technology services
Use of Funds	Roughly \$6,000 pays a part-time local coordinator for the year: contacting Madison-area house churches and small gatherings, verifying that each one is real and currently meeting, and personally introducing people who ask for help finding a table. Roughly \$2,500 covers local outreach so Dane County people actually find us: printed cards for coffee shops and counseling offices, and targeted local search. Roughly \$1,500 covers the listing and safety work: building out the Dane County records, and writing the plain-language material on what a healthy gathering looks like and what warning signs to watch for. No part of this grant pays for software development. All technology behind Sanctuary is built, hosted, and donated at no charge by WiscAI, Inc., and the ministry pays WiscAI nothing.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	The people served are Dane County residents, and the outcome is in-person. Someone in Madison who has drifted from church, or left one that hurt them, uses Sanctuary to keep reading scripture and praying day to day. Then a person from this ministry helps them find a real gathering of believers here, and introduces them to it. The point is not an app. The point is a Madison person sitting in a room with other Madison believers, opening scripture together. The gospel component is the whole thing, not a layer on top. We are walking a person back into the body of Christ in their own city.
Scripture	Ezekiel 34:11-12, 16 (NIV) "I myself will search for my sheep and look after them... I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness... I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak." This is God speaking about sheep scattered because their shepherds failed them. He does not scold the sheep. He goes and gets them. That is who we serve, and the posture we try to take.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	UMCG supports Christian ministries that share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and use Biblical principles to transform lives. Sharing the Gospel is what Sanctuary does every day, in scripture, in prayer, and in honest answers to the questions people actually bring. The transformation we are after

	is the one this grant funds: a person who had drifted out of Christian community sitting back down in it, here in Dane County. We also affirm the Apostles' Creed. International Bible Ministries adopted a Statement of Faith in 2026 affirming the historic Christian faith, and nothing in this project conflicts with the Creed or with UMCG's guiding principles.
New Initiative / Collaboration	Yes, this is a new initiative. The ministry's finder began as a national map. Turning it into a real local service for Dane County, with verified local gatherings and a person making introductions by hand, is new work that has not been done before. It is collaborative in one clear way: the gatherings themselves. This only works if Madison-area house churches and small congregations are willing to be found and to welcome someone new. Building those relationships one at a time is most of the work this grant pays for. Technology is donated by WiscAI, Inc. under a written donated services agreement. The ministry pays WiscAI nothing.
Estimated People Impacted	150
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	We would rather commit to numbers we can actually report than to impressive ones. Within 12 months: 40 to 60 verified Dane County gatherings listed, each confirmed to be real and currently meeting, up from one today. At least 100 Dane County people helped through the ministry. At least 25 personal introductions made between a local person and a local gathering, tracked one by one. And a short plain-language guide to finding a healthy Christian community, written for someone who has been hurt by one. We will report the introductions honestly, including the ones that did not lead anywhere. A number of people we help will not walk into a room this year, and we would rather tell you that than round it up.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	The ministry is sustainable. This local program is not, yet. Sanctuary itself keeps running either way, because the technology is donated and the ministry carries almost no overhead. What this grant buys is the part that cannot be donated: a person's time doing local, human work, verifying gatherings and making introductions. Without it we would keep going nationally and Dane County would stay one listing on a map. With it, we build a local program that has its own supporters. Our plan for year two is Madison churches and individual givers who can see something real here rather than a proposal, which is a far easier ask once the introductions have actually happened.

19. Love First Ministries

Website	https://www.lovefirstministries.org/
Organization Mission	Love First exists to directly clothe our neighbors in need across Dane County through collaborative, relationship-centered care. Partnering with local schools, churches, and community organizations, we provide free clothing as our primary service to underserved families, including low-income households, foster families, and minority communities. By increasing equitable access to essential clothing, we help remove barriers to school, work, and daily stability while restoring dignity and confidence. We believe love looks like action, and through consistent local partnerships and holistic support, we strengthen families and foster a more supported and connected community.
Project / Initiative	Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project
Project Summary	The Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project is a Dane County–focused initiative that unites local nonprofits, schools, churches, and community partners to serve families holistically and with dignity. By coordinating resources and services in one accessible place, the project meets neighbors where they are, offering connection, ease of access, and comprehensive support. At the heart of the initiative is Love First’s primary service — providing free clothing to underserved families, including low-income households, foster families, and minority communities. In addition, participants can access food support, personal hygiene items, haircuts, family services, guidance from social workers, and interpretation services to overcome language barriers, ensuring equitable access for all families. This collaborative model strengthens the local network of care, reduces barriers to essential resources, and fosters long-term stability for families. By working together, our partners ensure that each neighbor feels seen, valued, and supported, reflecting the project’s guiding principle: love looks like action.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	We request \$10,000 to fund the Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project: \$7,500 for a mobile trailer and resource hub, plus the rest will be used for tents, volunteer shirts, marketing material, event supplies, and or permits.
Annual Organization Budget	~\$35,000
Use of Funds	We are requesting \$10,000 to support the launch of the Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project, a collaborative Dane County initiative designed to directly clothe neighbors in need while providing holistic support through coordinated outreach events. \$7,500 will complete the purchase of a mobile outreach trailer, serving as a hub for clothing, Bibles, toiletries, and essentials, increasing accessibility for underserved families at schools, churches, and community sites. The remaining funds will support two outreach tents (haircut station & prayer/water) (~\$350), volunteer t-shirts (~\$550), marketing/outreach materials, and event supplies such as water stations, signage, and hospitality items. Partnerships with local vendors and a faith-based coffee business will provide food and foster a welcoming, community-centered atmosphere. This investment removes barriers to essential resources, ensures dignified care, and creates accessible spaces where neighbors can receive clothing, connection, and support in one location. We believe love looks like action—tangibly serving neighbors where they are and meeting both practical and spiritual needs.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	The Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project integrates a direct ministry component through tangible acts of service that meet real needs across Dane County while fostering dignity, relationship, and hope. Our primary outreach—providing free clothing to underserved families—serves as both practical support and relational connection. Each clothing item includes a “Neighbor Card” placed in the pocket, offering the message of 1 John 4:19: “We love because He first loved us.” This reflects our belief that service flows from the love we have received and is shared through action. Events intentionally create welcoming spaces where ministry occurs through presence and care. Prayer is available upon request, and Bibles are offered as gifts when desired.

	Volunteers are equipped through the REACH Initiative, a relational approach to evangelism centered on listening, empathy, and confidently sharing the Gospel with respect and compassion. By serving alongside local schools, churches, and community partners outside traditional church walls, faith communities visibly demonstrate unity and care for neighbors in everyday spaces. We partner with local youth ministry programs to assemble and distribute Blessing Bags for unhoused neighbors, including water, snacks, hygiene items, and notes of encouragement. Students learn to serve with dignity and speak life to those in need, embodying the hands and feet of Christ while strengthening compassionate, community-centered support throughout Dane County.
Scripture	Romans 10:12–14 asks, “How can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” Alongside the Great Commission to go into all nations, this reminds us not to overlook those in our own backyard. Viewing our work through the lens of local missions allows us to live out the Great Commission tangibly—serving neighbors with love so that the hope of Christ is both seen and known.
Alignment with UMCg Mission	The Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project demonstrates how faith is lived out through practical service, aligning directly with UMCg’s mission to support ministries that share the Gospel while using Biblical principles to transform lives. We believe every interaction is an opportunity to reflect God’s love and model faith in action. Our volunteers are trained through the REACH Initiative, equipping them to engage relationally first—listening with empathy, building trust, and learning to confidently share the Good News of Christ. Clothing distribution is central to our ministry, and each item includes a “Neighbor Card” with a reminder of God’s love and encouragement, reflecting the scriptural principle that faith must be accompanied by action (James 2:17). Beyond clothing, we provide spaces for prayer, Bibles upon request, and holistic support—including hygiene items, haircuts, and connection to community resources—ensuring that ministry is tangible, respectful, and relational. Through partnerships with local schools, churches, youth programs, and community organizations, the initiative fosters opportunities for believers to serve collaboratively outside traditional church walls, meeting neighbors where they are and demonstrating the hands and feet of Christ. By combining Biblical truth with compassionate service, the Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project transforms lives in Dane County, planting seeds of hope, encouragement, and lasting spiritual impact.
New Initiative / Collaboration	The Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project began as a shared vision between Love First (Megan, Rachel, and Rhonda) and The Upper Room (Corey and Shauna Bauhs), recognizing that many neighbors in our own community face unmet needs for clothing, basic essentials, and relational support. We dreamed of serving neighbors more directly and holistically, creating authentic partnerships with schools, churches, and community organizations to meet practical and spiritual needs. From this collaboration, Neighbor Cards were born—small notes of encouragement and reminders of God’s love placed in clothing pockets—connecting practical support with relational ministry. Our first outreach in Dane County at Lake View Elementary distributed over 1,000 items, including clothing, shoes, baby formula, and essentials, demonstrating the power of collaboration and the need for service rooted in dignity and relationship. The project continues to grow as we partner with local schools, churches, youth programs, and nonprofits. By serving together, the Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project turns service into ministry—meeting neighbors’ needs, sharing God’s love, and planting seeds of hope that extend far beyond the walls of the church.
Estimated People Impacted	At our first Lake View Elementary event, we distributed over 1,000 items of clothing, shoes, and essentials. With most participants taking 3–5 items each, we estimate this outreach directly served 200–250 neighbors in Dane County.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, the Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project anticipates doubling our impact in Dane County by expanding the reach and scale of our outreach events. Building on the success of our first community school event at Lake View, where we distributed over 1,000 items and connected with families in tangible ways, we have pre-planned additional events before the school year begins and are preparing to host our first large-scale outreach this summer with Orchard Church. This grant will allow us to grow a vibrant community of volunteers, teams, resources, and local nonprofits,

