

## May Mission Update/Activities

**L.I.F.E. Food Pantry:** Feed the Hungry Food Challenge: Each spring L.I.F.E sponsors a **Feed the Hungry Challenge** which restocks the pantry after the holidays when food drives are traditionally slow. This challenge is crucial to help registered families throughout the year. L.I.F.E. uses monetary donations to buy food from the Freestore Foodbank and elsewhere to keep the pantry stocked. This is the largest collection event in the year. The **Challenge** runs through the end of May. Food donations can be left in Nisbet Hall on the Mission table and monetary donations (checks payable to L.I.F.E.) can be given to Hank or Leslie. Check and see if your company has matching funds – double the donation! We need another church member to join Laurie Gordon on the L.I.F.E. Board. Let us know if you are interested.

**NEST:** The soup-making ministry was very successful, and we look forward to resuming this ministry in the fall. Throughout the summer, NEST will take the learning RV in to the neighborhoods for the Lunch, Learn and Play Summer Program. Two hours a day will be spent in learning opportunities, games and lunch. In addition, shelf stable “Energy Packs” will be sent home every Friday with the children, with the goal of sending 100 Energy Packs a week. In May and June, we will be collecting individual servings of soup (heat and eat), applesauce, baked chips/pretzels, granola/breakfast bars and 100% juice boxes. You can drop off your donation at the mission table in the box labeled NEST. If you would like to donate money, give cash or checks payable to NEST to Leslie or Hank. **Please continue to pray for the children served by NEST.**

**May 20: Pentecost Offering:** This year we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pentecost Offering. Our congregation’s support for this offering is a sign of our faith and hope for the future! Our gifts will support the Young Adult Volunteer Program, ministries with youth, and programs for children at risk. In addition, our congregation retains 40 percent of the offering for programs which support young people in our own community, like NEST.

**Community Garden:** All the plots are sold, and volunteers are working hard to prepare the gardens for planting! We will pray for a healthy and hearty growing season! How does a community garden relate to mission? As you are aware, we have “food related” missions dedicated to serving the children and families of Loveland. Our vision for the community garden is to not only enjoy fresh produce for our own consumption, but to contribute fresh produce to L.I.F.E and to use the veggies in our soup making for NEST in the fall.

**World Mission:** It has been a couple of years since we have actively sponsored Mission Co-Workers in the world. In consultation with our PCUSA Mission Engagement Advisor, we are happy to present a partnership with Rev. David Cortes-Fuentes and his wife Josefina Saez-Acevedo and the people of Cuba. David and Josey are working in partnership with the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba. David and Josey have answered a call to be a part of a new sense of home that’s emerging in the Cuban church and society. Accompanying this newsletter is information about David and Josey along with a prayer card. Our hope is to meet them in person when they travel to the United States.