

2020 Missions Giving Christmas Market **Giving • Loving • Helping**

Even during COVID-19?
Especially during COVID-19



Horizons for Homeless Children



Lebanese Food Bank

The United Parish in Brookline Missions Giving Committee will match donations.

- Take a look through this brochure to learn more about the organizations we're supporting this year.
- Then, choose which organizations you'd like to support with a financial contribution. There are two ways to do this:
 - Click <https://forms.gle/WSaBKQ2pUYrQX8k79> to fill out the online form. At the end of selecting organizations, you'll find a link to donate through our website. On the donate page, enter your total amount next to "12 - Special Gift Christmas Mission Market Dec. 2020".
 - Or fill out the order form at the end of this brochure. You can print it out and mail it back with *one check* to the United Parish office, or you can fill it out electronically and email it back to missiongiving@upbrookline.org, and mail your check to the church office.
- The United Parish will match and distribute donations.



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE
American Baptist | United Church of Christ | United Methodist

A lot is going on... a pandemic... an election... the country's intensifying cultural divide...

But a lot of GOOD is also right here with us.

Neighbor-to-neighbor... stranger-to-stranger... many are reaching out and helping.

The 11 organizations in this brochure have been spreading the good in different ways amid COVID-19.

... Help spread the good!

Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil, but rather finds the means to put things back in their place.

- St. Thomas Moore, from his *Prayer for Good Humor*

Black Economic Council of Massachusetts

“The mission of the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, Inc. (BECMA) is to **advance the economic well-being of Black businesses, organizations that serve the Black community and Black residents of Massachusetts.**

As an advocacy organization, we know that Black economic development will require **immediate and long term** community action, leadership and outside-the-box solutions. We know that there are many people, both within and outside the Black community, who are ready and committed to making Massachusetts an inclusive economy. This effort will require all of us.

We created a Council rather than a Chamber because **we need the whole community** at all levels (individuals, students, small and large businesses/organizations and corporate partners) to galvanize, organize, educate, agitate and communicate as needed to ensure our collective success!

In Brookline:

In October, we were invited by the Brookline Chamber of Commerce to join their members in conversation about the mission, work, and goals of BECMA. Included in that discussion were recommendations on how best to connect BECMA members to BCC members to help build and sustain lucrative B2B relationships.

We also joined the town's Small Business Development Committee to share our suggestions for how the Town can improve their efforts to both support existing minority-owned businesses in the area, as well as cultivate new businesses moving forward.”

Gift #1: Black Economic Council of Massachusetts



Watch the United Parish June 21, 2020 service remembering George Floyd and including the sermon by guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPGpZ0slesQ&t=1s>

Brookline Food Pantry

Help the Brookline Food Pantry ensure that none of our Brookline neighbors go to bed hungry. The Brookline Food Pantry operates three Brookline locations: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 226 High Street, and 55a Egmont St.

The Brookline Food Pantry feeds over **700 families** every week providing fresh produce, canned goods, toiletries, and healthy snacks. They have over 400 Brookline residents who volunteer weekly to help keep the operations running.

Brookline Food Pantry also has a program called Thrives, which provides **free take-home weekend meals** to any Brookline school family who may be in need of additional food over the weekend. United Parish has partnered with Thrives to house their food inventory in Willett Hall and provide space for them to assemble their meal kits. We are proud to support such a well-run and worthy operation.

United Parish continues to support the Brookline Food Pantry through monthly food collections, monetary donations and sponsorship for *The Walk for Hunger*. For the 2020 *Walk for Hunger*, United Parish was the 7th largest sponsor.

Gift #2: Brookline Food Pantry



Common Cathedral

An outdoor church for people experiencing homelessness.

Since 1994, Common Cathedral (Ecclesia Ministries, Inc.) has been an outdoor congregation on Boston Common of people who are un-housed and housed, sharing God's love through community, pastoral care, creative expression, and worship. All Ecclesia Ministries are non-proselytizing and ecumenical.

Every Sunday, a housed congregation, including United Parish, provides and serves food for the service on Boston Common. Other programs include Common Art, which provides space, materials and caring staff to support unhoused and low-income individuals as they develop their artistic abilities. One of their previous pastors, Laura Shatzer, was a member of United Parish. For the last three years, Common Cathedral artists have run an art show of their work at United Parish.

"I came for the art... and I stayed for the love." – DS, a longtime common artist

Gift #3: Common Cathedral



United Parish members serving lunch at Common Cathedral (photo, pre-COVID)

Watch the United Parish April 26, 2020 Sermon of Pastor Kent French & Laura Shatzer, *Held in Common: A Conversation with Laura Shatzer of common cathedral:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORQCICMj7Q0>

Dhansa Maweni School, Kenya

A school for local **children, ages three to fourteen**, 63 girls and 48 boys, whose families cannot afford public school fees. Four teachers and a maintenance worker have come together to help children have a better chance of **lifting themselves out of poverty**. Children study math, science, Christian religious education, English, Swahili, creative arts and physical education. Staff strive to feed the children physically, academically and spiritually.