	operating as a “one-stop shop” for the neighborhoods we serve. Families will have access to clothing, hygiene items, haircuts, Bibles, prayer, and encouragement—all stemmed with dignity through the trailer and event infrastructure. Volunteers trained in the REACH Initiative will engage relationally, and confidently share the Gospel. Neighbor Cards in clothing pockets offer tangible reminders of God’s love and open doors for ongoing spiritual connection. Through these coordinated efforts, we will reach significantly more neighbors, including underserved families, foster youth, and unhoused community members, while strengthening partnerships with local schools, churches, and youth programs. This grant will multiply our reach, deepen relational ministry, and tangibly demonstrate God’s love, connecting neighbors to long-term support and strengthening the collaborative network serving Dane County.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	We firmly believe that God is faithful and will provide for the vision of the Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project. Still, this grant is essential to dramatically expand our reach and double our impact in Dane County. With the trailer as a central hub for clothing, Bibles, hygiene items, and other resources, we will be able to serve more neighbors with dignity and organization—presenting each item in a way that respects and values the individuals and families we meet. Clothing laid out on tables alone cannot provide the same sense of care and professionalism, and the trailer allows us to operate as a mobile, holistic hub for ministry. With this support, we can host larger-scale events in partnership with schools, churches, youth programs, and nonprofits, coordinating resources to meet practical needs while also providing prayer, Neighbor Cards, and relational ministry. Volunteers trained through the REACH Initiative will engage relationally, confidently share the Gospel, and model faith in action. We have consistently been doubling our reach year over year, and this grant would significantly increase our capacity to support neighbors directly, expanding both the depth and breadth of our service. While we remain committed to serving regardless of funding, this support will maximize every dollar, volunteer hour, and act of service—enabling the Love Thy Neighbor Mission Project to meet more needs, plant seeds of hope, and tangibly demonstrate God’s love throughout Dane County.

20. Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin - Received \$5000 in period 1

Website	http://lcfswi.org
Organization Mission	Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin Mission Statement: Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin puts God's love into action by strengthening individuals, families, and communities with professional mental health, addiction, and adoption services because every person deserves the opportunity to thrive.
Project / Initiative	Dane County Mental Health Counseling for the Uninsured and Underinsured
Project Summary	Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS) seeks a \$10,000 investment from United Madison Christian Givers (UMCG) to expand access to professional mental health care for uninsured and underinsured children, individuals, and families in Dane County. LCFS provides evidence-based, faith-informed counseling through two Dane County satellite locations (Sun Prairie and Fitchburg), along with an additional two Madison-area sites in Portage and Reedsburg, ensuring care is accessible to communities with the greatest need. According to the Dane County Community Health Needs Assessment 2025-2027, mental health challenges remain urgent in areas within Dane County. East Madison (ZIP code 53714) ranks as the highest need, with the neighboring areas also reflecting significant social, economic, and health stressors. Many residents face insurance gaps, high deductibles, or limited coverage, creating barriers to timely and consistent care. UMCG's support will allow LCFS to subsidize counseling through a sliding-scale fee, reducing financial barriers for clients experiencing anxiety, depression, family or job stress, trauma, and complex life transitions, offering therapeutic care for those who might otherwise delay or forgo treatment, strengthening individuals, families, and the broader community. LCFS embodies Christ's call to compassion by ensuring that mental health care remains accessible, dignified, and rooted in hope for those most in need.
Grant Request	\$10,000 (NOTE: They received a Tier 2 Grant in Period 1 of 2026 in the amount of \$5000.)
Total Initiative Budget	\$95,000- in 2025 (2026 budget not yet set.) LCFS will disclose upon set amount by the Board of Directors.
Annual Organization Budget	\$2,424,246 in 2025 - (2026 budget not yet set.) Will disclose upon set amount by Board of Directors.
Use of Funds	United Madison Christian Givers' funding will be used solely to subsidize mental health counseling services for the uninsured and underinsured individuals and families served in Dane County, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent access to professional mental health care. LCFS has faithfully served the community since 1896, providing compassionate, Christ-centered care and guided by the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod. Currently, approximately 28% of Dane County clients utilize LCFS's sliding-fee model, demonstrating a clear need for affordable services. Grant support allows LCFS to offset the costs for those unable to pay, providing essential evidence-based counseling for children, adults, and families whose daily lives, relationships, and productivity are affected by mental health challenges. Guided by Galatians 6:10, LCFS ensures all clients receive care with dignity and Christian professional excellence.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin provides a direct ministry presence in Dane County by offering Christ-centered mental health counseling to individuals and families in Dane County who might otherwise go without treatment due to financial barriers. Through professional counseling offered in-person and via telehealth, LCFS supports the whole person, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, meeting clients with compassion, dignity, and hope during times of mental health challenges. Counseling sessions integrate faith-informed care when welcomed by the client, including prayer, scriptural encouragement, and guidance in Biblical values. For those facing anxiety, trauma, depression, or other conflicts, this support serves as a tangible expression of Christ's love in action. By removing financial obstacles for uninsured and underinsured residents, LCFS ensures that care is accessible to community members in greatest need. This work directly serves the people of Dane County by fostering healing, strengthening families, restoring hope, and reflecting God's compassion through professional excellence and faithful service.
Scripture	Galatians 6:10 reminds LCFS to act with compassion and faithfulness: "Therefore, as we

	have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Each counseling session represents an opportunity to "do good" by offering hope, healing, and support to individuals and families experiencing emotional, social, and spiritual hardship. LCFS shows Christ's love through care that strengthens lives, restores relationships, and reflects the gospel.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS) closely aligns with United Madison's Christian Givers' mission by strengthening individuals and families with Gospel-centered care that reflects the love of Jesus and transforms lives. LCFS focuses care on the brokenhearted while demonstrating a responsible stewardship of resources. Grant funds are used directly to reduce financial barriers, allowing individuals and families experiencing emotional distress to receive timely support, healing, and stability. This investment advances a shared mission to serve faithfully, reflect Christ's love, and restore hope.
New Initiative / Collaboration	This is not a new initiative. The request supports the ongoing counseling of Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS), which has faithfully served individuals and families since 1896. This work is not conducted in formal collaboration with another organization. While LCFS operates independently, it is a Recognized Service Organization of LCMS. Counseling services are offered on-site at Christ Memorial Church in Fitchburg and Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie, allowing clients to experience care as an extension of the local church community. These LCMS congregations generously provide space free of charge, keeping overhead low and enabling LCFS to focus resources directly on client care. Funding from United Madison Christian Givers will allow LCFS to serve more individuals in need, offering Christ-centered mental health care support throughout Dane County.
Estimated People Impacted	In 2025, the therapists working at Fitchburg and Sun Prairie saw 128 people, with 27.5% of them utilizing a sliding fee scale.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, this grant will enable Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS) to expand access to professional mental health care for uninsured and underinsured individuals and families in Dane County. Funding will directly support additional subsidized counseling sessions, allowing LCFS to serve more clients who would otherwise delay or forgo care due to financial barriers. Anticipated Outcomes: 1) Increased access to counseling services for vulnerable children, adults, and families, particularly those utilizing LCFS's sliding-fee model 2) Improved emotional stability for clients experiencing anxiety, depression, trauma, addiction, and family or job stress 3) Reduced financial barriers to care, resulting in greater consistency and continuity of treatment 4) Strengthened families and healthier relationships, contributing to improved daily functioning, increased academic scores, job stability, and overall community well-being Through faith-informed, professionally delivered counseling, LCFS will continue to reflect Christ's compassion in action. This investment will result in measurable healing, restored hope, and sustained support for individuals and families in Dane County over the coming year.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS) will continue its mission to provide professional mental health counseling in Dane County for all who seek care, regardless of financial circumstances. This work is sustained through a combination of client fees, donations, and ongoing ministry support. However, funding from the United Madison Christian Givers will allow LCFS to expand access for clients in greatest need by increasing the availability of subsidized counseling for uninsured and underinsured individuals and families. LCFS remains firmly committed to putting God's love into action by strengthening individuals, families, and communities, ensuring that every person has the opportunity to thrive.

21. Mercy Dental Missions

Website	http://www.mercydentalmissions.org
Organization Mission	Our mission is to provide compassionate, life-changing dental care to those in need. With a special focus on vulnerable populations, we are committed to delivering free and reduced-cost dental services to underserved communities both locally and globally. By addressing critical dental needs and promoting oral health education, we aim to alleviate pain, bring hope, restore dignity, and empower individuals to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives. We believe 1 Peter 4:10 calls us to use our gifts of dentistry to faithfully steward and display God's grace. We are a dental clinic that acknowledges God's goodness to us that we can in turn share with others who are hurting and struggling.
Project / Initiative	Agape Grant Program
Project Summary	Mercy Dental Missions exists to glorify Jesus Christ by using the gift of dentistry to love and serve people who are hurting, overlooked, or unable to access the care they need. Dentistry is our profession, but ministry is our purpose. We believe our skills, resources, and ability to care for others have been entrusted to us by God. As 1 Peter 4:10 teaches, we are called to use our gifts to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace. For us, that gift is dentistry. Locally and globally, we enter people's lives when they are often in pain, afraid, financially burdened, or feeling forgotten. We meet a real physical need while demonstrating something greater: that they are seen, valued, and loved by God. Our Christian mission is woven throughout our work. Scripture is displayed in every treatment room, free English and Spanish Bibles are available, patients can share requests with our prayer warriors, and our Agape Grant creates personal opportunities to share Jesus. Globally, we come alongside Christian missionaries in impoverished communities, using dental care to support their Gospel ministry and remind people that God has not forgotten them. "We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19. We have been loved greatly by Christ, and dentistry is one way He has given us to love others.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	\$24,000 or as much as we can raise.
Annual Organization Budget	1178169.14
Use of Funds	Funds from United Madison Christian Givers will directly support patients approved for our Agape Grant Program by covering essential dental care they otherwise could not afford, including exams, X rays, fillings, extractions, restorative treatment, and dentures. Mercy Dental Missions already provides care at greatly reduced fees, but for some patients, even those fees remain out of reach. Agape funding translates directly into relieving pain, removing infection, restoring function, and giving people back their smiles and dignity. Most importantly, this care is an intentional expression of Christ's love. Each Agape recipient meets personally with a Mercy Dental Missions leader. We explain the biblical meaning of Agape love and share that their grant is possible because followers of Jesus, changed by His love, have chosen to generously love others. Funds may also provide free English and Spanish Bibles and support our patient prayer ministry. UMCG's investment does more than pay a dental bill. It allows Christians to say through both words and actions, "Because Christ has loved us, we want to love you."
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	Our clinic is located on the northeast side of Madison and provides more than 3,500 care visits annually to uninsured people in need throughout Dane County. The Agape Grant Program allows us to minister directly to local individuals facing significant dental and financial hardship. Each Agape recipient meets one on one with a Mercy Dental Missions leader to explain Agape, the unconditional and sacrificial love God has shown us through Jesus Christ. We share that their assistance is possible because people transformed by His love have chosen to love others. This creates an opportunity to share Jesus, hear their story, and offer prayer. Our commitment to Dane County also includes hosting the annual Day of Mercy, when we provide completely free dental care to local people experiencing homelessness, refugees, and others with no means to access dental care. Throughout the year, our clinic remains an intentionally Christian place of ministry, with

