

**NOVA'S SOCIAL JUSTICE REGULAR COMMITMENT PROJECTS  
OTHER COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS INVOLVING MONEY  
COMMUNITY MEMBER COMMITMENTS OF TIME AND RESOURCES  
2025**

In February, NOVA held its annual Social Justice Meeting to decide on the projects for our regular commitments for the year. We began the meeting with these words:

“We acknowledge with gratitude our community’s ability to make generous financial commitments to organizations – and to NOVA’s own projects – on a yearly basis. We also acknowledge individual members’ separate donations throughout the year to further support NOVA’s own projects, such as the rental assistance program and the Dreamer’s stipend scholarship program, outside these regular commitments. And we acknowledge members’ generous responses to special collections as needs and crises arise. ...

“We are confident that we can approach these matters in a spirit of generosity and compassion, and with a sense of gratitude for the marvelous gifts we have been given to share. We have been admonished to give from our substance not merely our surplus, but we are confident that we are so overflowing with blessings that our generous response will not cut deeply into our own well being.”

The projects, as approved by acclamation, are listed below. The money will be distributed to these projects in two payments – in February and July. Each project has a NOVA member who brought the need to the community and "watches over it" and brings us news.

**ACTION AFRICA Jeanne Clarkson**

Action Africa is active in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the DC-Maryland-Virginia region. In Nigeria and Sierra Leone, it is known for providing basic technology and computer literacy programs. It has been supporting 15 teachers and staff and 2,000 students around Enugu, in Eastern Nigeria. It also has an invitation from a diocesan education board in another area, Nsuka, to consider extending its programs there – to more than 7,000 students in various schools. A working committee is exploring the possibilities. Action Africa's successes are the direct reasons these invitations are coming. Additionally, Action Africa continues educational support in regions of Sierra Leone especially through partnership collaboration with several nonprofits working on the ground there. And here in the DMV, the food security program is growing rapidly. A great need is for a box truck to deliver food supplies to its growing distribution locations. Renting trucks from U-Haul has become unsustainable. Area warehouses and grocery stores that donate regularly to Action Africa say a box truck would make pickup more effective and would enable them to increase their donations. Jeanne Clarkson, is NOVA's liaison with Chris Egbulem, founder of Action Africa and a long-time NOVA member serving in the Padre Cadre. “I can see these local and International communities being affected by the upcoming administration's greed, selfishness and lack of compassion. They need us more than ever,” Jeanne says.

**AFAC Dianne Carroll**

More than 4,000 Arlington families weekly rely on Arlington Food Assistance Center groceries for their regular meals. The mission is to feed our neighbors in need by providing dignified

access to nutritious supplemental groceries. Providing these groceries free of charge allows families to dedicate limited financial resources to other obligations. A referral is required and can come from partnering agencies. Distributions take place in 20 communities: AFAC headquarters, community centers, affordable housing communities, and senior living facilities. A home delivery program serves an additional 174 households and also supplies partner agencies with food for meal and snack programs. The need grows as families' rents increase and wages do not. NOVA also provides cereal and nonperishable items each Sunday, and during 2024 NOVA donated 2,500 pounds of mostly cereal.

### **BREAD FOR THE WORLD Peggy Meyer**

Bread for the World is a nationwide Christian citizens movement seeking justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying our nation's decisionmakers. BFW Institute seeks justice for hungry people by engaging in research and education on policies related to hunger and development. Peggy does not actively participate in Bread for the World. Her motivation to support this organization is that Jesus told us to feed the hungry, and more and more people are suffering from hunger.