Staff and students are dedicated. Their work goes a long way. So do donations to this visionary school.

- \$25 pays one week of a teacher's salary.
- \$50 provides one year of a student's school supplies.
- \$100 provides one month of breakfast porridge.

Gift #4: Dhansa Maweni School, Kenya



Food4Vets

A program of Massachusetts Military Support Foundation providing programs, services and goods that help satisfy critical needs and enhance the well-being and quality of life for Veterans, active-duty Military and their families in Massachusetts.

In response to the massive food insecurity problem posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Food4Vets focuses on sourcing, packaging and distributing Vital Meal Kits (VMKs). These contain nonperishable and well-balanced meals. Each food package contains enough food and nutritional value for two people to have three meals a day for 14 days.

The distribution process follows all COVID-19 health guidelines. Participants have limited interaction as they pick up their VMKs, which are easy to access. Food4Vets has provided more than 3.5 million meals to Veterans and Military families.

Gift #5: Food4Vets



Groundwork Somerville

Groundwork Somerville’s mission and operations are premised on the understanding that environmental conditions are inextricably linked to the economic and social health of a neighborhood, and that individuals’ health can be directly affected by race and income level. As a consequence, Groundwork is committed to “changing places and changing lives” through on-the-ground projects that help to transform local communities.

“We create jobs, food, green space, and leadership opportunities for environmental justice communities and individuals, through programs that address areas of healthy education, green jobs and sustainable communities. We work with children and teachers in summer school garden classrooms to connect experiential learning to state curriculum standards, and young people to their environment; we provide jobs and leadership training to low-income and under-served youth in our community; and we are stewards of 31 sites throughout the region, which we maintain, cleanup, and grow food in, including the South Street Farm – Somerville’s first urban farm; the Mystic River; and 10 garden classrooms in every elementary school in Somerville.”

Groundwork Somerville is a model for local environmental involvement and responsibility.

Gift #6: Groundwork Somerville



Horizons for Homeless Children

Improving the lives of young homeless children in Massachusetts and helping their families succeed by providing high-quality **early education**, opportunities for **play**, and comprehensive **family support** services. Serving over 1,600 children a week.

Every homeless child will have the opportunity to learn, play, and thrive.

Early Education Centers: one of the state's top-ranked early education programs, which starts children along the path toward success at school.

Playspace Program: giving children in shelters play experiences that **let them be kids** for a few hours each week.

Family Partnerships Program: giving parents a much-needed respite from the difficulties of homelessness, a shoulder to lean on, and **practical guidance** toward getting their lives back on track.

Policy and advocacy: highlighting the unique needs of homeless children and families to ensure they are consistent priorities among policymakers on local, state, and federal levels.

Gift #7: Horizons for Homeless Children



Lebanese Food Bank

A non-partisan member of the Regional Food Banking Network in Dubai, the Lebanese Food Bank strives towards the eradication of hunger throughout Lebanon through a range of food development/training and awareness programs.

- 28.6% of Lebanon lives in poverty

The Food Bank provides food on a daily basis to families and individuals from local businesses and more than 70 Lebanese nongovernment organizations (NGO's).

A United Parish congregant whose work involves the Middle East reports that the Lebanese Food Bank has a great reputation for providing significant help at a local level.

Gift #8: Lebanese Food Bank



My Life My Choice

Holistic • Survivor led • Informed by evidence

“No child should be bought or sold. At *My Life My Choice*, it is our daily fight. Our holistic, battle-tested approach is grounded in **survivor experiences** of those who have lived the ugly realities of exploitation and come back fierce, **wise, and strong**. We serve as a model for communities across the country set on changing not only lives, but the structural inequities that give rise to trafficking and sexual exploitation.”

Since 2002, *My Life My Choice* has:

- Trained over 15,000 service providers
- Ran prevention groups for more than 2,300 youth
- Mentored 500 girls in greater Boston
- Trained facilitators in 33 states

“I will always be a survivor. I think I will always be a leader, too.” – Kayla, age 17

Watch the United Parish September 6, 2020 sermon by church member Cindy Vreeland, *Adventures in Faith: Helping People Out of Slavery*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8No37vwkUT8>

Gift #9: My Life My Choice



Rosie's Place



Rosie's Place is a sanctuary for poor and homeless women located in Boston, Massachusetts. It was founded in 1974 as the first shelter specifically for homeless women in the United States. It has evolved from providing meals and shelter to creating permanent solutions through advocacy, education and affordable housing. Rosie's Place relies solely on the generous support of individuals, foundations and corporations and does not accept any city, state or federal funding