	Scripture in every treatment room, free English and Spanish Bibles, and prayer support. Dentistry allows us to enter the lives of our neighbors at vulnerable moments, meet a real physical need, and demonstrate that they are seen and loved by God. Jesus Christ is the reason we serve.
Scripture	"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19 We do not serve simply because there is a need. We serve because we have first experienced the undeserved, sacrificial love of Jesus Christ, and His love compels us to love others.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	The Agape Grant Program shares the heart of United Madison Christian Givers by turning Christian generosity into direct, personal ministry. UMCG donors entrust resources for Christian service, and God has entrusted Mercy Dental Missions with a particular gift through which to serve: dentistry. Together, those gifts become relief from pain, restored smiles, prayer, and opportunities to share the love of Jesus Christ. Every Agape recipient meets personally with a Mercy Dental Missions leader. We explain that Agape is the unconditional, sacrificial love God has shown us through Christ and that their assistance is possible because people who have experienced His love have chosen to generously love others. Each recipient also receives a personalized letter sharing John 3:16 and the Christian purpose behind their grant. That ministry continues throughout their care through Scripture in every treatment room, free English and Spanish Bibles, prayer requests shared with our prayer warriors, and opportunities for personal prayer and encouragement. In this way, Christian giving becomes Christian ministry. Through both our words and our care, we want each recipient to know that Jesus loves them, sees them, and has not forgotten them. <3
New Initiative / Collaboration	The Agape Grant Program is an established Mercy Dental Missions initiative that has operated with limited funds since 2018, providing additional assistance to patients who could not otherwise afford needed dental care. With support from UMCG, we hope to strengthen both its reach and ministry impact. The program is administered directly by Mercy Dental Missions and is not a formal collaboration with another organization. However, it is made possible by Christians who give, pray, and serve. Together, their financial gifts, prayers, and dental skills reach people in need with a tangible expression of Christ's love.
Estimated People Impacted	We anticipate impacting 100+ people directly and indirectly through the Agape Grant Program, while our Christ-centered clinic, with free Bibles, Scripture, and prayer support, shares God's love with thousands of patients and families each year.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, we anticipate providing Agape Grants to approximately 20 to 50 people who cannot afford the dental care they need. Their treatment will relieve pain, eliminate infection, restore oral function, and restore missing or damaged teeth. These outcomes matter deeply, but at MDM, success is not measured only in smiles restored. Each grant also creates a personal ministry encounter. Recipients will hear why the program is called Agape, learn that Christian generosity made their care possible, and have opportunities for prayer and conversation about Jesus. Our prayer is that recipients see the connection between the words we share and the care they receive. James 1:22- We want to be doers of the Word too! When we tell someone God sees and loves them, and then believers they may never meet help relieve their suffering, His love becomes tangible.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Tricky question. :) The Agape Grant Program has existed for many years and will continue with or without UMCG funding, but at a significantly reduced capacity. UMCG is our largest funder of this program, and your continued partnership directly determines how many people we are able to help. Without UMCG's support, we would have fewer resources available to say "yes" to program applicants We are deeply grateful that UMCG has chosen to partner with us in this ministry. Your generosity becomes tangible care in our hands, allowing us to use the gift God has given us, dentistry, to serve people in need and demonstrate the love of Christ. Continued funding will help ensure that Agape remains a meaningful and growing ministry rather than one limited by the resources available.

22. Mission 17:11

Website	https://mission1711.com/
Organization Mission	As hands-on Christians who have experienced the miracle of spiritual rebirth through Jesus Christ and transformation by being His disciples: We develop disciple-makers in-person and on digital media (Master-classes, YouTube & Social Media). Empower the local church to Teach, Reach and Send forward apprentices (activated disciples) of Jesus Christ, prepared for every good work of the Kingdom. We strengthen church fellowships to be doers of the Word of God, by the grace of God in Christ. We pursue Matthew 28:18-20, emphasizing "...teaching them everything I instructed you." by Christ's Words of Life-giving Spirit (John 6:63). We establish four neglected points: Practical Discipleship, Biblical Faith, Brotherly Love, the Adoption Paradigm.
Project / Initiative	The Jesus Adventure - 2026
Project Summary	We train a highly repeatable (and transferable) process of disciple-making to churches & Christian fellowship groups. We work both in person & online, across Dane County, Wisconsin, the USA and beyond. Our primary target is assisting bi-vocational pastors (or churches with no pastor) in Dane County to establish people in the faith with a highly repeatable discipleship process, when they do not have it internally. We do both a) establish weak believers to be strong, and b) bring wounded and marginalized people into the Christian faith (or back into the faith if they have left). Our process has been successful in both, in other churches in the past. Our message is simple: We must work together in the Body of Christ to establish the method of Discipleship that Jesus used. When we do: it yields amazing results. With the losses of members in the church, across the board for the past decade, we cannot afford to wait. This process works and we are eager to get it out to local churches where the help is most needed. Our process has four simple stages over 13 weeks: Starting, Striding, Standing, and then becoming Seated with Jesus as "overcomers" (Rev 3:21). We communicate it in language that engages anyone with willingness to receive from Christ.
Grant Request	We're asking for a grant of \$10,000, to assist us with this 2026 initiative. But even \$5,000 would help.
Total Initiative Budget	\$18,000 in addition to our regular annual budget. We continue to raise funds from regular donors, but need a lump sum to expand our efforts now.
Annual Organization Budget	About \$20,000 - we've operated very lean for several years. Our staff take only a small stipend.
Use of Funds	1. Travel Costs in Dane County - visiting churches and schools. 2. Advertising (Facebook, Google, print). 3. A technical intern (a volunteer is preferred, but we need to advertise for the right person). 4. Books & materials for each disciple (about \$35.00 each). 5. Zoom subscription. 6. Ministry Conference fees such as the EFCA annual district mtgs. 7. Some improved software for higher quality production (one of those is \$1500/yr). 8. Some new audio & video gear (low-mid budget) improved web camera, HDMI adapters, a visual media projector for our meetings + we need a new Laserjet Printer. 9. A mobile white board. 10. Staff Stipend for our ministry production and customer contact team. We offer our program for donations of any size, since many of the churches we will serve have little to no budget. However, as we increase our exposure – we expect to be able to raise funds from foundations and businesses which are committed to Discipleship and building up local churches. We see this as part of a much grander plan to re-invigorate the shrinking local church. We believe that the local community church is vital to the longer term success of Christianity in America – and discipleship is the missing piece to that success.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	Firstly, we are called here to serve the Church in Dane County ahead of any others, as we are building this mission from here for over a year now. We continue contacting local churches for that purpose. We are convinced that the Gospel of Jesus Christ transforms lives, heals relationships, restores families, redeems and builds up communities – and that is passed on by well-trained layman disciples who reach other people as they go in daily life. So, we work with Churches, College Christian Groups, Youth events and home churches to train people for acts of Christian service, in-person evangelism & discipleship (big evangelistic events do not have as lasting an effect). We have been meeting at local Dane county churches and are planning off-site meetings in University