### **BRIDGES TO INDEPENDENCE Kopp Michelotti**

Bridges to Independence operates the Sullivan House homeless shelter and provides training, counseling and referral services to shelter families and other families in danger of homelessness and in poverty. Four years ago, Bridges merged with the Bonder and Amanda Johnson Community Development Corp., a small nonprofit that serves the Nauck community of Arlington. One of Bridges' signal accomplishments has been the integration of the two operations and the development and expansion of a community services center in Nauck. Aside from Sullivan House, Bridges has moved all of its operations to this community services center. On a tour this year, Kopp noted that the center is small and somewhat crowded but has spaces for computer and Internet access for clients in training or seeking employment and for job counseling and for private counseling. Also, Bridges doubled the size of its youth development program. With schools open after the pandemic, employment of clients has improved substantially. Three of four adults in the Workforce Development program maintained or increased their income last year. NOVA was one of the original founding congregations of Bridges (then Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless). Kopp talks with the staff at Bridges occasionally during the year and passes on to NOVA opportunities to donate and to volunteer.

### **CHILDREN IN THE WILDERNESS: ZIMBABWE CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP & FOOD PROJECT Don and Pat Sodo**

Don and Pat are committed to this project and its growth and success in partnership with [Children in the Wilderness](#) (CITW) in Victoria Falls. There is no free public education in Zimbabwe. With endemic drought and extreme poverty, families struggle to both feed and pay for their children to attend school. In 2024, NOVA's donations provided food packages to the families of our scholars. In 2025, under a change in the CITW food program, many more children will be fed. Instead of providing food packages to only CITW students, CITW will use NOVA's donated funds to support the entire student population in rural schools in the Victoria

Falls area. "With the reopening of tourism and increased economic activity, we believe that families in urban areas have more opportunities to support themselves. Therefore, we aim to prioritize rural families who lack similar resources," CITW says. To both monitor and support the project, Don and Pat traveled to Victoria Falls in July, accompanied by three other couples who donate funds for the scholarship project. Since 2013, some 20 individuals have accompanied the Sodos' travel there. They have since become generous donors. Don and Pat are in touch with CITW staff on a monthly basis, receiving evaluations of student progress, requests to sponsor additional students, and reports on the food supply activities. See also Facebook page: Sodo Friends Zimbabwe Scholarship Project

### **CHRIST HOUSE EVENING MEAL Tim White**

Since the pandemic, in lieu of preparing hot meals every other month, NOVA has been furnishing bagged meals. In speaking with Christ House, Tim learned there are no plans to return to sit-down meals any time soon. He recommends NOVA continue serving bagged meals every other month. If sit-down meals are restarted, the community can decide if members are able to resume hot meal preparation.

### **CO-PARTNERS OF CAMPESINAS Archer Heinzen**

In its 30th year, Co-partners of Campesinas is a 501(c)(3) organization that works with women and youth in rural communities in El Salvador and Guatemala. As they have for many years, Jim and Archer Heinzen and Teddi Ahrens traveled to both El Salvador and Guatemala in 2024. Teddi works with groups of children, while Jim and Archer work with the adults. They schedule the trip to coincide with an annual holiday in early August, when children are out of school. In line with Co-partners' motto of "Learn, earn and lead", the women in Ilobasco, El Salvador, are doing a fabulous job of guiding the program. They are able to pay teachers' salaries with the fees collected from students. Because of the program's success, Co-partners now only needs to cover building maintenance and repairs and the cost of expansion. This year the need is to expand the size of the Centro La Nueva Esperanza building in Ilobasco. The Saturday classes are so successful that one is meeting in the garage area and another in the wash area. Co-partners is getting a formal design to put out for bids.

### **DREAM PROJECT Emma Violand-Sanchez**

Dream Project families are expected to be endangered by the Trump administration's plans to deport immigrants who are undocumented. Scholars will need emergency funds to address crisis situations. In 2023-24, the Dream Project awarded 100 scholarships, each valued at \$3,750. It plans to increase the amount of the scholarship to \$4,000. In addition, a new Career and Technical Education Scholarship was awarded to students. Other programs include mentoring, and scholar and alumni support. Since the pandemic, an emergency fund has provided financial support for Dream Project scholars' urgent needs related to medical expenses, food and housing. Partnering with the Center for Psychological Services, the Dream Project covers the cost of counseling to address problems like depression, chronic stress and anxiety. Additionally, there is college coaching, computer assistance and a Herman Loan fund, an interest-free loan to assist scholars facing emergencies such as payment of outstanding tuition balances with funds up to \$2,000 disbursed to the universities. Emma is the Dream

Project chair emeritus, and she participates on the advisory board and the scholar and alumni and parents committees. Meg Tuccillo is a Dream Project board member.

