

## **MISSION STRATEGIES AND RESOURCE BOARD**

### **Meeting August 18, 2016**

Lois and Rick Johnson, representing **Ridgefield/Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church**, gave a report on their recent **Living Waters for the World trips to Guatemala**. They made a Development Visit in January and an Implementation Visit in July. This project was supported by a \$3,300 MSRB grant. Two future sustainability trips are being planned with the hope of also identifying new sites in need. Lois and Rick volunteered to attend a future Presbytery meeting and set up a display table and lead a Learning Opportunity. MSRB accepted their offer and left it to the Learning Opportunities Committee to work out the details. Information on the Living Waters Network may be found at the Blackhawk Presbytery website under MSRB.

MSRB reviewed a written report from **Fulton Presbyterian Church** on their recent trip to Haiti. This trip was supported by a \$2500 MSRB grant. Thirteen people spent a week at **Mission Starfish Haiti** in Gonaives, Haiti completing numerous work projects, playing games with children and adults, and making a joyful noise to the Lord. Future trips are being planned in November 2016 and January 2017. Five other churches from Fulton plan to participate in future projects! They have found this mission project has served as an icebreaker and unifying force in their community.

MSRB reviewed a written report from **Oswego Presbyterian Church on the Kendall County Food Pantry (KCFP) Garden project** for which they received a \$2,000 MSRB grant. This was a project initiated by the Eagle Scout project of Nick D'Argo. It utilizes raised beds and the "square foot gardening" method. Church members are encouraged to adopt a plot, taking responsibility for planting, weeding, and harvesting. So far this year, the garden has yielded 375 pounds of produce for the food pantry!

MSRB reviewed a written report from **The Adult ESL (English as a Second Language) Outreach Ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Rochelle**, which was supported with a \$900 MSRB grant. This program has expanded from one classroom to two and from being offered two days a week to three days a week.

MSRB reviewed a revised **Renewing Orthodoxy** network application from **First Presbyterian Church of Rochelle** presented by Rev. Dr. Jim Tilley and Merry Issichopoulos. While the application was discussed, action was tabled pending some further revisions.

MSRB continues its request for input from Presbytery members regarding interest in the following networks: **Covenant Network, Disaster Response Network, Domestic Violence Awareness Network, and Youth Council**. If no one knows of any interest or activity in these networks, they will be deemed inactive and will be removed from our website.

**Special offerings** at Presbytery meetings in September and November will go toward the **Coins for Kenya**.

**MSRB voted to donate \$500 to the Illinois Conference of Churches.**

**MSRB approved giving the Northern Illinois Food Bank report time** during the Presbytery meeting.

MSRB discussed the **Restructuring Proposal** with the suggestion that a **substitute proposal** be presented that preserves MSRB and combines BAC and BOM.