	groups, home fellowships, and (when possible) coffee shops. Second, we are a ministry team consisting of Veterans, Disabled, Stay-at-home Moms and seasoned citizens, in addition to the younger interns we are seeking to join us. We work to connect the Christian community around the unity of the essentials of the faith and build up the Kingdom that way, starting right here.
Scripture	We are focused on Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 17:11, Acts 20:27, Matthew 7:24-27, and John 6:63 as hallmarks of our ministry. Our true focus is Matthew 28:20 "teaching them everything I commanded you" - and we give useful tools to help churches do just that.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	We're Gospel focused, Bible Principled, Dane County centric, community empowering, and life transforming. We have family and community ties to Dane County, and chose to be headquartered here because of that. Like UMCG, we focus on the essentials of the Christian faith. We embrace the Apostles' Creed (https://mission1711.com/about-apostles-creed/), and work with any churches that do. We have held meetings in Baptist, Non-denominational, Nazarene, Church of God, Pentecostal, Evangelical Free, and Congregational churches. We count among our friends, donors and prayer supporters those who are Charismatic, EFCA, Baptist, Methodist, Fundamentalist, Pentecostal, Episcopalian/ Anglican, Church of God, and more. Our goal is to lead people to be disciples of Christ Himself - above all. We discourage sectarian isolationism, while holding to the essentials of the Christian faith – to work together for the high calling of Christ. We seek to build the kind of mission that leads people to hold firmly to Christ's command to love our brothers and sisters in Christ with the same love He shows us (John 15:12). We restore the wounded, wayward and wandering - which often results from sectarian and internecine hostility. Our goal is to lead all groups to embrace the method of discipleship that Jesus taught. When we keep Christ central to all things, churches grow, lives are transformed, families are restored, cities and cultures are redeemed and blossom.
New Initiative / Collaboration	Expanding our ongoing work: Smaller churches in Dane county struggle to offer discipleship ministry. Most local pastors are bi-vocational and unable to offer discipleship development that people need. We support the smaller local community churches – because big churches can be impersonal – especially for nascent believers. Our goal is to build community churches up, even when they don't have funds! Our current need is to increase exposure with small local churches – within Dane county and surrounding areas. A grass-roots plan will transform society. We are talking with EFCA (Evangelical Free Church of America) because of their deep roots here in Wisconsin – and hoping to build from that. They are considering us, and welcomed us to join their regional meeting this Spring, but they have not embraced us yet. We have spoken at an EFCA church's men's conference last winter, and have talked with a couple of the more influential EFCA pastors here. But we are also seeking beyond them, pursuing ways to serve other local churches. Discussions are on-going. We do have the permission to use the facilities of one EFCA church for weekly meetings and one other nearby church, to keep building this mission locally. Funding is the main need now.
Estimated People Impacted	Thousands, hopefully. We work to be faithful in small groups as we go. Goals include: a) Establish in every church here. b) Speaking at every "shepherd-less" church. c) Train disciple-makers. We believe this is Christ's calling – and it will grow.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	First: build up many struggling local churches. Second: work with High Schools and University Christian groups. We have a volunteer team helping us with the leads and calls. We have some local support and we're offering to assist churches who need interim Pastoral leadership. We are already working with some local area churches. We're planning to promote with ads, as soon as funding is possible. But, we're also working the interpersonal relational contacts with church leaders. So: Our goal is to establish multiple separate groups, that we lead and oversee, meeting as many days of the week as we can manage. Ideally 3-5 individual meetings running at any given a time. Each group would run 13 weeks, and then reset; those who excel in the program will become leaders in future programs. The process is focused on developing leaders out of each group, so that they can pick up and run their own meetings by week 14. There's nothing much more complicated than that. It's based on the system I developed called "the Jesus Adventure" - which grew out of successful discipleship work that my wife and I have done over the past 3 decades. I have books and study guides that I developed for this purpose. The framework is successful in home fellowships, home churches, small churches, school groups. We're presenting to both community and home churches

	about our system right now. Our goal is to raise a grass-roots army of disciple-makers, one group at a time.
Sustainability Without UMC Grant	It will be slower, until we can get more funding. But we remain committed to the work, long term. Although we have been planning this coming year's initiative for quite some time, without the grant, we remain hobbled while working a limited process. We have very little funding, currently. Our equipment is old, and we're working mostly with freeware that keeps us operating in very limited capacity. However, we've been working on this plan for a long time - proving it out, one step at a time. This initiative is the result of years of ministry work, preparation, development and prayer. We believe the Lord Jesus led us to form here in Dane county "for such a time as this". We're seeking opportunities to reach out to various groups such as Christian student groups and Christian schools, as we go, while also working with local community churches in need of assistance. We have the basis, the experience, the system, the people, the process. We just need to take it to the next level - and we believe 2026 is the year for that. Yet, it will take funding. We continue to provide our own personal funding, to support the mission, as we go. This grant would be a huge step, advancing us forward, to the next level. Without it, our plans will remain squelched until we are able to create more funding sources. We are applying with other foundations and organizations, but UCMG is really the best option, since you are focused on Dane County, which is where we are located and focused. Thank you!

23. Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Website	http://mtzlife.com
Organization Mission	It is our mission is to be a Bible-believing, Christ-centred church, committed to lifting our community, converting sinners to Christ, and creating faithful disciples.
Project / Initiative	Midwest Gospel Preaching Summit
Project Summary	The Midwest Gospel Preaching Summit (MGPS) is a two-day preaching and ministry training gathering created to strengthen pastors, ministers, and church leaders in proclaiming the Gospel with clarity, conviction, and cultural relevance. Hosted by Mt. Zion Baptist Church in partnership with the S.L. Brown Foundation, MGPS is entering its 5th year, serving leaders from more than 50 churches across multiple states. MGPS provides intensive biblical preaching labs, practical workshops, mentorship for emerging preachers, and spiritual renewal experiences that strengthen those entrusted with communicating the Word of God. Rooted in the historic Black preaching tradition, MGPS honors its role in liberation, justice, and community transformation, while equipping today's leaders to preach with theological depth and practical application. MGPS is a powerful evangelistic initiative. By sharpening preaching skills, expanding theological understanding, and developing confidence in sharing faith, participants leave better able to articulate the Gospel clearly, compassionately, and appropriately in ways that reach diverse audiences. One strengthened preacher impacts entire congregations and communities, multiplying evangelistic impact far beyond the event itself.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	18000
Annual Organization Budget	For this project \$15,000
Use of Funds	Resources will be used to: Provide scholarships and reduced registration fees for pastors, young ministers, seminary students, and small-church leaders who may not have financial means to attend. Develop young preachers and emerging leaders through coaching, training materials, and presentation opportunities. Enhance evangelism-focused workshop tracks with curriculum, printed resources, and digital tools. Honor keynote speakers and workshop facilitators with honorariums and travel support. Support outreach and promotion to increase participation from diverse congregations across the Midwest.

	Provide meals and hospitality that foster collaboration and relationship-building. These investments strengthen preaching excellence, expand access, and multiply evangelistic impact by equipping leaders to clearly and confidently communicate the Gospel to the communities they serve.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	The MGPS has a direct and meaningful ministry impact on the people of Dane County by equipping local pastors, ministers, and church leaders with the tools needed to serve their congregations and communities more effectively. While MGPS draws attendees from across the Midwest, its deepest and most immediate impact is local. More than 80% of participants live, worship, and lead within Dane County, representing churches that serve thousands of residents. Through preaching labs, evangelism workshops, pastoral care training, and spiritual formation sessions, MGPS strengthens those who minister directly to families, youth, individuals facing crisis, and people who are seeking spiritual direction and hope. MGPS directly supports the spiritual and emotional well-being of leaders who often carry heavy ministry burdens, providing renewal that positively affects the congregations they serve. By improving the clarity, cultural relevance, and theological soundness of Gospel communication, MGPS equips leaders to better reach unchurched residents, engage emerging generations, and offer practical hope in areas affected by violence, mental health challenges, and social division. Ultimately, stronger preachers build stronger churches, and stronger churches build stronger communities, resulting in transformed lives across Dane County through the message and ministry of Jesus Christ.
Scripture	Romans 10:14–15 (NIV) “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”
Alignment with UMCG Mission	The MGPS is deeply aligned with UMCG’s mission to “provide comprehensive support to Christian ministries that share the Gospel of Jesus Christ while using Biblical principles to transform lives.” The core purpose of MGPS is to strengthen and equip pastors, preachers, and ministry leaders to faithfully proclaim the Gospel with biblical accuracy, spiritual power, and cultural sensitivity. By offering intensive training in preaching, evangelism, leadership development, and pastoral care, the Summit directly supports Christian ministries in their calling to reach people for Christ and lead them toward transformed lives rooted in Scripture. The partnership with the S.L. Brown Foundation and the support of funders like UMCG expand the reach and accessibility of this work, ensuring that emerging pastors, small congregations, and under-resourced ministries receive the support they need to carry out their mission. In every way, MGPS exists to share the Gospel and support ministries that transform lives through biblical principles, fulfilling the heart of UMCG’s mission.
New Initiative / Collaboration	The MGPS is not a new initiative; it is an established annual ministry training and evangelism event now entering its 5th year. Over the past four years, MGPS has grown into a trusted regional resource for pastors, ministers, and church leaders seeking to strengthen their preaching and discipleship impact. For its 5th anniversary year, MGPS is expanding through a formal partnership with the S.L. Brown Foundation, which supports leadership development and ministry training.
Estimated People Impacted	100
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, this grant will enable the MGPS to significantly expand its evangelistic reach, leadership training capacity, and community impact. With the support of UMCG, we anticipate the following measurable outcomes: Increased accessibility by providing at least 50 scholarships for emerging preachers, seminary students, and leaders from small or under-resourced congregations. Expanded participation, increasing overall attendance by 30%, representing more churches throughout Dane County and the Midwest. Enhanced evangelism training, including three new workshop tracks focused on Gospel articulation, discipleship, and community outreach. Growth in young preacher development, training at least 20 youth and young adults through coaching, preaching labs, and mentorship opportunities. Strengthened collaboration among ministries, fostering partnerships between at least

	25 churches to support ongoing community evangelism initiatives. Improved preaching effectiveness and pastoral confidence, measured by post-event evaluation surveys and participant feedback. Broader community impact as trained leaders return to their congregations equipped to more clearly proclaim the Gospel, disciple believers, and meet the spiritual needs of families, youth, and individuals in crisis. Ultimately, this grant will multiply Gospel influence, resulting in transformed lives and stronger churches across Dane County and the Midwest.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes, the MGPS is a sustainable initiative that will continue with or without the UMCG grant. Over the past four years, MGPS has been successfully funded through registration fees, sponsorships, church partnerships, and individual supporters. The Summit has consistently demonstrated financial stability, operational effectiveness, and strong participation from clergy and ministry leaders across the Midwest. However, while MGPS can continue at its current level, funding from UMCG significantly expands our ability to grow the impact and accessibility of the Summit. A grant from UMCG would allow us to provide more scholarships, reduce financial barriers for emerging preachers, strengthen evangelism training tracks, and enhance program quality through additional instructional resources and ministry tools. Without these funds, the Summit will remain smaller in scale and limited in scholarships offered, which affects our ability to reach under-resourced ministries and younger leaders who greatly benefit from this development.

24. Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development

Website	http://www.nehemiah.org
Organization Mission	Nehemiah is a leadership development institution that empowers the Black community, redesigns unjust systems, and transforms the face of leadership.
Project / Initiative	The Dignity Bridge Fund
Project Summary	Nehemiah is the only nonprofit in Dane County that provides housing for formerly incarcerated men. Our Dignity Housing Program includes three apartment buildings in three different Madison neighborhoods - and provides housing for 28 men. These men have access to the Dignity Housing apartment for up to three years in order to establish a rental history. Men returning from incarceration often begin rebuilding their lives with little or no financial cushion. A reduction in work hours, delayed paycheck, transportation problem, medical expense, or other unexpected setback can quickly create a rent gap. The Nehemiah Dignity Bridge allows our staff to respond before a temporary setback becomes a larger crisis. Funds will be used specifically to cover verified rental gaps for residents experiencing short-term financial hardship. Assistance will be paired with Nehemiah's existing reentry supports, including employment assistance, peer support, mentoring, and connections to community resources. A temporary setback should not erase months or years of progress.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	58000
Annual Organization Budget	1600000
Use of Funds	UMCG funding would provide \$10,000 in direct housing stabilization assistance through our Dignity Bridge Fund. The Fund provides short-term rental assistance for men living in Nehemiah's Dignity Housing who experience a temporary financial crisis that could otherwise result in housing loss.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	Nehemiah is a faith-based organization grounded in the belief that every person possesses God-given dignity and the capacity for restoration and transformation. Our reentry ministry has served men returning from incarceration to Dane County for approximately 15 years, walking alongside individuals as they rebuild their lives, reconnect with family and community, and seek a positive path forward. For many of the men we serve, faith was a source of strength and hope during incarceration and continues to play an important role upon their return. Our approach is rooted in Matthew 25's call to see and serve Christ in people who are incarcerated and Isaiah 58's call to pursue justice, break systems of oppression, and provide shelter to those in need.

	Our Dignity Bridge Fund puts those principles into practice. When a resident encounters a financial setback, our response is not judgment or displacement, but relationship, grace, accountability, and practical support. By helping someone remain safely housed during a difficult season, we communicate a simple message: your past does not determine your worth, you are not walking this journey alone, and your life and future matter. Nehemiah also holds a Public Reading of Scripture every Thursday from noon - 1:00. From time to time, the men in our reentry program who do not work during those hours join us in this prayer time.
Scripture	"I was a stranger and you invited me in... I was in prison and you came to visit me." — Matthew 25:35–36 Our reentry work is also grounded in Isaiah 58's call to "loose the chains of injustice" and provide shelter to those in need. Together, these passages embody Nehemiah's commitment to dignity, restoration, justice, and walking alongside people as they rebuild their lives.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	Nehemiah shares UMCG's belief that Christian faith should be expressed through actions that transform lives. For more than three decades, our faith has called us to walk alongside Black individuals and families facing inequitable systems and to create opportunities for hope, restoration, leadership, and justice. The Dignity Bridge Fund is a practical expression of that calling. Men returning from incarceration often face enormous barriers as they rebuild their lives. Many have relied deeply upon their faith during incarceration and return home seeking a different path. Stable housing provides the foundation from which they can pursue employment, reconnect with family, participate in supportive community, and continue that transformation. Our approach reflects Biblical principles of grace, dignity, restoration, justice, and accompaniment. Rather than allowing one financial setback to undo months of progress, Dignity Bridge surrounds individuals with practical support and trusted relationships during vulnerable moments. For Nehemiah, sharing the Gospel includes demonstrating through both relationship and action that every individual has value, purpose, and the capacity for a transformed future.
New Initiative / Collaboration	The Dignity Bridge Fund is a new initiative within Nehemiah's established Justice & Reentry work. For approximately 15 years, Nehemiah has provided housing, employment support, peer mentoring, advocacy, and other supports for men returning from incarceration. Dignity Bridge responds to a gap we have identified through that experience: even after securing housing and employment, a temporary financial crisis can threaten a participant's long-term progress. The Fund builds upon Nehemiah's existing community partnerships. Our reentry work includes collaboration with St. Vincent de Paul, EXPO of Wisconsin, faith communities, UW-Madison partners, and other organizations that provide complementary housing, employment, health, advocacy, and community supports. The Dignity Bridge Fund does not duplicate those services. Instead, it provides flexible stabilization funding that helps residents remain housed and connected to the broader network of supports already available to them.
Estimated People Impacted	Approximately 28 men live in Nehemiah's Dignity Housing annually. The Dignity Bridge Fund will create a housing safety net for these residents, with direct financial assistance provided to those experiencing temporary crises.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, the primary outcome of the Dignity Bridge Fund will be straightforward: men experiencing temporary financial crises will remain safely housed rather than losing housing because of a short-term setback.

	We anticipate that Bridge Fund assistance will help residents: - Avoid eviction or displacement during temporary financial hardship; - Maintain the stability necessary to sustain employment or pursue new employment; - Remain engaged in Nehemiah's peer support, mentoring, and reentry programming; - Continue building a positive rental history and progressing toward independent housing; - and - Strengthen their financial resilience and ability to navigate future challenges. Nehemiah will track use of the Fund, reasons assistance was needed, housing retention following assistance, employment status, and progress toward independent housing. Beyond these measures, we expect the Fund to strengthen something harder to quantify but central to successful reentry: trust. Participants will know that when challenges arise, they are surrounded by a community committed to accountability, dignity, restoration, and their long-term success.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes. Dignity Bridge is being developed as an ongoing component of Nehemiah's broader Justice & Reentry work rather than as a program dependent upon a single funder. Nehemiah has provided reentry services in Dane County for approximately 15 years and supports this work through a diversified mix of grants, contracts, donations, rental income, and community partnerships. UMCG's \$10,000 investment would provide significant early support for the Dignity Bridge Fund and allow Nehemiah to demonstrate its effectiveness during the next 12 months. We will track the circumstances in which assistance is needed, amounts provided, housing retention, and participant outcomes. This information will help us refine the Fund and make the case for continued investment from individual donors, foundations, faith communities, and other partners. Our long-term goal is to maintain Dignity Bridge as a flexible pool of resources that can be replenished annually. UMCG would help establish the Fund and demonstrate a simple idea: relatively modest assistance at the right moment can protect a much larger investment in a person's successful return to community.

25. Our Lady of Hope Clinic

Website	http://www.ourladyofhopeclinic.org
Organization Mission	We are a Direct Primary Care Clinic that donates at least 55% of our services to care for uninsured patients consistent with Catholic health care tradition.
Project / Initiative	Provider Addition to Support Fertility and Women's Health Offerings
Project Summary	Our Lady of Hope Clinic provides primary care and fertility and women's healthcare to paying members while also providing these services free of charge to uninsured patients in need. This project will support the expansion of our fertility and women's health program in response to significant and sustained growth in patient demand. Over the past two years, demand for these services has increased to the point that our existing providers are approaching full capacity. To continue accepting new patients and expand access to this specialized care, the Clinic must recruit and hire an additional provider trained in NaProTechnology and restorative fertility and women's healthcare. Grant funding will provide critical bridge support for this expansion by helping offset the new provider's salary and related costs while their patient panel is established. Over time, increased membership revenue generated by the additional provider is expected to support the position on an ongoing basis. By securing funding in advance of the hire, Our Lady of Hope Clinic can responsibly expand capacity while maintaining the financial sustainability of both our member-supported practice and our charitable care for uninsured patients.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	400000
Annual Organization Budget	1200000
Use of Funds	Grant funds will be used to offset ongoing operational expenses, primarily provider and medical support staff salaries, while the Clinic continues fundraising efforts to build the financial reserves necessary for responsible program expansion. This support will help stabilize current operations and position Clinic leadership to hire an additional fertility and women's health medical provider. Adding this provider will increase our capacity to serve both paying members and uninsured patients who receive care free of charge, allowing us to meet growing demand while maintaining the long-term financial sustainability of the Clinic's mission.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	This initiative directly serves the people of Dane County by expanding access to pro-life, affordable, effective fertility and women's healthcare rooted in the dignity of every human person and the Catholic understanding of marriage, family, and the sanctity of life. Through this ministry, women and families receive care that seeks to identify and treat the underlying causes of fertility and women's health concerns rather than bypassing them through interventions that may conflict with Catholic moral and ethical teaching. In doing so, the Clinic supports couples who desire to cooperate with God's plan for married love and openness to life while providing women with restorative medical care that recognizes the importance of healthy, properly functioning reproductive systems. These services are intentionally made accessible to the broader community. Paying members receive comprehensive care at an exceptionally affordable cost, while uninsured patients in need are able to receive the same high-quality care free of charge. By expanding this program, Our Lady of Hope Clinic will be able to minister to more women and families throughout Dane County with compassionate medical care that brings healing, hope, and support while remaining faithful to the dignity of human life from conception and to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
Scripture	I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. John 10:10
Alignment with UMCG Mission	This project directly aligns with UMCG's mission by supporting a Christian healthcare ministry that seeks to transform lives through both compassionate medical care and faithful Christian witness. Our Lady of Hope Clinic approaches every patient as a person created in the image and likeness of God, deserving of dignity, respect, healing, and hope.