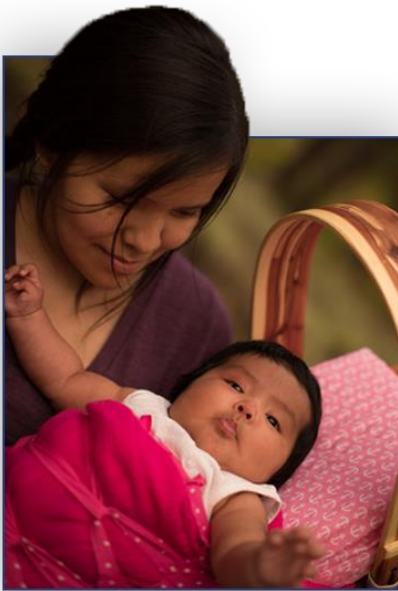
- “We served over 104,000 nutritionally-balanced breakfasts, lunches and dinners in our warm and cheery dining room.
- Our food pantry enabled 2,000 women per month to take home 20 to 40 pounds of foods that their families prefer and enjoy.
- Rosie's Place's Advocacy staff scheduled more than 15,000 appointments with guests. Advocates assist with housing, educational and employment opportunities, clothing, wellness care, transportation and emergency funds for eviction prevention and medications.
- Approximately 300 women found sanctuary in our emergency housing, while advocates worked with them to find permanent homes and services they needed.
- Our Housing Stabilization program worked to break the cycle of chronic homelessness. 98% of guests receiving monthly in-home support are able to stay housed and break the cycle of homelessness.”

Gift #10: Rosie's Place

Utah Navajo Health System

Utah Navajo Health System, Inc., started in 2000 as a single service corporation providing medical and dental care needs for rural communities in southeastern Utah. In September 1999, the Navajo Utah Commission recommended that the local community manage the health care services in the area.

“We are a not-for-profit Community Health Center providing medical, dental and behavioral health care in neighborhoods throughout the northern portion of the Navajo Nation and southeastern Utah. We provide primary health care to men, women, and children, regardless of citizenship status, nationality or ability to pay.”



Gift #1 I: Utah Navajo Health System

Reconciling our Baptist, Congregational and Methodist pasts...

During the 19th and into the 20th century, Native American children were forced or pressured to attend Christian and government-run boarding schools or day schools. The purpose was to “kill the Indian and save the man.”

- from *The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition*. Learn more here: <https://boardingschoolhealing.org/healing/for-churches/>

United Parish in Brookline Missions Giving

United Parish Missions Giving shares gifts with organizations doing good work locally, nationally and internationally. Funds come from three sources:

- **Interest** from the United Parish church **endowment**
- Roughly **10% of all pledges** to United Parish goes to Missions Giving and other philanthropic efforts
- Specific **offerings** in church services

Missions Giving also supplements, matches or doubles the amounts raised by congregants involved in church-sponsored initiatives, such as **One Great Hour of Sharing**, our annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** for the community, and **Walk for Hunger**.

“Where your treasure is, your heart will be also.”

– Matthew 6:21



United Parish in Brookline Missions Giving Christmas Market 2020

Organization		Dollar Amount
Gift #1	Black Economic Council of MA	
Gift #2	Brookline Food Pantry	
Gift #3	Common Cathedral	
Gift #4	Dhansa Maweni School, Kenya	
Gift #5	Food4Vets	
Gift #6	Groundwork Somerville	
Gift #7	Horizons for Homeless Children	
Gift #8	Lebanese Food Bank	
Gift #9	My Life My Choice	
Gift #10	Rosie's Place	
Gift #11	Utah Navajo Health System	
Additional Donation		
		Grand Total

Two options to support this year's Missions Giving Christmas Market:

1. **BY MAIL:** Print this form, fill it out, and mail it back with *one check* for your total amount to the United Parish office at 210 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA 02446. Please make checks payable to United Parish in Brookline with 'Missions Giving Christmas Market' in the memo. (You can also fill out this form electronically and email it to missiongiving@upbrookline.org.)
2. **ONLINE:** Visit <https://forms.gle/WSaBKQ2pUYrQX8k79> and fill out the order form online. At the end of selecting organizations, you'll find the link to donate through our website. On the donate page, enter your total amount next to "12 - Special Gift Christmas Mission Market Dec. 2020".

The United Parish will match and distribute donations.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Feel free to give the following card to friends and family as gifts!



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

American Baptist | United Church of Christ | United Methodist

A DONATION HAS BEEN MADE

To honor you this holiday season,

_____ has given a gift to:

(Organization Name)

The United Parish in Brookline has matched the gift.

upbrookline.org



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

Who are we?

We are believers, questioners and doubters, young and old, straight and gay, partnered and single, many with children and all who were once children, those who know what they believe and those who are still trying to figure it out. Some of us grew up in church. For others, this is our first spiritual community.

What do we do?

We gather (in person and online) in programs of spiritual practices, education, fellowship, service, and music—that we might grow closer to God, be drawn into deeper relationship with one another, grow into our most authentic selves, and be more steadfastly connected to the world.

How did we come to be?

United Parish is the merger of three churches that came together in 1970. We still have ties to all three of the original denominations: the American Baptist Churches, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church.

“I believe that ministry is something that we all share. I also believe church should be fun. And I truly believe that Jesus came that we may have life and have it abundantly.”

— Kent French, Senior Pastor