

UNITED THANK OFFERING

When it comes to the United Thank Offering, Pittsburgh has two reasons to celebrate!

The first reason occurred nearly 130 years ago when Pittsburgher Mrs. Ida Soule was instrumental in introducing a resolution at the 1889 Women's Triennial to create a "United Offering," now known as the United Thank Offering (UTO). It was at this triennial that the first United Offering Ingathering was conducted. A total ingathering of \$2,188.64 was used to build a church in Anvik, Alaska, and send a woman missionary to Japan. This was the birth of the UTO Ingathering tradition.

UTO Ingatherings are typically held twice a year in participating congregations and dioceses throughout the nine provinces and other Episcopal groups not associated with a province. A UTO coordinator, in turn, sends the donations to the national UTO Board. Qualified grants are awarded each year, per the available ingathering total. The UTO, through its Blue Boxes and ingatherings, has become the single most important extra-budgetary source for the funding of specific missionary projects in The Episcopal Church. **Every cent collected is granted!**

At the most recent 79th General Convention / Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Triennial, held in Austin, Texas, the 2017 UTO Ingathering total was \$1,069,512.49. Adding to this, \$213,703.72 (from trust funds and returned grant monies) enabled UTO to give out \$1,283,316.21 in 47 grants. The dollar amount granted since the 2015 Triennial was \$3,738,989.47. Unfortunately, some qualified grant requests could not be awarded, because there just wasn't enough money. The 2018 Grant Awards booklet provides pictures and detailed descriptions of this year's grant recipients.

The second reason for Pittsburgh to celebrate occurred this July at the 2018 ECW Triennial. During the UTO report, the Diocese of Pittsburgh was recognized as the **ONLY** diocese that increased their UTO donations each year of this triennium:

2015: \$6,593.81 2016: \$7,134.06 2017: \$13,747.06.
THANK YOU, PITTSBURGH!

You continue to demonstrate: "Gratitude" leads to "Abundance" which leads to "Generosity."

So, what are you grateful for today? Your morning coffee? A parking space? Good test results? A new job? To express your gratitude, remember to drop a coin into your blue UTO box. The new UTO Blue Box Smart Phone App allows you to donate your gratitude on the spot, wherever you are.

Many free resources are available to help share UTO with your congregation. As your diocesan UTO coordinator, I am available and eager to assist you.

Darrell Powell
UTO Coordinator