	By expanding access to pro-life fertility and women’s healthcare, the Clinic puts Biblical principles into practice by protecting the dignity of human life, strengthening marriages and families, caring for those in need, and helping women pursue healing through medical care that respects God’s design for the human body. This initiative also strengthens our ability to serve uninsured patients free of charge, ensuring that financial hardship does not prevent women and families from receiving high-quality, life-affirming care. Through this work, the Clinic shares the Gospel not only through words, but through a tangible ministry of mercy, healing, service, and respect for life.
New Initiative / Collaboration	This is an ongoing initiative to support the overall mission of Our Lady of Hope Clinic as we continue to see increased demand for both prolife medical care and free care to the uninsured.
Estimated People Impacted	We estimate that approximately 150–200 individuals will be directly impacted annually through the expanded capacity supported by this initiative, with an even greater number impacted indirectly through their spouses and families.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, we anticipate that this grant will help strengthen the financial stability necessary to expand Our Lady of Hope Clinic’s fertility and women’s health services. By offsetting a portion of current provider and medical support expenses, the \$10,000 grant will allow a greater share of other operating and fundraising revenue to be directed toward building the surplus needed to responsibly add another fertility and women’s health medical provider. The primary anticipated outcomes include maintaining high-quality care for current patients, increasing the Clinic’s financial readiness to recruit and hire an additional provider, reducing capacity constraints within the fertility and women’s health program, and creating the ability to serve more women and families in Dane County. Ultimately, this investment will help position the Clinic to expand access to affordable, pro-life and restorative healthcare for both paying members and uninsured patients receiving care free of charge. Our goal is to establish the financial foundation for sustainable growth so that increased patient capacity can continue well beyond the 12-month grant period.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes. The initiative is designed to become financially sustainable through increased membership revenue as the new fertility and women’s health provider builds a patient panel. However, without the UMCG grant, the Clinic would need to rely more heavily on additional fundraising and operating surpluses before responsibly moving forward with the hire, which could delay the expansion of services. The \$10,000 grant would help bridge the period between hiring the additional provider and generating enough new member revenue to support the position on an ongoing basis. It would also allow the Clinic to expand capacity while continuing to fulfill its commitment to provide care free of charge to uninsured patients. While the long-term sustainability of the initiative does not depend solely on UMCG funding, this grant would significantly strengthen our ability to move forward sooner, reduce the financial risk associated with expansion, and ensure that growth does not compromise the Clinic’s existing charitable care mission.

26. Pastor-Theologian Collective Madison Chapter

Website	http://www.pastor-theologian.com
Organization Mission	To foster an environment that is pastorally equipping, theologically enriching, and relationally connecting for pastors from a wide diversity of backgrounds and ministry leaders serving and investing in Madison and surrounding communities.
Project / Initiative	2026-2027 Season of the Pastor Theologian Collective
Project Summary	PTC occurs 3 times a year serving roughly 110 pastors and ministry leaders. If you're a pastor or ministry leader, you've probably been invited to some kind of networking event or gathering of like-minded individuals and there seems to be an area of growth among our broader networks. Many of us haven't had the opportunity to participate in a theologically enriching presentation and discussion in a few years. This allows for broad connection across multiple denominations and supports the broader investment and networking across other ministries to collaborate broadly in the Madison area. Rather than PTC acting as a catch-all for all ministry needs, we believe that we play a unique niche that can partner with other networks and denominations to allow pastors to sharpen their saw theologically and we deliberately connect and promote other pastoral gatherings that are uniquely positioned to offer other specific pastoral needs. We forged PTC in 2022 to stretch pastors theologically, giving access to meaty, theological teaching in specialized fields, and a conducive space to digest it with other pastors. What started as a gathering that happens three times a year has developed into a network of pastors who share core convictions, grow their connections, and trade ministry resources and link arms with other networks that provide other unique areas of growth for pastors.
Grant Request	5000
Total Initiative Budget	10000
Annual Organization Budget	Our budget is usually about \$10,000 – all based on donations since each event is free.
Use of Funds	We have developed infrastructure & believe this initiative entering the upcoming PTC season helps ensure the best quality instructors are able to come, & equipping resources. One tool we will be adding this season is the PTC Vault. Its a space where like-minded pastors efficiently equip one another through shared relationships and resources to meet the common needs of ministry. In Efficiency. We can accomplish more for the kingdom when we share resources rather than reinvent the wheel in each individual ministry. Collaboration saves time and multiplies impact. In Equipping. God has uniquely gifted each pastor & church. Every ministry has something to offer the wider body of Christ. Sharing resources is one meaningful way to serve others out of our strengths and giftedness. With Shared Relationships. By providing a platform for resource sharing, we create more opportunities for like-minded leaders to interact and encourage one another between PTC gatherings. In Common Needs in Ministry. "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man..." One implication of this truth is that pastors and churches often face similar challenges. A centralized place to access resources for these common needs can be a valuable blessing to many.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	While several people do travel a great distance to attend, the majority of pastors and church leaders who attend are from Dane County. PTC will help strengthen local churches in our area across a broad denominational connection. One pastor recently wrote us saying that PTC is part of his leadership development strategy at church. That's the impact we are aiming for, and a grant will help us achieve it. We also believe there is opportunity to scale PTC gatherings to other locations, though that may be outside the specific scope of this initiative. We have seen a Green Bay location launched and we are in conversations with Long Beach CA and South of the Twin Cities and possibly Rockford. The direct Impact to the Madison community continues to strengthen the flagship community as a model for what others can continue to look to and model what pastoral gatherings could look like in partnership with other networks in our community. A high value is to collaborate and have shared relationships, allowing us to model for future gatherings how to link arms more effectively with other networks in a community.
Scripture	John 21:15-18 15 "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

	He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” 17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	We are a Christian ministry devoted to exalting Christ and His Word. Our mission is to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ by helping pastors become better theologians and theologians become better pastors. The more theologically equipped pastors and churches are, the clearer and stronger their proclamation of the gospel will be. Ultimately, we seek not only to inform minds but to transform lives, cultivating pastors and theologians who are faithful, mature disciples of Jesus Christ.
New Initiative / Collaboration	It is an ongoing initiative since fall 2022 with a new season starting fall 2026 and going to spring 2027. Local churches support it by providing infrastructure and finances. The two main churches are Hillcrest Bible Church and Memorial Baptist Church.
Estimated People Impacted	Each gathering supports roughly 60-80 local pastors and ministry leaders, upwards of 100 at times, and allows ministry leaders to sharpen the saw as they continue their work in the field.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	1. Flexibility to be more creative in marketing. 2. Improvements in infrastructure such as website, launching our tool called “The Vault”. 3. Greater ability to attract the leading theological voices of our day to speak at our events across denominational lines. 4. Increase the quality of resources given to pastors and churches to help strengthen their ministries
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes, this initiative is currently being underwritten by three churches, one church per gathering, and the additional resources provide these gatherings to move forward and free up resources to multiply future chapters. This initiative allows us to continue to broaden the reach and impact and increasingly collaborate with other networks throughout the Madison community.

27. Stephen and Laurel Brown Foundation Inc.

Website	https://slbf.org/
Organization Mission	Mission: Leading Christian thought and formation to shape the University of Wisconsin community and beyond. Vision: Renewed Christian presence in the pluralistic university where all are learning and serving to create a more virtuous world.
Project / Initiative	Working Title: Food for Thought: Faculty Edition or Service Edition
Project Summary	The series is a proposed initiative designed to help University of Wisconsin–Madison undergraduate and graduate students explore the relationship between Christian faith, academic life, and work. Through a series of hosted lunches, students will engage in guided, interview-style conversations with Christian faculty from a wide range of disciplines. By connecting students with faithful academic examples and cultivating spaces for honest conversation, this initiative seeks to form students to better integrate faith and learning in ways that serve both the university and the broader community. We believe this program will help students gain skills and confidence in more boldly living out their faith convictions. Four lunches per semester will include a shared meal, a 30-minute faculty conversation, and time for student questions and discussion. This format will give students the opportunity to hear faculty share about their faith journey and how they navigate their faith at a pluralistic institution. In addition, two of the six lunches will include simple service opportunities for students to participate in during lunch. These may include writing encouragement cards to elderly residents or hospitalized children, assembling care kits, or preparing simple meal components for local shelters. These practices offer students an immediate and tangible way to live out their faith through acts of compassion and service, reinforcing the integration of belief, learning, and action.
Grant Request	10000
Total Initiative Budget	20000
Annual Organization Budget	3970000
Use of Funds	• Providing free meals for 100+students/per meal, ensuring accessibility for all participants • Event materials and hospitality needs • Supplies for simple service activities (e.g., card-making materials, care kit items, meal preparation supplies) • Marketing and outreach to UW–Madison students – flyer at the beginning of the year mailed to all incoming students • Basic audio/visual support for recording and amplifying conversations and creating follow-up recorded podcasts to increase the reach of the conversation. These funds remove financial barriers to participation and allow us to create a high-quality, welcoming environment where students can engage deeply. The grant will directly enable consistent programming across the academic year, ensuring sustainability and strong student participation.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	This initiative directly serves college students in Dane County, particularly those at UW–Madison, by creating intentional spaces for spiritual formation within academic life. Many students in Dane County are navigating questions of purpose, identity, and belief while immersed in a highly secular/pluralistic academic environment. This series meets students where they are—on campus—and invites them into thoughtful, relational, and Christ-centered conversations over a meal. Through these gatherings, students are: • Encouraged to integrate their faith with their academic and vocational pursuits. • Connected with Christian faculty mentors and local ministry opportunities. • Invited into deeper engagement with the Christian community. • Emboldened to live more integrated and missional lives. Beyond conversation, this initiative creates tangible pathways for students to serve the local community. By incorporating simple, accessible service opportunities into the lunch gatherings, students can directly bless vulnerable populations in Dane County, including the elderly, hospitalized children, and individuals experiencing homelessness. These small but meaningful acts of service cultivate habits of compassion, reinforce