### **EDUCATE THE GIRLS Nancy Veldhuis**

NOVA's financial contribution to ETG enables girls in the rural village of Kanoni, Uganda, to obtain secondary education by providing for their school fees and school supplies, and by helping them overcome obstacles – i.e. the need for shoes, feminine hygiene products, etc. – that otherwise would keep them from attending school. Nancy co-founded this nonprofit 20-plus years ago, serves on the board and is in regular contact with ETG's onsite representative, who is in contact with each girl and each girl's teachers and who distributes the ETG funds. Nancy also conducts basket sales and seeks donations through an annual end-of-year appeal letter, and she manages all the administrative tasks associated with a 501(c)(3) organization. Over the next six years, Nancy expects the level of support needed from NOVA to decline as the girls in the program complete their education. But for the time being, most of the girls are in secondary schools at the higher rates of tuition than in their primary schools.

### **ELDERS CLIMATE ACTION Gloria Mog**

This innovative and energetic organization responds to the increased consciousness about how much of a social justice issue the climate emergency is. Gloria founded the Virginia Chapter of ECA in 2022 and has been almost daily involved in the organization through leadership of the Virginia Chapter, monthly national meetings with other state chapter leaders, speaking engagements throughout Northern Virginia and on Zoom, co-leading a four-session climate education course and engaging regularly with partner climate action groups. Five to 10 NOVA members are also actively involved in the organization. The organization is gradually adding interns and part-time staff aided by our donations as well as those of others. There is a new initiative to establish more state chapters in order to increase the more direct involvement of elders. Work continues to partner with AARP on getting more climate-aware information out to their members. There are more initiatives to partner with adolescents and young adults.

### **EMMAH'S GARDEN – KENYA Clyde Christofferson**

The project was formed to help Nyandoche Ibere, a village of about 800 mostly poor families (about 2,400 people) in western Kenya. The concept is not to provide assistance from the outside but for the villagers themselves to own the project. The initial focus on providing clean water has expanded to support what are now five kitchen gardens that support about 40 families, who are learning from Emmah, who has a degree in agribusiness, how to improve their farming techniques, in part with seedlings grown in a greenhouse, built by villagers. With plans for a second greenhouse, Emmah's Garden can help another 50 families to farm the small plots of land around their homes. These families currently fend for themselves, trying to grow food plants (tomatoes, cabbage, beans) from seeds planted in their yards, with mixed results. The second greenhouse would enable Emmah's Garden to provide these additional families with seedlings that are more robust and more likely to succeed. The greenhouse approach is new to the village, and its success is giving more and more people in the village a sense of empowerment, which is an important step in achieving self-sufficiency over the long term. Clyde's role as a founding member of the board of directors is to help monitor and manage the

project. The board meets on his Zoom account on the second and fourth Mondays every month. His granddaughter, Marie Christofferson, has met twice over Zoom with young girls in the village to see what help she can be on such topics as sanitary napkins and books.

#### **GREENWELL John Tarrant**

Greenwell Foundation is expanding its veterans program in Greenwell State Park in Hollywood, Md., to include intensive weekends for veterans having issues caused by their service. The equestrian program for kids and adults as well as nature programs with kids from the public schools will continue. In 2024, John remained vice president of the foundation and led the search committee for the new executive director.

#### **IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY PROJECT John Mooney**

This project provides retreats for homeless persons in recovery: four retreats/year and weekly and monthly follow-up spiritual accompaniment, serving more than 600 homeless brothers since its start in 2008. NOVA's \$2,400 helps cover most of the costs for one retreat. John Mooney serves on the ISP leadership team and leads two retreats a year.

