

# **2021 Missions Giving Christmas Market** **Giving • Loving • Helping**

*Because we can!*



*Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts Academy*



*Native American Boarding School  
Healing Coalition*

**The Missions Giving Committee will MATCH donations to these organizations.**

- Give online: <https://www.unitedparishbrookline.org/news/missions-giving-christmas-market-2021>
- Or mail one check and form to the United Parish 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... a greater awakening to injustice... the country's intensifying cultural divide...**

**But a lot of GOOD is right here.**

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

The 10 organizations in this brochure continue to spread the good.

... 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 More, from his *Prayer for Good Humor*

# **Agape Global Health for Haiti**

This mission of this nonprofit, volunteer organization is to help advance and promote the health and well-being of the people of La Gonave, Haiti, a remote island which historically has been ignored by the government, organizations and the private sector. *Until recently*. There is only one hospital on the island, which is poorly staffed, and most people go without basic healthcare.

- *The Agape Clinic*
  - A health clinic specializing in prenatal and newborn care.
- *Menstrual health education*
  - Teaching girls and women about their bodies and menstruation.
  - Providing washable, reusable menstrual kits empowering girls to stay in school when they're menstruating.
- *Clean water access*
  - Training and equipping women to clean water using high-efficiency filtration systems to supply safe drinking water to their and other families.

Doctors from the Boston medical community – including a parishioner from United Parish of Brookline – travel annually to help at Agape to provide assistance and training. Click to read a sermon from 2018: [Images of God as Seen through the Eyes of Children of La Gonave, Haiti](#)



**Gift #1: Agape Global Health for Haiti**

## **Brookline Food Pantry**

None of our Brookline neighbors should go to bed hungry.

We're thrilled that in August 2021, the *Brookline Food Pantry* moved its headquarters into United Parish in Brookline. The food pantry now works out of three locations: our church, 55a Egmont Street and 226 High Street. Before the pandemic, the food pantry provided food to about 300 Brookline residents every month. Now **800 Brookline residents** monthly receive fresh produce, canned good, toiletries, and healthy snacks.

*Brookline Food Pantry* also gives free take-home weekend meal packs to **school-age children** in need.

United Parish is proud to have supported the Brookline Food Pantry for decades through monthly food collections, the *Walk for Hunger* and other financial support. For the 2020 *Walk for Hunger*, United Parish and was the 7th largest sponsor.

Give this Christmas. Visit [brooklinefoodpantry.org](http://brooklinefoodpantry.org) to learn how you can volunteer throughout the year.



### **Gift #2: Brookline Food Pantry**

Click to watch or listen to a conversation with Senior Pastor Kent French and Operations Manager Arielle Chernin: [Feeding the Thousands in Brookline](#)

# **Common Cathedral**

*An outdoor church for people experiencing homelessness.*

Since 1994, Common Cathedral (Ecclesia Ministries, Inc.) has been an outdoor congregation on the 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. Before COVID, Common Cathedral artists ran 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*



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

## **Gift #3: Common Cathedral**

Click the link to watch the April 26, 2020 Sermon of Senior Pastor Kent French and Laura Shatzer: [\*\*Held in Common: A Conversation with Laura Shatzer of common cathedral\*\*](#)



## **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**

## **Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts Academy**

*Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts* is a non-profit, affiliated with the Historic Charles Street A.M.E Church in Roxbury, MA, that is committed to the development of Boston's next generation of innovative artists through the celebration and preservation of Black music.

Their flagship program, the *Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts Academy* provides high caliber formal music instruction to youth throughout Greater Boston, preparing them for a future in music that challenges inner-city youth to see themselves as positive producers of culture, music, and the arts as a whole, rather than merely consumers of it.

In October 2021, the *United Parish in Brookline* started collecting donations to support the *Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts Academy* whenever performing Negro Spirituals. *The United Parish Missions Giving Committee* matches the amount of the offering.



### **Gift #5: Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts Academy**

Read or listen, “*This church is paying 'royalties' when it sings spirituals composed by enslaved Africans*” - 11/16/21 [GBH News](#)

Listen to the sermon by Susan DeSelms, United Parish in Brookline’s Minister of Music, announcing the [Negro Spiritual Royalties Project](#).