	Christian teaching, and connect students' intellectual and spiritual formation with lived expressions of love for their neighbors.
Scripture	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." — Matthew 22:37
Alignment with UMCG Mission	This initiative aligns closely with UMCG's mission by fostering holistic discipleship that engages both faith and intellect. It creates accessible, relational environments where individuals can encounter Christ and grow in their understanding of how faith shapes every aspect of life. By centering conversations on vocation and the integration of faith and learning, the program equips students to live out their faith thoughtfully and faithfully in their academic and future professional contexts. Additionally, the initiative emphasizes community, hospitality, and partnership—core elements of UMCG's mission—by bringing together diverse participants, building relationships across the university, and cultivating spaces for belonging and spiritual growth. By providing students with small, accessible opportunities to serve, we also hope to help them think more philanthropically and recognize that there are many ways to be generous even as students.
New Initiative / Collaboration	This is a new initiative, although it has been done at other Christian Study Centers in the United States, it will be the first time we have offered something like this at UW-Madison. We will also need to seek out a couple of partners who would benefit from the easy-access service projects, including possibly existing partners/beneficiaries of United Madison Christian Givers. An additional benefit would be to build a network of Christian faculty and to provide further opportunities for community building and intellectual and spiritual development.
Estimated People Impacted	600-1000
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Over the next 12 months, we anticipate: • Consistent participation across 6 lunch gatherings • Engagement of 150–350 unique students who are more confident and emboldened in their Christian faith • Increased student interest in integrating faith and academic study/life • Development of meaningful relationships between students and faculty mentors • Increased student participation in local service and outreach efforts • Tangible impact through hundreds of service items created or assembled (e.g., cards, care kits, meals) We also expect qualitative outcomes such as: • Students gaining greater clarity in vocational discernment • Increased confidence in engaging faith within academic settings • A stronger sense of belonging within a Christian intellectual community
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	While the grant is essential for launching and stabilizing the initiative, we are developing a sustainability plan that includes diversified funding sources. The SL Brown Foundation (Upper House) is well-staffed and well-resourced, although we are not presently overfunded, necessitating the need to raise a percentage of external funds from foundations and major donors. Future support may include: • Modest contributions or sponsorships from local donors • Integration into existing ministry budgets • Donor support from individuals invested in student spiritual formation Because the core structure is relatively low-cost and relationship-driven, the program is highly scalable and can continue beyond the grant period through a combination of partnerships and internal support.

28. Stoughton Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Website	https://www.fca.org/
Organization Mission	The Stoughton FCA mission is to lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. We seek to make disciples through engaging (1 Thessalonians 2:8), equipping (Ephesians 4:12) and empowering (2 Timothy 2:2) coaches and athletes to know and grow in Christ and lead others to do the same. The Bible passage in Matthew 28:19-20 says “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” This is our mission.
Project / Initiative	The name of our project is Stoughton FCA Huddle weekly Bible studies.
Project Summary	FCA Bible studies meet consistently on the last school day of the week during the school year. We provide warm food, hot beverages and study God’s word. The Bible study uses FCA materials, AIA materials, the YouVersion app, and Christian guest speakers. A direct answer to a specific prayer of mine this 2025–26 school year was for God to bring the young people since two of our daughters are now in college and our youngest is a junior in high school. AND God did just that! Since the start of the school year, we have 12 new families... 10 of which have either a middle schooler, freshman or sophomore! We’ve had up to 26 teenagers, praise the Lord! It was soon after I started praying that prayer specifically that I started receiving text messages asking about our FCA Huddle! The format for our weekly Bible study is to have food ready at 7am so the teenagers can grab a plate and start connecting with friends right away. Then we show a 3-5 minute video that supports/enhances the Bible passage we will be studying, then we read through a Fellowship of Christian Athletes devotional that centers on the same Bible passage. There is talk/connection throughout the study and then we ask for prayer requests. I take notes on the prayer requests and in contact with the teenagers during the week and specifically pray for them. We go to their sporting events and visit them after surgeries. Our goal is to be the hands and feet of Jesus to these young people.
Grant Request	\$4,000 (The last grant they received from UMCG was 1st Qu. 2025 for \$2600)
Total Initiative Budget	4500
Annual Organization Budget	6500
Use of Funds	Every week we are averaging 20-25 teenagers. Teenagers love to eat and each week we have two hot egg dishes, mini bagels and cream cheese, yogurt, granola, oatmeal bars, and fresh fruit. Also, hot chocolate and fancy Keurig coffee! We average spending about \$80 per week on food.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	The primary city that the students live in is Stoughton, WI which is part of Dane County. We are reaching out to students and families from the surrounding communities, specifically McFarland, Evansville and Oregon. 1 Timothy 4:12 says “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” This was our focal Bible verse earlier this month. Our goals are to raise young people, in the Dane County community, to be strong in their faith and be lights to the world. That they would know first and foremost how much they are loved by the Creator of the Universe! That they would go home and share with their families, go into their schools and share with their friends, go into their sports and share with their teammates and ultimately be a light throughout the Stoughton community and beyond.
Scripture	As stated above, Matthew 28:19-20 is the Stoughton FCA mission. Our desire and mission is to literally go and make disciples. We talk about how every day when the students wake up and go to school they are to be “lights” for our Lord in both word and action. We have had many underclassmen and a few middle schoolers added this year and it is because our regular attenders are inviting others. Praise God! This has been such a direct answer to prayer!
Alignment with UMCG Mission	The UMCG mission statement provides spiritual, educational and financial support and awareness of Christian ministries that share and exemplify the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of Dane County. The Stoughton FCA mission statement also provides this support and awareness. The Gospel message is clearly shared at our quarterly events by UW-Madison Athletes in Action athletes as they share their testimonies. The Gospel message is shared at our weekly Bible study gatherings, too. We provide free FCA Bibles to all students who want them, and other FCA materials that teach the

	Gospel. For some of the students who have families who don't attend church, our FCA quarterly events and Bible studies are the only time they might hear the Gospel message. And because our ministry is non-denominational, we also have students attending from a diverse number of local churches, which brings unity. One of the other best parts are the friendships that grow between the students who attend... it's like a Christian youth group for our Stoughton FCA students.
New Initiative / Collaboration	This is not a new initiative. FCA has existed since 1954 and Stoughton FCA has been actively serving teens since 2006. Bible Study is the rock of our Stoughton FCA. We have other events throughout the year, but the weekly Bible study is our constant. We are in collaboration with Athletes In Action when we have our quarterly events at the Stoughton High School. At these events, we bring in an athlete from Athletes In Action to share his/her testimony, serve dinner, play games and have door prizes.
Estimated People Impacted	We are averaging in the 20s every week for Bible Study and our hope and prayer is that this number simply continues to grow.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Our goal is always to reach more people with the Gospel and grow them in their relationship with Jesus Christ. To empower them and consistently remind them of how loved they are by the Creator of the Universe who created them and has a plan for them. This grant will continue to supply money primarily for food to feed their bodies. While God, through the work of the Holy Spirit, uses us to supply them with the spiritual food to fill their souls. There was a time before Covid when we had a high of 36 teenagers in our home before school for Bible study and I was making three egg dishes every week. It would be awesome to get back to that point. We know God is in control and we continue to give this ministry to Him and know that He knows the desires of our heart to keep making disciples and growing His Kingdom!
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	We can make it work. We have found a select number of small businesses that are willing to let us serve in their restaurants and earn money for FCA. We also have two connections with two Thrivent members who have helped sponsor our quarterly events at the high school where we bring in an athlete from Athletes In Action at UW Madison. All this to say, we greatly, greatly, greatly appreciate the support and generosity of the United Madison Christian Givers.

29. The Dwelling

Website	http://bigbighouse.org
Organization Mission	To create a space where people come to worship, pray and encounter the living God of the Bible. To be renewed, healed, redirected and energized to serve Him in the world.
Project / Initiative	Alpha at the Dwelling
Project Summary	We wish to sponsor an Alpha course, at the Dwelling, for the residents of the Madisonian and surrounding neighborhood. The Madisonian is a low income apartment complex, home of many who don't know Jesus. The 11 week Alpha course is a short course in Christianity, an effective means of building relationships around a meal, creating meaningful discussions, and always includes an invitation to receive Jesus Christ as Lord.
Grant Request	5000
Total Initiative Budget	5000
Annual Organization Budget	14000
Use of Funds	Food, beverages, promotional material, supplies, rental equipment.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	The people who live in the immediate vicinity of the Dwelling have great physical, economic, and spiritual needs. By reaching out with the grace of the gospel through Alpha we hope to introduce them to the love of Jesus, connect them to a local church and pray for them regularly.
Scripture	Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	Alpha at the Dwelling is all about Introducing people to the gospel of Jesus Christ and living it out in practical service.
New Initiative / Collaboration	This is a new initiative made possible by collaborating with organizations and individuals who have the same passion for evangelism and prayer as we do. Some of our partners are Northside Christian Assembly, Northside Planning Council, Jesus is Crazy About You, the Madisonian and hopefully, United Madison Christian Givers.
Estimated People Impacted	Initially, 30, Ultimately, thousands.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	We hope to build caring, loving relationships with individuals and families in the immediate neighborhood of the Dwelling. We pray that residents become followers of Jesus and participants in the regular prayer activities of the Dwelling.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Of course. With God, all things are possible. (Mark 9:23) The grant just makes it a little easier to reach more people with the gospel, quicker.