#### **JUST NEIGHBORS CLIENT ASSISTANCE FUND Joe Keyes**

This fund directly helps very low-income immigrant families pay fees needed to successfully apply for legal status. These required expenses (USCIS application fees, medical exams, country-expert reports, court documents, transportation to hearings, etc.) often stand in the way of a family's ability to obtain a green card, citizenship or work permit. As prices of food and basic necessities continue to rise, Just Neighbors has seen it become harder for families to pay these fees. Part of the NOVA grant went to providing transportation for a client who is a single mom with multiple sclerosis. She needed to attend her 7 a.m. citizenship interview and then her oath ceremony, both of which were more than an hour away. She took public transportation on the return trip. (The MS Society only pays for transportation for medical appointments.) As a result, she was able to be sworn in as a citizen and vote in her first election. The funds also paid the filing fees for the work permit for a client who lives in a group home for behavioral health. These were among 1,426 clients served in 2024. Joe Keyes, no longer on the board, continues to meet with the group's leaders on governance issues. NOVA is one of the only groups that provides funds for these fees for Just Neighbors clients. With the election results, there will be a number of clients who are waiting to file while collecting funds to pay the filing fees. It would be advantageous for them to move the process along as quickly as possible.

#### **LITTLE FRIENDS FOR PEACE Scott Spaine**

NOVA's support has helped Little Friends for Peace run its virtual Peace Academy every Friday for women in Lira, Uganda, in partnership with Passionate Aid Foundation Africa. Through these Peace Circles, the women have been learning and practicing peace and non-violence, helping to create lasting change in their communities. Due to the success of the program thus far, LFFP is being asked to expand it into schools across Uganda to train additional trainers, enabling the Peace Circles to reach even more people.

#### **NETWORK ADVOCATES FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE Carol Reeder**

With its active lobbying presence on Capitol Hill, NETWORK is positioned to influence federal legislation and policies to reflect NOVA's commitment to Catholic social justice. NOVA benefits by receiving timely alerts to issues requiring advocacy, as well as inclusion in educational materials and workshop opportunities. In preparation for the presidential election, NETWORK trained field advocates to engage in crucial conversations using the race/class narrative. All of NETWORK's core issues concerning women and families were at stake in the election – health care, housing, immigration, income, taxes, voting and democracy -- and constituted the focus for national as well as local advocacy. In October, the fourth NETWORK Nuns on the Bus visited 20 cities. Going forward, NETWORK is engaged in discussions with current and new partner organizations, such as the Brennan Center for Justice. It is expanding collaboration with the National Black Sisters Conference and connecting with the Association of Latin American Religious Women Missioners in America. In 2025, Carol Reeder will serve as NOVA's liaison with NETWORK in place of Pat Sodo.

#### **OAXACA SCHOOL PROJECT Raquel Pastor**

Teachers at the school in Santa Maria Quiegolani, Mexico, go out into the remote local mountainous villages to train parents to detect disabilities and to value and care for their children with disabilities, which is considered a curse or at a minimum shameful. Now the project is working to make every family with a person with disabilities self-sufficient in their food production. They are teaching the families and the people with disabilities to sow seeds and to take care of chickens. The school also produces some food and raises chickens for the families. Raquel this year went with a team from the school to a project in Piña Palmera to learn how they work with persons with disabilities and the communities. She also was invited again by the Vargas Foundation to give a workshop about human rights. And she helped organize a raffle to pay for the school's roof repairs. The money NOVA gives is really useful toward the school's work.

#### **PATHFORWARD Meg Tuccillo**

PathForward is a program of positivity with the goal of not just meeting immediate and emergency needs of the homeless but helping individuals toward permanent housing and long-term support as needed. The expanding medical program, including medical outreach on the street, is important additional support for those experiencing homelessness. This year, Meg is heading a new Planned Giving Committee and is reaching out to long-time supporters to include PathForward in their estate planning. NOVA continues to participate in the now annual Timpane Memorial Walkathon to raise funds for PathForward. NOVA has a long association with PathForward, since its founding as A-SPAN in 1993 when NOVA actively participated in the bagged meals program.