# 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 #6: Horizons for Homeless Children**



## **Kataluma Refugee Hospitality – Afghan Refugees in Brookline**

A faith-based coalition welcoming evacuees, refugees, and asylum seekers to the Greater Boston area, providing them with the safe housing, food, and friendship that they need to survive.

*Kataluma Refugee Hospitality* is seeking to establish and support model houses to provide transitional lodgings for newly arrived refugees. They also look for opportunities to help local residents and others learn about and practice hospitality for Afghan refugees.

Families from Afghanistan have arrived in Brookline and need support.



**Gift #7: Kataluma for Afghan Refugees in Brookline**

# 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 Sept 6, 2020 sermon by Cindy Vreeland. Click here: [Adventures in Faith: Helping People Out of Slavery](#)



**Gift #8: My Life My Choice**

# Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

The truth about the US Indian boarding schools has largely been written out of history books. There were an estimated 500 government-funded Indian boarding and day schools in the US in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Indian children were abducted by government agents, sent to schools hundreds of miles away, and beaten, starved or otherwise abused when they spoke their native languages.

The objective of the schools was to *kill the Indian and save the man*.

The social, emotional, spiritual, and cultural devastation from boarding school experiences have passed down to Native American individuals, families, communities, and Tribal Nations today. The time for healing inter-generational trauma is now.

Baptist, Congregational and Methodist churches historically sponsored boarding schools.



## **Gift #9: Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition**

*The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) supports the re-introduction of the bill for a **Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the U.S. Act.***



## **Rosie's Place**

*The first shelter specifically for homeless women in the United States.*

When times get tough, they get tougher for women. The vital work of Rosie's Place continues in Boston today. Rosie's Place is a multi-service community center offering women emergency shelter and meals, and more:

- food pantry,
- ESOL classes,
- legal assistance,
- wellness care,
- one-on-one support,
- housing and job search services,
- and community outreach.

Women find support, opportunity and the tools they need to make a new start.

*“Because we accept no government funding, we rely on our many friends to make all we do possible. Thanks to their generosity, we can remain a safety net for women struggling to survive during these difficult days. Please join us in our life-changing work!”*



**Gift #10: Rosie's Place**



# United Parish in Brookline

## *Missions Giving*

United Parish Missions Giving is committed to financially supporting 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, doubles or triples* 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 the **Walk for Hunger**.

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

– Matthew 6:21



## United Parish in Brookline Missions Giving Christmas Market 2021

| Organization        |  | Dollar Amount      |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| Gift #1             | Agape Global Health for Haiti                        |                    |
| Gift #2             | Brookline Food Pantry                                |                    |
| Gift #3             | Common Cathedral                                     |                    |
| Gift #4             | Dhansa Maweni School, Kenya                          |                    |
| Gift #5             | Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts Academy              |                    |
| Gift #6             | Horizons for Homeless Children                       |                    |
| Gift #7             | Kataluma Refugee Hospitality                         |                    |
| Gift #8             | My Life My Choice                                    |                    |
| Gift #9             | Native American Boarding<br>School Healing Coalition |                    |
| Gift #10            | Rosie's Place  |                    |
| Additional Donation |  |                    |
|                     |  | <b>Grand Total</b> |

(To fill out the above form online, please click [here](#).)

- Give online through [unitedparishbrookline.org/give](https://unitedparishbrookline.org/give).
  - Click the green “Make a Donation” button.
  - Enter your total amount next to “Special Gift Christmas Mission Market Dec. 2021”.
- Or mail one check and form to the United Parish office.

The United Parish will match and distribute donations.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Cash

\_\_\_\_\_ Credit

\_\_\_\_\_ Check (Payable to United Parish in Brookline. Memo: Mission Giving Christmas Market)

\_\_\_\_\_ Venmo (Search @unitedparishinbrookline on the app)

\_\_\_\_\_ PayPal (Click [here](#) or search [office@upbrookline.org](https://www.paypal.com/search/office@upbrookline.org) on the app)