

know your neighbor  
support your community

ASSOCIATED CHURCHES OF FORT WAYNE & ALLEN COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT

2015







From the Executive Pastor

I am pleased to provide a report of the many accomplishments of the Associated Churches programs in 2015. With smart leadership and unwavering commitment, the Associated Churches board, staff, donors, and volunteers made 2015 one of its greatest in the organization's 72 year history.

Associated Churches designated family development and basic needs as the most important topics in 2015. Rising Stars impacted over 20,000 students, A Baby's Closet worked with 25 providers in the community, and the Neighborhood Food Network served over 100,000 individuals. These accomplishments are made possible by donors and volunteers like you.

In 2016, our new website will feature a "food bank locator." This feature will assist food bank coordinators and those in need of food assistance with finding their correct food pantry by searching their home addresses. This long awaited tool will keep our system running smoothly and efficiently. Also in 2016, Associated Churches will launch The Landing, a program designed to assist young people in their challenges with substance abuse, mental health, and everyday struggles.

In order to keep our programs functioning, we require consistent volunteers and donations from people like you. We sincerely thank you for your commitment to knowing your neighbor and supporting your community. I ask today for your continued support in 2016.

"Let us run with determination the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end." - Hebrews 12:1b-2

Rev. Roger Reece  
Executive Pastor  
Associated Churches of Fort Wayne & Allen County



# meet the team



## 2015 Board of Directors

### Executive Council

Dr. Crystal Bush	President
Rev. Steven Conner	Vice President
Larry Doctor	Treasurer
David Boyer, II	Legal Council
Mark Deister	Past President
Rev. Roger Reece	Executive Pastor

### Foundation Board

Rev. Roger Reece	Matt Zurbuch
Wayne Dawson	Jim Etsler
Larry Doctor	Lisa Miller
Richard Cummins	Tim Grable
Jim Bushey	

### Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Ron Allen	Rev. Marty Hampton
Dan Book	Rev. Anthony Payton
Jim Bushey	Rosa Wheeler
Richard Cummins	Rev. Brian Spahr
John Hilger	Rev. Tony De La Rosa
Dr. Deborah McMahon	Jack Weisz
Nelson Peters	Brent Johnson
Kay Felts	
Charlie Hatten	

## Staff

Rev. Roger Reece  
Sarah Adams  
Tom Heil  
Elaine Williamson  
Carolyn Gorom  
Steve Staley  
Molly Gray  
Taylor Grady  
Garry Pook  
Chris Alvarez  
Kyle Pelz  
Alesha Bridgewater  
Gretchen Barnett  
Rev. Quincy McGhee  
Shelley Osborne

Executive Pastor  
Director of Educational Ministries  
Director of Spiritual Outreach  
Director of A Baby's Closet  
A Baby's Closet Site Director  
Director of Development  
Director of Communications  
Communications Assistant  
Director of Finance  
Warehouse Manager  
Warehouse Staff  
Administrative Assistant  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Community Connector  
Community Connector





Rising Stars is proud to announce 2015 as

# a year of achievement



Total Rising Stars investment in Allen County public schools

**\$500,000**



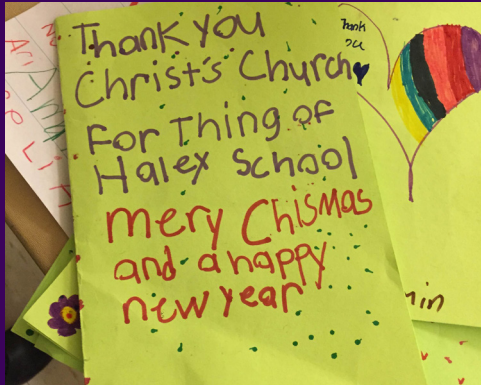
School and Church Partnerships

**44**



Items donated to public schools

**84,987**



*Over 20,000 students directly impacted*



In 2015, new Associated Churches Community Connectors assisted Rising Stars to create even more relationships between schools and churches in Allen County. Two new church/school partnerships were added and five organizations were connected.

Rising Stars announced a new drive in 2015 called "Socktoberfest." The clothing drive initiated thousands of donations of underwear and socks to local public schools.