#### **SALOMON KLEIN ORPHANAGE Emma Violand-Sanchez**

Emma Rojas, the long-time director of the orphanage in Cochabamba, Bolivia, reports that the severe economic recession and political turmoil in the country, including a food crisis, have affected the staff and children greatly. Food prices have tripled due to the devaluation of the Bolivian currency, and she has been unable to provide sufficient food for the 150 children from newborn to 6 years of age. The orphanage continues to receive abandoned and abused

children constantly. In December, two brothers, ages 4 and 2, were admitted to Salomon Klein. The younger one arrived with Grade III malnutrition, and the older brother had very short stature for his age. Surely, they did not receive the food they required in their first years of life, but now they are being given the necessary love and nutrition by the orphanage's wonderful caretakers. Rojas reports that these two boys drink their milk with great eagerness. Emma Violand-Sanchez visited the orphanage on her last visit to Cochabamba. Her cousin who lives in Cochabamba visits the orphanage and talks to the director regularly. Michael Coughlin, chair of the board of the Friends of Salomon Klein nonprofit organization, sends funds to the orphanage monthly.

#### **STREETLIGHT COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES Pat and Don Sodo**

Founded in 2004, StreetLight Community Outreach Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works to feed and shelter the poor, primarily on the eastern end of Prince William County. StreetLight accomplishes these goals through: providing permanent supportive housing and wrap-around case management to 29 disabled and chronically unhoused adults; operating a supportive shelter for eight medically fragile and disabled unhoused individuals; offering warmth and nourishment to more than 30 individuals each night at a hypothermia shelter (operated in cooperation with PWC Department of Social Services); distributing groceries to 225 families each week through a food pantry as well as providing a clothes closet; hosting a dinner every Wednesday for the unhoused; delivering mobile medical healthcare services and conducting outreach at local encampments (up to 50 camps in PWC). NOVA funding, new in 2025, will support StreetLight's emergency fund (e.g., for bus passes, overnight lodging, etc.) as well as supplies for the campsites (e.g., propane, tents, sleeping bags, etc.). Don Sodo is a StreetLight board member.

#### **STREET SENSE MEDIA CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM Tom Clarkson**

NOVA funding supports the Street Sense Media case management program, which helps the most vulnerable vendors navigate toward housing, health and mental health care and public benefits and provides support for those in recovery from substance use disorders. It also supports an emergency assistance fund that helps prevent evictions and utility cut-offs and provides emergency food assistance. The program serves more than 60 individuals a month, and since its start in 2017, has helped more than 70 people secure permanent housing. In 2025, the program, which costs about \$90,000 annually, will have no dedicated grant funding and therefore relies on a patchwork of donations from individuals and groups like NOVA. It is one of the few bridges between NOVA's mostly affluent members and people in the poor income classes. As sponsor of this project, Tom is NOVA's liaison with Street Sense CEO Brian Carome.

#### **UPPER-NILE ORPHANS CARE ORGANIZATION Scott Spaine**

The Hand of Hope Community School serves orphaned and vulnerable children in South Sudan, in the village where NOVA member Mary Grace volunteered. Mary is responsible for the UOCO (USA) fundraising arm here, and is liaison to sister organization, UOCO (in Africa), which runs the school there. Scott Spaine is a UOCO board member. With turmoil sending millions fleeing from Sudan, Hand of Hope students are gardening to supplement their food. Some will Zoom with Peace Academy (Little Friends for Peace) to further explore nonviolent conflict

resolution skills. Mary plans to visit the school and hopes to launch a hand-sewing project for washable menstrual supplies. NOVA's support is furthered by Gloria's Grant, dedicated specifically for building the school compound. The compound fence is complete, and simple dorms, classrooms and kitchen should be ready by August. This better space will make possible expansion to an anticipated capacity of 50 children, hence the crucial need for the operational funding NOVA provides.

