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on Saturday evenings at the church plant at LifeBridge Community North in Strasburg.

CITY FRESH STOP MARKET

Friendship Mennonite Church in Bedford Heights received a grant toward the costs of distributing fresh produce in the community. The project is a local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) made possible through a partnership with City Fresh, which operates in Cuyahoga, Lorain and Erie counties. Produce is distributed weekly June through October at Friendship Mennonite for a fee, with reduced fees for people



with limited incomes. The City Fresh Stop Market operates with the help of volunteers from Friendship Mennonite and Covenant Lutheran Church. (To learn more about City Fresh, see www.gotthenac.org/city-fresh.)

MARRIAGE...FOR LIFE CONFERENCE

Walnut Creek Mennonite Church received a grant toward the costs of its annual "Marriage...for Life" Conference. This event is open to the community and was designed as a marriage conference for young couples. The conference includes three or four sessions with a guest speaker, and overnight stay at the Carlisle Inn in Sugarcreek and door prizes which encourage date nights. This year Marriage...for Life will be expanded to two events, one for couples married one to 20 years, and one for couples married 15 years or more. Guest speakers will be Greg and Erin Smalley.

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Ann Leaman, editor: ohioevangel@earthlink.net



Grants benefit local ministries

The Ohio Conference Ministry Development Team (MDT) awarded nine grants totaling \$24,000 to Conference congregations and Conference-related ministries at the MDT's Sept. 12 meeting. The MDT also placed two additional grants totaling \$4,000 on hold, pending further action by those requesting funds.

Previously, the MDT had approved a \$7,000 grant to Summit Mennonite Church to be used for renovations to the church building which were needed for housing a local food pantry. Funding for all of these grants comes from surplus funds that had accumulated during years in which the Conference ended its fiscal year with a surplus.

The following ministries received grants:

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES IN CANTON

Lighthouse Ministries in Canton received a grant toward the replacement



of a van to transport children taking part in its programs. Lighthouse Ministries aims to be a strong community presence, meeting the social-emotional, cognitive and spiritual needs of at-risk children and families living in the southeast quadrant of Canton. Started in 1996 by First Mennonite Church as an outreach to neighborhood children, Lighthouse Ministries has since grown into its own identity as a neighborhood-based center for educational and enrichment programs for the children of southeast Canton.

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*Supporting
healthy, growing
congregations*

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CHURCH PLANT IN SOLON

Lee Heights Community Church City on a Hill Ministry received a grant toward the support of Larissa Moore, who is working to plant a church in Solon, Ohio. This church plant developed out of an outreach effort of Lee Heights Community Church in Cleveland. Lee Heights had licensed Larissa Moore as a minister of evangelism to work in the Solon community. She volunteered her services as a minister to Bradford Commons Nursing Home in Solon, and eventually she was asked to do a worship service at the nursing home on Sundays.

While at first only nursing home residents attended the worship services, they began to invite their relatives, and word spread in the community. Because of the growing interest, the Lee Heights congregation discerned that God is calling them to plant a church with Larissa Moore as lead pastor. She has begun a community Bible study, and Lee Heights has formed a City on a Hill ministry group to advise and support her.

TEDROW COMMUNITY PAPER PANTRY

The Tedrow Community Paper Pantry received a grant toward its costs. The Paper Pantry, located in the unincorporated village of Tedrow in

Northwest Ohio, began in January 2011. While the area has several food pantries, the Paper Pantry was begun as a way to help people with items not covered by WIC and food stamps, such as toilet paper, tissue, shampoo, razors, detergent, cleaning supplies, and so on. About 40 families are served each month at the Paper Pantry, which operates twice a month. The Paper Pantry is staffed by volunteers from the three local participating churches, Tedrow Mennonite Church, Tedrow United Methodist Church and Tedrow Pentecostal Church.

WEST LIBERTY COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDEN

The West Liberty Community Vegetable Garden received a grant for the purchase of equipment. The garden is a community project involving Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Bethel Mennonite Church, Adriel and the West Liberty-Salem FFA. Adriel has



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provided a 60' by 40' area for garden plots which is divided into 10' by 10' plots separated by foot paths. There are also community corn plots and a community pumpkin patch. The garden provides space and opportunity to work as a community to provide and promote an affordable, healthy food choice.

BACK BAY (NORTH CLINTON MENNONITE CHURCH)

North Clinton Mennonite Church received a grant for the purchase of additional equipment, supplies and improvements for the Back Bay, a gathering place used for outreach ministry. The Back Bay began several years ago when several people from North Clinton had a vision to reach out to non-Christians and share the hope of Jesus Christ in an informal, non-threatening environment. The Back Bay is located in a portion of a commercial business owned by a member of the congregation and was developed with family funds, as well as funds from North Clinton, members of the congregation and community members. The facility includes a stage for worship bands and speakers, a basketball court, and an area with tables, ping pong tables, pool tables and kitchen facilities.

OPEN ARMS HISPANIC MINISTRIES AND SALEM MENNONITE CHURCH (WOOSTER)

Open Arms and Salem Mennonite received a grant toward the cost of an exploratory trip to the Nebaj-Quiche area of Guatemala to see how they can support the evangelism efforts of pastors there, including Jacinto, a young man who participated at Salem Mennonite Church and related to Open Arms Hispanic Ministry while he lived in Ohio. Educating pastors in the area is a major focus of the trip.



LIFEBRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

The LifeBridge congregation received a grant to support the internship of two students who served with the congregation this past summer. These high school students not only were involved in ministry at LifeBridge in Dover but also volunteered

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