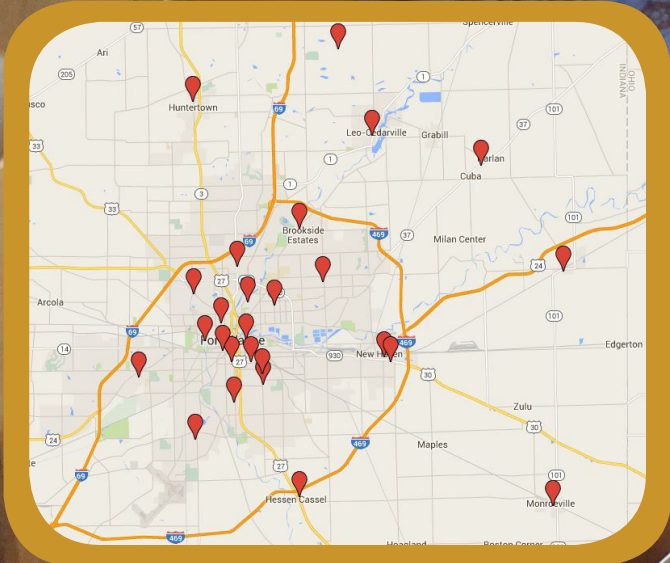
In 2016, Rising Stars looks forward to multiple new opportunities and programs. Rising Stars is partnering with Break the Grey, a character development assembly program for schools in the area. Thank you to volunteers and donors for another wonderful year!







33,765 families served



26 food pantries in allen county

## neighborhood food network



"I needed some extra help. The food pantry helped me when I needed it the most."

The Associated Churches Neighborhood Food Network served 33,765 families in 2015. Less families were fed in 2015 compared to 2014, a decrease that might reflect the improvement of the economy over the year. However, 87% of clients were repeat visitors. A large number of food pantry visitors need extra help for a longer period of time. That's why Associated Churches continues to need your help.

In 2015, donors more than doubled the in-kind donations for the Lenten Food Drive and Souper Bowl of Caring campaigns. We are excited to continue to increase donations for these food drives in 2016.

26 local food pantries served 1,530,765 meals in 2015. This commitment to our city takes over 7,000 volunteers and over 34,000 hours. Thank you to the Allen County community for your commitment to feeding the hungry in Fort Wayne.

In 2016, the new Associated Churches website will launch with an exciting new feature. Clients will be able to locate their food pantries online based on their home address. Visit the new website to see what food pantry is closest to you - it could be right around the corner!

In 2016, Associated Churches plans on engaging even more churches to help fight hunger in our community. Thank you to churches, schools, businesses, and volunteers that continue to keep the food pantries up and running in Allen County.



# continuum of family care

## a baby's closet

In 2015, A Baby's Closet provided families with an opportunity for growth. Safe sleep class, a breastfeeding support group, and SIDS prevention offered parents an opportunity to help keep their children healthy and safe. These classes offered families the opportunity to earn coupons for A Baby's Closet. In June, Associated Churches launched the first annual Father's Day 5K which raised in-kind donations for A Baby's Closet that helped the program keep its doors open. Thank you to all who volunteered and donated. Your kindness directly affects babies in our community.

"A Baby's Closet provided me diapers when I needed them most. I liked taking the classes and was excited to receive some help for my family after the class was over. Thank you."



5,654 coupons earned      620 families served



Our Military Families program continued to support families throughout 2015. In 2015, 80 families received financial assistance in their time of need. While struggling through deployments, families received free holiday meals and Christmas gifts. Thank you to O'Daniel Automotive and McMahon's Best One Tire & Auto Care.

**192 families assisted during the holidays**

**80 families received financial assistance**

**75 volunteers**

★★★  
**MILITARY Families**



## early childhood development

In 2015, childcare directors in Allen County used Let's Grow! Grants provided by the Foellinger Foundation to resolve their remaining barriers to achieve Level 1 on "Paths to Quality," a State program to define and measure the quality of childcare providers. Associated Churches assisted in the grant writing and receiving process for the 20 childcare programs. Of 20 childcare programs receiving grants in 2015, 9 are now on "Paths to Quality," 6 are preschools that just recently were allowed to seek "Paths to Quality," and 4 are actively working hard to achieve PTQ. 1 childcare facility closed in 2015. The 20 programs cared for 722 children to start elementary school ready to learn. More than half of these children have the most need and least opportunity, the target group for the Let's Grow! Grants. Thank you to the Foellinger Foundation and Deanna Wilkerson for facilitating this program!



