

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Application for a Grant from Boise Presbytery

Name: Bethany Presbyterian (for Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery,
Home Visitation Program, Ontario, OR)
Church Address: 1712 West Idaho, Ontario, OR 97914
Contact Email: kathrynbaker99@msn.com TVCRN Website: www.tvcrn.org
Contact Phone: 208.549.2091

25% of the annual offering goes to mid councils/presbyteries **to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions.**

1. Describe your idea for a grant from Boise Presbytery:

- a. The Mission Committee of Bethany Presbyterian is applying for a grant to support the Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery in Ontario, Oregon. We feel that the nursery, which receives support from local congregations, is vital to the peace and wellbeing of children and families living in and around Ontario, which is ranked among the poorest and most economically disadvantaged areas in the state. TVCRN Director Kathie Collins tells about the nursery and its home visitation component:
- b. The cornerstone of the Relief Nursery model is its therapeutic classroom, immediately followed by the **home visiting element** of its Therapeutic Early Childhood Program. During regularly scheduled home visits, interventionists are able to offer parenting strategies, explain child development, and gain information to use in the classroom. Visits also provide an opportunity to help parents access basic resources – all to reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment.

Something people may not realize is that home visits also are a time to simply listen. The clients we serve at TVCRN have struggled with myriad adversities. Some were sexually abused as children and later chose to self-medicate with drugs or alcohol to cover the pain. Some were teen parents and have spent their early adulthood having to listen to criticisms ("I told you he was no good," "I told you not to drop out," "I told you not to have that baby.") Others have endured domestic violence, infidelity, or had their spouse incarcerated, deported, or pass away. Our home visiting staff, while they are not trained therapists, are trained to pick up cues about potential self-harm. Oftentimes, parents are simply expressing hopelessness. At TVCRN, one of the things our specifically trained staff members do well is to nurture hope.

There is myriad scientific research that interventions in early childhood help to mitigate the effects of trauma and prolonged toxic stress. The risk factors for families can quickly add up when just one major tragedy occurs. We consider it a privilege to be a positive part of so many families' lives, helping to change the trajectory of their children's lives so they might live a life filled with possibility rather than one destined for adversity. Consistently, the parents we serve tell us they feel their parenting skills are strengthened and they feel more capable after participating in our program.

Cost for the home visiting element is approximately \$92,000 annually, which includes salaries, payroll taxes, insurance, home visiting supplies, mileage, curriculum and printing.

2. Amount requested: \$2,500
3. Date: 02/04/2019
4. Approved by Session 02/06/2019

If approved please send check to Bethany Presbyterian Church 1712 W. Idaho Ontario, OR 97914

Please send this grant request to the Stated Clerk of Boise Presbytery: boisestatedclerk@gmail.com