### **VOICE John and Nancy Veldhuis**

Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) is a nonpartisan citizens' organization of more than 50 interfaith and civic institutions, including NOVA, in Northern Virginia. VOICE organizes to build power and do justice in middle- and low-income communities in Fairfax, Prince William and Arlington counties and Alexandria City. It is built on a model of building relationships among its members of different faith traditions, and of different ethnic and economic groups. Nancy and John, as well as a number of NOVA members, have participated in numerous internal VOICE planning meetings, and they have attended gatherings at the Arlington County Board and the Alexandria City Council throughout the year in support of VOICE speakers and in solidarity with those in need, empowering them to speak "truth to power". A number of NOVA members are particularly involved in the efforts in Arlington County. John and Nancy are particularly involved in the efforts in the City of Alexandria and keep the pulse on what is going on in all the Northern Virginia jurisdictions. VOICE and its members continue their tireless work for adequate affordable housing in the region: more homes of all shapes and sizes, for all types of people in partnership with the NAACP of Arlington, YIMBYs of Northern Virginia, League of Women Voters, Alliance for Housing Solutions and others. The second major focus this year is the Behavioral Health Campaign that has secured \$45 million in combined funding to establish two new Crisis Receiving Centers in our local Northern Virginia health region. VOICE and its members have been instrumental in obtaining a \$58 million allocation from Gov. Youngkin's state budget for Crisis Receiving Centers statewide. As part of this campaign, VOICE and its members have concentrated on securing sufficient funds from Arlington County to address the youth overdose crisis. In Fairfax County, VOICE and its members have been instrumental in securing \$15 million for a Youth Wing to the Crisis Receiving Center.

### **WEEKEND FOOD PACKS 4 KIDS Cathy Showalter**

Crossroads Connection is a community service organization that provides a weekend food program for food-insecure children in the public schools of Gainesville and Haymarket, VA. The goal is to eliminate hunger as an obstruction to classroom learning. Donors and volunteers operate as a chartered club of Heritage Hunt and the ministry of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church of Haymarket. Bags of supplemental food is provided monthly to the schools, and the school staff distributes food on Fridays to students who have been identified by school counselors as in need.

### **WOMEN'S ORDINATION FUND Nancy Veldhuis**

The Women's Ordination Conference is the world's oldest and largest organization working solely for the ordination of women as priests, deacons and bishops in an inclusive Catholic



Church. WOC is dedicated to renewing church governance to be inclusive, accountable and transparent; bringing about justice and equality for Catholic women; and incorporating women-centered theologies into everyday Catholicism. With the dismissal of women's issues as not yet ripe for discussion in the multiyear process meant to respond to the needs of today's church, the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, the work ahead is significant. WOC is spearheading the global [Catholic Women Strike](#) campaign for Lent 2025. In just a few weeks after launching the campaign, interest and support was immediate: from women religious to ambassadors to synod delegates to journalists. The need is clear: WOC must be able to double efforts to ensure the disruption of the patriarchal status quo. This campaign means expanding the WOC team to include field and digital organizers. Nancy follows WOC's progress throughout the year and brings special events and calls for help to NOVA's attention.

## **NOVA'S OWN PROJECTS**

### **MARIE KEEFE AND MARIE PINHO NOVA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY STIPEND SCHOLARSHIPS Linda and Jack Christie and team**

When Marie Pinho died in 2015, she left her estate to NOVA. Several proposals were submitted on how to deal with those considerable funds. This team, including Eric Carroll, Linda and Jack Christie, Kathy Scheimer, Christina Smith and Meg Tuccillo, proposed creating scholarships in Marie's name to assist Dreamers in obtaining their college degrees. The proposal was accepted by NOVA. When Marie Keefe died in 2021, her family also wanted to support these scholarships in her name. Students submit applications and if approved, the student receives \$300 a month for nine months of a given school year – \$2,700 per academic year – to help with incidentals that other scholarships might not cover such as transportation costs, books and school supplies. NOVA usually supports three students full- or part-time per year. Five stipend recipients have successfully graduated from four-year colleges. One (on his own) is pursuing his master's. In 2024, NOVA decided to continue adding funds to make the project permanent. In 2025, NOVA will support one continuing student and two potential new students.

