

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



LOVE IN ACTION AT PINE HILLS CHURCH

Reaching out to local communities looks different from church to church. Pine Hills Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, reaches out to their community through an initiative called Love in Action. They desire to be a healthy church that transforms the community around them, putting Jesus' words into action, "Love your neighbor as yourself." That desire is at the heart of their Christmas food drive and distribution to families in four schools.

Since Pine Hills is situated on the northeast side of Fort Wayne, they have reached out to nearby Arcola Elementary for a partnership, but they have drawn a wide circle in defining their community. Along with Pine Hills City Church, a church they planted in 2016 on the southside of Fort Wayne, they have also partnered with Lutheran South Unity School and two Fort Wayne public schools, Abbett Elementary and Harrison Hills Elementary. In 2014, the church asked the

administration of the four elementaries if they could provide food for school families over the Christmas holiday.

The project began early in December by asking those gathered on Sunday morning to drive to the Walmart on Calhoun or the Aldi on Lima to purchase supplies. At those locations, shoppers were given a list of items to buy and leave with a truck in the store parking lot. Then, the truck brought the food back to the church where it was organized and packed.

The food distribution involved 1000 people in both churches and supplied 465 families in the four elementary schools with a box of food, a turkey, a ham, and a bag of potatoes. Steve Shaffer, executive pastor at Pine Hills Church believes that "healthy schools can transform communities."

Grow Your Investments & the Kingdom with CSF CSF Serves Investors and Churches

What if you could invest your money and support church planting at the same time? FEC provides that opportunity through the Christian Service Foundation (CSF), a savings-and-loan investment service that allows investors to receive a fair market return on their money while supporting church planting at the same time.

This is how CSF works for investors. Investors place their money with CSF, either on-demand or for three years, and receive a return of 0.75% for on-demand or up to 2% for a three-year investment. Currently, over 400 hundred people in FEC have invested with CSF.

This is how CSF works for new church plants. They play an important support role with new churches by providing a loan for a "church in a box" that includes everything they need: A trailer, audio/visual equipment, and chairs. As the church grows, CSF provides a loan to purchase a facility.

Besides loans for new churches, CSF provides loans to established churches that need to be renovated. For individuals, they provide youth investment opportunities and scholarships, estate planning, and volunteer opportunities. Contact CSF either by phone at 260-423-3649 or email at info@ChristianServiceFoundation.org or visit their website, www.christianservicefoundation.org, and start putting your money to work with FEC.

GETTING BEYOND THE CALL FOR POTENTIAL CHURCH PLANTERS

"The most privileged and challenging role on earth."

That's how Tom Bennardo describes a church planter's role. Tom is a part of FEC's church planting staff, and he, Scott Wagoner, and Jay Nickless have seen interest in planting new churches grow over the last decade. However, not every person who enters into the church planting process has the skills, emotional health, and spiritual habits to be effective.

For people who believe that God has called them to plant new churches, the FEC team created a church planter's assessment. Until now, anyone who was interested in planting an FEC church went through an assessment process hosted by an outside organization. In March, FEC hosted two candidates at The Summit in Fort Wayne for the first-ever church planter's assessment. Potential church planters who attended the two-day assessment explored their calling from God and giftedness for the task. Then, they received feedback in seven crucial areas from the team of professionals involved in the assessment about their potential effectiveness as a church planter.

For Jay Nickless, the desire to create a more successful and supportive environment for church planters stretches back to 1988 when he planted his first church. Through that experience, he learned that "feeling called" to plant churches is the first step in the process. Anyone interested in learning more about church planting can contact Scott Wagoner at FEC - s.wagoner@fecministries.org.