# FOOD DRIVE GIVING

	2014	2015
January Food Appeal	10,617 lbs	4,215 lbs
Lenten Food Drive	1,470 lbs	3,793 lbs
Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger	361,000 lbs	312,000 lbs
Souper Bowl of Caring	500 lbs	1219 lbs
September Food Rally	9,237 lbs	8,888 lbs
WLDE Stuff-A-Bus	5,188 lbs	5,635 lbs
Canterbury Schools	18,688 lbs	16,138 lbs
School Food Drives	8,597 lbs	12,540 lbs
Miscellaneous	35,104 lbs	13,655 lbs
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>450,401 lbs</b>	<b>378,083 lbs</b>

In 2015, **120,682** pounds of food bypassed our warehouse and went directly to our food pantries in Allen County.  
*Thank you!*

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fiscal Year 2015

## INCOME

In-Kind	\$1,615,617
Foundations	\$558,441
Individuals	\$122,120
Fundraising	\$101,613
Congregations	\$63,347
Legacies & Bequest	\$42,529
Corporate/Business	\$38,710
United Way	\$35,709
Government	\$22,821
Organizations/Clubs	\$21,864
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,622,771</b>

## EXPENSES

In-Kind	\$1,615,617
Salaries & Related	\$416,389
Program Activities	\$259,895
Food Costs	\$110,877
Building Related	\$41,001
Office Related	\$35,074
Marketing	\$23,972
Transportation	\$16,259
Insurance	\$15,762
Capital Improvement	\$14,913
Professional Fees	\$12,485
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,562,244</b>



expenses by program

Neighborhood Food Network - 48.23%	
Rising Stars - 26.33%	
General Operations - 13.74%	
Early Childhood Development - 4.34%	
A Baby's Closet - 2.20%	
Fundraising - 1.78%	

## Read about our partners:

The Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation offering pro bono legal representation and preventive law education to low income families, including immigrant families. They accept clients whose income is at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines. Read more about NCLC at [www.nclegalclinic.org](http://www.nclegalclinic.org).



Neighborhood  
Christian Legal Clinic

Kerith Brook is a non-profit organization that provides retreats for adults grieving the death of a loved one. Kerith Brook retreats offer a place of rest, along with meals, a caring staff, optional activities, access to nature, and much more to help those grieving. If you would like to volunteer to help with retreats, or learn more about Kerith Brook and what they do, contact Jane Munk at 260-241-2350.

Kerith Brook  
Retreats for Grieving Adults

# NEEDS OF ALLEN COUNTY

- 53.8% of students receive free or reduced lunch
- 24.8% of children, age 0-17, are in poverty
- 45.6% of mothers do not receive 1st trimester prenatal care
- 20.2% of children are food insecure

# ASSOCIATED CHURCHES PROVIDED

- 150 local families of military personnel received care
- 1,530,765 meals served
- 20,000 students served
- 5,654 well-baby & prenatal coupons earned







learn more about our new program  
**the landing**

**SAFETY      HOPE      OPPORTUNITY**

In 2015, Associated Churches added a new program to assist young people in a time of need. The Landing is an outreach for troubled teens. The program provides a safe haven from life's hurts, habits, and hang-ups. The Landing offers a safe place to find hope, healing, and freedom when life gets crazy. For some, The Landing offers dealing with pain, for others, it means finding freedom from an addiction. In 2016, The Landing looks to build on its already growing attendance and volunteers. Learn more about The Landing at [www.associatedchurches.org](http://www.associatedchurches.org).

**An Urgent Need:**

Recent reports reflect the urgent need in our area to address mental health and substance abuse issues in our community. Associated Churches recognized and addressed the need for the community among our most vulnerable.

17%

of Hoosier high school students seriously considered suicide\*

10%

of 12-17 year-olds reported illicit drug use in Indiana\*\*

\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). 1991-2013 High School Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System data.  
\*\*Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2014). National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Model-Based Estimated Totals, NSDUH Series H-43, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 12-4703. Table C.8, C.21, C.22. Rockville, MD.



we need  
**YOU!**

**get engaged**

At Associated Churches, volunteers help to fulfill our mission. Individuals and groups work with our motivated staff to box food in the warehouse, organize baby items, and much more. Your involvement directly affects the community to feed the hungry, diaper babies and give students more opportunities. To learn more about volunteering, contact Gretchen Barnett, Associated Churches Volunteer Coordinator, at [gretchen@associatedchurches.org](mailto:gretchen@associatedchurches.org).

**make a financial contribution**

Associated Churches relies on generous gifts from people like you to continue enriching our community with basic needs like food, clothing, and education. Associated Churches is largely funded by private gifts, with only .87% of revenue from government sources. To make a donation to Associated Churches, visit the website at [www.associatedchurches.org](http://www.associatedchurches.org).

**champion our mission**

Help introduce more churches, organizations, businesses, and individuals to Associated Churches. We are happy to lead guided tours of the building and assist group volunteering sessions. By becoming a member church, faith communities can benefit from direct giving to food pantries, event promotion, church resources, and much more. Contact Roger Reece at [roger@associatedchurches.org](mailto:roger@associatedchurches.org) for information on becoming a member church or partner organization.

