

Social Concerns Committee Overview

In 2022, benevolence gifts supported continuing congregational multigenerational initiatives ([Grauer Back-to-School Project](#) each August and monthly [Community Table](#)) as well as numerous social service partner agencies and churches with missions consistent with our congregational benevolence guidelines (highlighted with brief descriptions and website URLs below).

[B HYPERLINK "https://blanchethouse.org/"](https://blanchethouse.org/) [I HYPERLINK "https://blanchethouse.org/"](https://blanchethouse.org/) [anchet House](#) - Food/shelter for Portland area homeless.

[Bread for the World](#)-Urges Congress to renew the federal government's major child nutrition programs.

[Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon](#)- Statewide association of denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners.

[ELCA Lutheran](#) [HYPERLINK](#)

["https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response"](https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response) [Disaster Response](#) -partnering with 8400 ELCA congregations world-wide in our support of critical emergency needs, nationally and internationally.

[Gethsemane Lutheran](http://glcportland.org/) [HYPERLINK "http://glcportland.org/"](#) [Church](#) in Lents- Winter Coat Drive.

[H HYPERLINK "https://www.johnsonscholarship.net/"](https://www.johnsonscholarship.net/) [ighland Haven, Johnson Family](#) [HYPERLINK](#)

["https://www.johnsonscholarship.net/"](https://www.johnsonscholarship.net/) [Memorial](#) [HYPERLINK](#)

["https://www.johnsonscholarship.net/"](https://www.johnsonscholarship.net/) [Scholarship](#) Supporting scholarships for students of color since 1984.

[House of Zion Ministries](#)-Serving Hispanic farm worker families in Woodburn through social services, spiritual ministry, and educational programs.

[Jubilee USA](#) -Alliance of more than 70 U.S. organizations and 700 faith communities working with 50 Jubilee global partners to address debt, tax, trade and transparency policies that help end poverty.

[Letty Owings Center](#)-A safe place in Portland for addicted mothers and pregnant women to live and recover with their children.

[Lift Every Voice Oregon](#)-Interfaith partnership to support signature gathering for common sense ballot initiatives in 2022 to reduce gun violence and make Oregon safer.

[Lutheran Community Services NW](#) -Refugee and immigrant services in Portland metro area and beyond.

[Maplewood Helping Hands](#)-Food insecurity support for Maplewood Elementary students and families.

[Moms Demand Action](#)-education on gun safety in Oregon and beyond.

[Mujeres](https://mujeresluchadoras.wordpress.com/) [HYPERLINK "https://mujeresluchadoras.wordpress.com/"](#) [HYPERLINK](#)

["https://mujeresluchadoras.wordpress.com/"](https://mujeresluchadoras.wordpress.com/) [Luchadores](#) [HYPERLINK](#)

["https://mujeresluchadoras.wordpress.com/"](https://mujeresluchadoras.wordpress.com/) [HYPERLINK](#)

["https://mujeresluchadoras.wordpress.com/"](https://mujeresluchadoras.wordpress.com/) [Progestistas](#)-Empowerment of female migrant workers in Woodburn area.

[Neighborhood House Food Box Program](#)-Located in Multnomah Village, program has served substantially more families monthly during the pandemic and beyond.

[Northeast Emergency Food Program](#)- A ministry of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon that serves hungry people citywide at its location at Luther Memorial Church in Northeast Portland.

Northwest [HYPERLINK "https://www.nwpilotproject.org/who-we-are/"](https://www.nwpilotproject.org/who-we-are/) **Pilot Project**-Provides housing for seniors who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless; advocate for maintaining low income housing in downtown Portland.

Oregon Justice Resource Center - Promotes civil rights and legal representation for underserved communities.

Rose Haven - a day shelter and community center serving women, children and gender non-conforming folks experiencing the trauma of abuse, loss of home and other disruptive life challenges

Safe [HYPERLINK "https://allgoodnw.org/"](https://allgoodnw.org/) **Rest Village** – Financial support for Safe Rest Village, sited at the Sears Armory on SW Multnomah Boulevard.

Soul Box Project-200,000 soul boxes made across the country (1000 at St. Luke) as demonstration of national concern over ongoing gun violence in this country.

Up and Over – bridge funding to assist with outreach and engagement with houseless in Portland area experiencing mental health challenges, then providing connections to stable housing and wrap-around supports.

Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center [HYPERLINK "https://viriniagarcia.org/who-we-are/"](https://viriniagarcia.org/who-we-are/) **(Metro West)** [HYPERLINK "https://viriniagarcia.org/who-we-are/"](https://viriniagarcia.org/who-we-are/)- Patient Flex Fund for emergencies beyond VGMHC budget.

Wallace Health [HYPERLINK "https://mywallace.org/"](https://mywallace.org/) **Concern** [HYPERLINK "https://mywallace.org/"](https://mywallace.org/) **(Metro East)**-Dr. James Reuler Family Fund for Patient Support.

West [HYPERLINK "https://westwomens.salvationarmy.org/"](https://westwomens.salvationarmy.org/) **Women's and Children's Shelter**-The "West" serves victims of domestic violence. You also provided clothing, food donations, and gift cards at Christmas.

Committee members for 2023:

Carol Adams, Gaile Baack, Emily Brabham, Jane Chan, Gerry Foote, Michael Ford (Vice-Chair and Coordinator for Benson Family Foundation Grants), Julie Gaudette, Sarah Johnson, Carolyn Loch (treasurer), Tammy Mercier, Alice Mills, Laure Patrick (Secretary), Nancy Scheele (Chair), Cathy Spofford.

ALL ARE WELCOME to serve on this committee as we "seek to use all giving as an occasion for the celebration of God's transformative love."

Thank you for your commitment of time, talent, financial gifts, and service to our neighbors in need.