

Dear Church Leaders,

For many years, the people of the United Church of Christ have partnered with Heifer International, working together to end poverty and hunger. Founded in 1944, Heifer is a global nonprofit leader of sustainable agricultural development for smallholder farmers. Through the support of congregations in your conference, we have helped millions of farming families around the world. I hope this information is helpful for you to share with your local congregations.

Engage

As a Heifer International coordinator for your region, I can provide assistance to congregational leaders as they select programs and resources. I am also available to help you implement programs across the conference and to offer trainings for congregational leaders. You can reach me at 206-547-5696 or eliza.penick@heifer.org.

Local church leaders can also visit www.heifer.org/faith where there are free resources such as church bulletins, posters, curriculum activities for all ages, and ideas for alternative mission trips. These resources and many others are available online or by calling 855-9HUNGER (855-948-6437) to place a free order.

Learn

Throughout the liturgical calendar, congregations can encourage and enable members to examine their role in helping the poor and ending hunger through Heifer International programs. I have included a brochure with more information about these programs:

- Fill the Ark – 28-day learning and giving calendar
- Animal Crackers - comprehensive program for all ages
- Living Gift Markets – alternative giving event to “buy” gifts that produce food and income
- Feeding 5,000 –customizable, workshop-based rotational curriculum for youth

In addition, Heifer Learning Centers, located in Arkansas and Massachusetts, provide an immersion experience for participants to understand the challenges of poverty around the world. Our learning centers offer excellent alternative mission trips for youth or adults.

Give

The resources listed above have many fundraising activities and ideas for small group or congregation-wide efforts. Local churches may wish to set up fundraising web pages for their projects. Leaders can visit www.heifer.org/fundraise to find step-by-step instructions for customizing a webpage that can be shared via e-mail, social media or on church websites.

A family-oriented, community-based development model remains at the core of Heifer’s programs, including “Passing on the Gift”, in which families agree to give the first offspring of their animal to another family in need. Thank you for continuing to pass on your gifts and empowering others to do the same.

Sincerely,



Eliza Penick
Community Engagement Coordinator
AK, HI, ID, MT, NE, NV, OR, ND, SD, WY, WA