**organize your giving**

Associated Churches offers opportunities for monthly giving and encourages donors to include us in your will or living trust. Organized giving allows Associated Churches to plan programming for the future and create a pathway for more efficient services to the community. Contact Garry Pook at [garry@associatedchurches.org](mailto:garry@associatedchurches.org) to get started.



Churches & Affiliates

Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
Aldersgate United Methodist Women  
Anchor Community Church  
Antioch Lutheran Church  
Associated Churches of Fort Wayne & Allen County  
Beacon Heights Church of Brethren  
Bethany United Methodist Church  
Bethel United Methodist Women  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Calvary United Methodist  
Central Ministries  
Christ's Church at Georgetown  
Christ's Community Church  
Colony Heights Church  
Come2Go Ministries  
Community of Christ  
Countyline Church of God  
Covenant United Methodist Church  
Crescent Avenue United Methodist Church  
Crescent Avenue United Methodist Women  
Elevate City Church  
Elmhurst Church of the Nazarene  
Emanuel Lutheran Church  
Emmanuel Community Church

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Faith Baptist Church  
Faith Lutheran Church ELCA  
Faith United Methodist Women  
First Christian Church  
First Mennonite Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
First Wayne Street United Methodist Church  
First Wayne Street United Methodist Women  
Forest Park United Methodist Women  
Fort Wayne Friends Meeting  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
Good Shepherd United Methodist Church  
Grace Episcopol Church  
Grace Point Church  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
Grace Summit Church  
Grace United Missionary Baptist Church  
Harlan United Methodist Church  
Heartland Church  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Holy Redeemer Catholic Community  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Hope United Methodist Church  
House of God Holy Church  
Huntertown United

Methodist Church  
Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church  
Kingsley United Methodist Church  
Leo United Methodist Church  
Life Bridge Church  
Life Way Bible Fellowship  
Lifeway Wesleyan Church  
Light of Love Fellowship, Inc.  
Light of the Cross Ministries  
Love Church  
Maplewood Mennonite Church  
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Mount Sinai Missionary  
New Covenant Worship Center  
New Haven United Methodist Church  
New Haven United Methodist Women  
New Zion Tabernacle  
North Christian Church  
Pathway Christian Church  
Pathway Community Church  
Peace Lutheran Women's Guild  
Pine Hills Church  
Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC)  
Salem United Church of Christ  
Sonrise at Aboite United Methodist Church  
St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
St. Joseph United

Methodist Church  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church  
St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church  
St. James Lutheran Church  
St. Joe United Methodist Church  
St John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Hessen Cassel  
St. Michael Lutheran Church  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church  
The Chapel  
The Journey  
Towne House Chapel  
Trinity English Lutheran Church  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Trinity Evangelical Luthern Church  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
True Love Missionary Baptist Church  
Union Baptist Church  
United Faith Presbyterian Church  
Unity of Fort Wayne Spiritual Center  
Waynedale Baptist Church  
Waynedale United Methodist

Church  
Woodburn United Methodist Church  
Woodburn United Methodist Women

Groups & Organizations

Allen County Child Lead Poisoning Prevention  
Aging & In Home Services  
Allen County Health Department  
Anthis Career Center  
Brightpoint  
Canterbury Schools  
Carpenters Local #232  
Cedar Creek Woman's Club  
Church Women United  
Early Childhood Alliance  
East Wayne Street Center  
Fort Wayne Elks Lodge #155  
Fort Wayne Jewish Federation  
Franciscan Center  
Fraternal Order of Eagles 3512  
Harlan Lions Club  
Healthier Moms and Babies  
Ironworkers 147  
Just Neighbors  
Kerith Brook  
Local 305 IBEW  
Building Corp  
Local 6-903  
Retiree's Auxillary  
Lutheran Medical Group  
Lutheran Social Services  
Mayor Tom Henry & Office  
Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic  
Neighborhood Health Clinic  
Northeast Indiana Paediatrics

Specialists  
Park Center, Inc.  
Parkview Community Nursing  
Parkview Family Birthing Center  
Parkview Ortho Hospital  
Parkview Pediatrics  
Parkview Physicians Group - OBGYN  
Pediatric Center of Fort Wayne  
Purdue Cooperative Extension  
SCAN/Health Families  
Sigma Phi Gamma Sorority Delta  
Rho Chapter  
St. Joe Pediatrics  
St. Paul's Senior Luther League  
Super Shot  
The Central Region Association of Colored Women's Club  
Thrivent Financial- Thrivent Action Team  
Turnstone Center for Disabled Children & Adults  
UAW Adams Allen Wells Co - C.A.P Council  
UAW Local 2209  
United Methodist Women  
United Steelworkers, Local 715  
Waynedale Lions Club  
Wellspring Interfaith Social Services  
Women's Health Advantage