30. The Yada Project

Website	https://www.theyadaproject.com/
Organization Mission	The Yada Project (Yada) helps female survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation move from surviving to thriving by offering community, trauma-informed employment, and access to wraparound services. Our mission is rooted in the belief that every woman deserves to feel seen, loved, and known (“Yada” is a Hebrew word that means “to be known”). We’ve built Yada on a foundation of relationships and access to healing-centered support and meaningful work. Following in the footsteps of our parent organization, The Yada Project, we walk alongside survivors as they rebuild their lives, strengthen their families, and discover their God-given purpose.
Project / Initiative	We are seeking support for our Economic Empowerment Program, which offers trauma-informed employment for survivors. This program provides jobs and support and serves as a stepping stone to a brighter future and a Christ-centered life.
Project Summary	The ability to find and keep reliable employment they can be proud of is one of the most profound barriers survivors face. Without it, they remain vulnerable to homelessness, poverty, and re-exploitation. But finding a job can be extremely challenging. Many survivors have criminal records, lack a job history or education, and must navigate addiction recovery and trauma. In response, Yada launched our Economic Empowerment Program. Through this program, we help survivors: · Understand the expectations of a typical workplace with the support of a trauma-informed team. This is critical as many survivors have never been employed outside of being trafficked. · Discover their gifts and skills. We offer survivors the chance to discern and nurture their God-given abilities. · Prepare for future professional and educational opportunities. Our program is a first step towards thriving. To date, six participants have pursued post-secondary education or gone on to another job. · Access wraparound services. Survivors need comprehensive support to maintain successful employment. We pair job training with wraparound services—like transportation, housing assistance, legal advocacy, and addiction recovery—to give survivors the scaffolding to stabilize their lives. · Trust that God has a purpose for their lives. Survivors often doubt they can leave trafficking behind. Our program gives them hope and a path toward a stable foundation.
Grant Request	A \$10,000 UMCG grant will help us maintain current positions, hire additional women from our growing waitlist, and strengthen the Gospel-centered relationships that make long-term transformation possible. UMCG provided \$5,000 earlier this year.
Total Initiative Budget	In 2024, we spent roughly \$20,000 to launch our pilot training and employment program. In 2025, we spent \$50,000 to support and build on our efforts. Given the ongoing need, and the high level of program interest, our budget is \$80,000 for 2026.
Annual Organization Budget	YFTR’s 2025 operating budget was \$275,000 (in-kind support, store income, donations, and grants).
Use of Funds	A grant from UMCG will allow us to continue to support our evolving employment efforts. We currently have nine women working at Yada part-time and 15 on a waiting list. For survivors to see employment at our store as a viable alternative to trafficking, it’s critical for us to pay a living wage. According to MIT’s living wage calculator, the current hourly living wage in Dane County is \$22.46 for a single adult with no children. The current minimum wage is \$7.25/hr. Yada pays our employees \$17-\$25/hour. Many of the women we serve currently qualify for housing and food assistance. A part-time job at a living wage often hits the “sweet spot” where they can keep those supports while gaining income, confidence, and a job history that allows them to move forward. If we receive a grant from UMCG, we will allocate roughly 20% to purchase supplies and equipment to fund our YadaMade social enterprise and Café Yada efforts. We’ll use the remaining 80% to pay salaries for the women who work in our store, make craft items, take our HopeMobile to local neighborhoods, and develop marketing and social media tools.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	Yada’s ministry is grounded in the belief that every woman is created in God’s image and deserving of dignity, compassion, and hope. Our Economic Empowerment Program

	becomes a direct expression of Christian love by walking with survivors of trafficking in the most practical and relational ways. We meet women in moments of deep vulnerability—often as they carry shame, trauma, and fear—and offer a community that reflects Christ’s heart. We are a place where they are welcomed without judgment, known by name, and supported as they rebuild their lives. Through daily relationship, prayerful encouragement, and patient presence, the women who come to Yada experience God’s love in ways that are tangible and trustworthy. We model Christlike compassion, helping survivors rediscover their worth and believe that new beginnings are possible. As participants gain stability, income, and confidence, they also encounter a faith community that celebrates their progress and walks with them through setbacks. This project strengthens Dane County by offering restoration where exploitation once took root. It creates space for healing, empowers women to step into freedom, and reflects the Gospel through consistent, humble service. Our ministry is simple but transformative. We show up. We stay. And we love as Christ loved. And together we help women move toward lives of hope, purpose, and possibility.
Scripture	“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (Corinthians 5:17). At Yada, we believe a woman’s past need not define her future. We strive each day to show survivors they are seen, loved and known, and that a better future is possible through the healing power of Jesus Christ. We offer women a safe, judgment-free place to heal, and surround them with Christlike compassion as they find worthwhile employment and rebuild their lives.
Alignment with UMCG Mission	Yada and UMCG share the belief that faith must be lived through compassionate action. Our work aligns with UMCG’s mission by: • Offering Gospel-centered care that brings hope, dignity, and practical support to women who have endured exploitation. • Strengthening families. Over 75% of our survivors are mothers, and their healing directly impacts their children’s stability and well-being. • Helping survivors become self-sufficient, resilient, and able to contribute positively to their communities. • Demonstrating wise stewardship of resources through trauma-informed employment practices and strategic partnerships. • Creating pathways to discipleship through authentic relationships, prayer support, and an environment where God’s love is tangible. Yada’s model offers not only employment but restoration—physical, emotional, and spiritual. UMCG’s support will help expand Christ-centered transformation among some of the most vulnerable women in Dane County.
New Initiative / Collaboration	At Yada, we believe in the power of collaboration and our Economic Empowerment Program is no exception. Before program launch in 2024, we worked closely with organizations who serve survivors and these relationships continue to this day. At the national level, partners include survivor-focused enterprises such as Rethreaded, Thistle Farms, and Franciscan Peacemakers. Locally, we collaborate with Generous Jalopy, Family Connect and Shelter from the Storm. These partners’ insights help us understand the complex barriers survivors face and how to best address them. Yada also relies on our own Survivor Roundtable. This is an advisory group made up of women with lived experience. It plays an essential role in shaping our training, identifying challenges, and ensuring our approach remains trauma-informed and responsive to real needs. Because success in employment depends on more than job skills, we also partner with organizations that support addiction recovery, mental health care, childcare, and continued education. These relationships create a holistic, community-rooted model that offers survivors the practical and emotional foundation needed to move toward stability, independence, and hope.
Estimated People Impacted	We have hired 16 women and currently employ nine. But the ripple effect goes far beyond. Families are stronger. Other survivors have a sense of hope and possibility. Supporters see the benefit of their investment and communities are more resilient.

Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	Additional funding from UMCG will allow us to achieve the following in 2026: · Hire additional survivors from our waitlist into living-wage, trauma-informed roles. · Enhance job training to build confidence, workplace readiness, and real-world skills. · Increase the number of women who pursue education or secure external employment. We already have four in education programs and two have transitioned to full-time community jobs. · Sustain growth in confidence. We currently have 100% of participants reporting increased purpose and belief in their abilities. · Reduce reliance on emergency systems, by increasing stability, access to housing, and financial independence. · Strengthen families by giving mothers the tools and support needed to provide safety and stability for their children. · Deepen Christ-centered community among survivors, volunteers, and partner organizations.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	In 2024, Yada realized its long-held dream of providing employment to survivors of trafficking and exploitation. When UMCG chose us to receive one of your 2025 grants, it was a profound boost to our program, both financially and spiritually. We appreciated your belief in our efforts. In 2026 we gratefully received \$5,000 in support from UMCG, and are hopeful you will continue to bless our employment efforts through prayer, collaboration, and financial support. As the number survivors proves, the need is real and women believe a position with Yada can make a difference. We are committed to giving as many women as possible reliable employment they are proud to add to their resumé. With your support we can. Yada is volunteer-driven and intentionally lean, ensuring donor dollars directly impact survivor wages and training. While funding levels may influence scale, they will not deter our mission. We remain committed to walking with survivors through healing and into independence. We are working diligently to fund our program and will continue to do the following: · Pursue foundation and corporate grants · Expand donor support · Increase earned revenue through YadaMade and the resale store · Develop Café Yada and Yada Bride as employment and revenue sources · Strengthen partnerships to offset costs for wraparound supports UMCG's ongoing support has made a vital difference in the lives of the women we serve. We would be very grateful to partner with you again.

31. Wisconsin Inmate Education Association

Website	http://wisinmateedu.org
Organization Mission	Transform the lives of incarcerated men through biblical education that equips them to transform others, their families, and the community
Project / Initiative	Operation Transformation
Project Summary	Operation Transformation is a partnership between Trinity International University, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, and WIEA that provides incarcerated men with a fully accredited bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies and a minor in Psychology. The men are given an opportunity to encounter Christ and experience a transformation of the heart. Throughout their four-year program and upon graduation, the men reflect Christ back into the general prison population. Students also engage with family and friends on the outside, allowing that transformation to extend into their families and the broader community. Our students have demonstrated a 95% or greater reduction in violence and disciplinary incidents compared to the general prison population. Their example is helping change the wider culture, one interaction at a time.
Grant Request	8000
Total Initiative Budget	242000
Annual Organization Budget	570000
Use of Funds	The grant will go directly to funding a students educational expenses for one year. This includes student tuition, books, technology, and staff support.
Direct Ministry Component in Dane County	We have students that came from the Dane County area and have family in the Dane County community
Scripture	Hebrews 13:3 "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering"
Alignment with UMCG Mission	We have a very similar mission to UMGC in that we are seeking to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rooted in Biblical principles, to transform lives, the difference is we are focused on equipping the incarcerated specifically.
New Initiative / Collaboration	This initiative has been in operation since 2017 and we partner with Trinity International University to provide the accredited degree and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.
Estimated People Impacted	we have 77 total men (graduates and current students) they are each connected to dozens of people both inside and outside of prison.
Anticipated 12-Month Outcomes	This grant will ensure one student has their education fully paid for, providing a one-of-a-kind opportunity within prison. This student will receive academic courses in Biblical Studies courses such as Introduction to New Testament, Christian Ethics, and Psychology courses on trauma and addiction. These courses will help them grow in their faith and reach others with the Gospel.
Sustainability Without UMCG Grant	Yes, we have support from Churches, Individuals, and other Foundations in the Milwaukee area