Corporations & Business

A & L Great Lakes Laboratories Inc.  
122nd Fighter Wing  
AAA

Aging & In Home Services of NE Indiana  
Ambassador Family Emterprises  
Aunt Millies  
Benco Dental Supplies  
BND Commercial Real Estate Solutions  
Brotherhood Mutual Insurance  
Bushey's Windows Doors & Sunrooms  
Comcast Business  
Commerce Bank - AP Automation Solution  
Cureton Counseling & Consulting LLC  
Deister Machine Company, Inc.  
Do It Best Corp  
Dr. Steven Ellinwood, DDS  
East Allen County Schools  
Exelis Inc.  
Fort Wayne Community Schools  
Frontier  
General Dynamics  
Glenbrook Dodge  
GM #2209  
Hagerman

Construction  
Hallmark Mortgage  
Harrison College  
Hearcare  
Audiology  
IB College  
K105  
Key Exteriors  
Liberty Tax  
Lutheran Children's Hospital  
Madea's Soul Food Place  
McMahon Tire  
Meijer  
Menards  
MidWest America FCU  
North Eastern Group Realty  
Northern Indiana Public Service Co.  
O'Daniel Automotive  
Peet's Coffee Perfection  
Bakeries Inc.  
Perry Pro Tech  
Quality Connection Committee  
Reaching Out Loud  
Retirement Home TV Corp  
Salus Research  
Shambaugh & Son  
Southwest Allen County Schools

St. Joseph Hospital  
Star 88.3  
Sudn Impact Fitness  
Sweetwater Sound  
T.W.F. Holding Company  
Talon Restoration & Cleaning, inc.  
Towne House Retirement Center  
Trine University  
Tri-Pac  
Votaw Electric  
Walmart  
Wells Fargo Bank  
WLDE Fun 101.7

Foundations & Grants

Associated Churches Foundation  
Auer Foundation  
Bankers Life Insurance Company  
Brothhood Mutual Foundation  
Charles Kuhne Foundation  
Christian Church Foundation, Inc.  
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, Inc.  
Dorset Charitable Trust  
E.H. Kilbourne

Trust  
Emma Feigley Mission Foundation  
English-Bonter-Mitchell Foundation  
Foellinger Foundation  
Foellinger Foundation  
Let's Grow Grant  
Frederick J. Pfeiffer Foundation  
GE Foundation  
Howard P. Arnold Foundation  
Huser Charitable Foundation  
Krouse FDN PNC  
M. E. Raker Foundation, Inc.  
Maggee O'Connor Foundation  
Mary C. & Perry Spencer Foundation  
Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation  
Mary Margaret Stucky Foundation  
Nisource  
Cahritable Foundation  
Plymouth Church Benevolence Foundation  
PNC Bank

Prophet Sisters Foundation  
SDI  
St. Joseph Community Health Foundation  
The Edward M & Mary McCrea Wilson Foundation  
The Lutheran Foundation  
Trinity English Lutheran Foundation  
Truist  
United Way of Allen County  
United Way of Tampa Bay  
Waterfield Foundation  
Whitley County Community Foundation

Special Friends

William D. & Joan J. Bryant  
James & Karen Bushey  
William & Beverly Coats  
Roy Coleman  
Mark & Cindy Deister  
Larry Doctor  
Philip Gonzalez  
Edward & Mary Lou Hutter  
Phil Laughlin  
Larry & Donna Lesh  
Mark Lesh  
Cynthia Louis  
Jan Meyer  
Garry & Jean Pook  
Dewayne Reed  
Victoria Reed  
Mark & Diane Souder  
Laura Swanson  
William & Cecilia Weakley  
Don & Virginia Wolf  
Paul & Carolyn Wolf  
Pamela & Gregory Wood





A photograph of three students walking outdoors, carrying cardboard boxes. The student on the left is a boy in a dark blue jacket over a red shirt. The student in the middle is a boy in a red polo shirt. The student on the right is a girl in a grey hoodie over a red shirt. They are walking on a paved path with trees in the background. The boxes they are carrying have labels, including one that says 'Specialty Development' and another that says 'Plann'.

# Associated CHURCHES

of Fort Wayne & Allen County

## contact

602 E Wayne Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
260-422-3528

[www.associatedchurches.org](http://www.associatedchurches.org)

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School students loading food during their annual food drive for the Associated Churches Neighborhood Food Network.