### **RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS Dianne Carroll**

The NOVA rental assistance program provides rental assistance on a one-time emergency basis for families in need in the Arlington Public Schools community. School social workers screen the requests and send the requests to Dianne, administrator of the program, on a form designed by NOVA. Dianne reviews the requests, sometimes recommending that the social workers contact other resources. Sometimes the referral is sent to the contact at Arlington Department of Human Services for advice. No other county or church program in Arlington is able to respond as immediately as NOVA to provide stability to families with a one-time financial need so that they can continue to stay in their apartments and their children can remain in their schools. This NOVA program is vital. It's about keeping these families from eviction when they have had some crisis such as illness or an accident that has caused some temporary loss of income. The challenge for NOVA is that the need has grown exponentially. In 2007, six families were helped; in 2024, 104 families. Of the 104 families there were no families who returned for more help. Funds were raised in two special collections, from individual contributions and this NOVA regular commitment. As the cost of housing continues to rise and the need to protect

families from eviction continues to grow, the hope is that Arlington can continue to be a diverse community.

## **OTHER 2025 COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS INVOLVING MONEY**

### **GIFT CARDS PROJECT Dianne Carroll, Markie Harwood**

NOVA members donate gift cards or cash for gift cards at the beginning of the school year and at Christmas. The cards are given to the Arlington school social workers who then distribute them to families in need. Some cards are also given to the refugee families NOVA assists. In 2024, 325 \$25 cards were distributed. School social workers are so grateful for the generosity of the NOVA Community.

### **KEN CHAISON FAMILY EMERGENCY FUND Dianne Carroll**

This program uses the same referral form as the rental assistance program, and applicants are screened by school social workers. Donations have been provided by Ken's family, friends and NOVA members. These funds are for emergency needs of families that cannot be met in any other way. In 2024, 19 families were assisted with needs such as payments of electric bills, cab vouchers, dental care, and eyeglasses. A total of \$5,000 has been distributed.

### **PATHFORWARD HOMELESS WALKATHON Meg Tuccillo**

NOVA has participated in a PathForward (formerly A-SPAN) walkathon to assist individuals experiencing homelessness for many years. In spring 2022, we decided to honor the legacy of our own dear Mike and Gen Timpane (former A-SPAN board member and longtime supporters) by naming our NOVA walkathon "The Timpane Memorial Walkathon." The Timpane "kids" joined us at liturgy last spring to share in the walkathon, and we look forward to continuing the tradition.

### **VILLA CANDELARIA SCHOOL, Cochabamba, Bolivia Dianne Carroll**

Twenty-two NOVA members sponsor students at this school, which serves age 2 through 6th grade. Children get a quality education, and low-income families are provided school materials and other items they need. Money is sent to Cochabamba once a year -- \$120 for each student sponsored.

## **COMMUNITY MEMBER COMMITMENTS OF TIME AND RESOURCES**

### **BOOK GROUPS**

Meetings are publicized in the NOVA Sunday announcements.

### **CARE FOR CREATION Gloria Mog and team (Joe Keyes, Kathy Scheimer, Judy Christofferson, David Mog, Markie Harwood, Carolyn Miller)**

The team was formed in March 2019 in response to the climate crisis, Laudato Si and the growing realization that people of faith play an increasingly critical role in the worldwide response to this crisis. The team's mission:

- Provide education to the NOVA Community around environmental issues and actions needed to make progress on this problem.

- Develop concrete personal and communal actions and encourage members to get involved whenever they can.
- Integrate Care for Creation themes in the liturgical and prayer life of the community.
- Advocate for legislative progress locally, statewide and nationally with guidance from the Virginia Chapter of Elders Climate Action.
- Engender hope and motivation by reporting on progress on a regular basis.

#### **MY FRIENDS HOUSE INC Teddi Ahrens**

Teddi collects needed items for those Eve Birch serves in Martinsburg, West Virginia, including fresh food, blankets, clothes, building materials, sewing materials, paint, craft materials. Eve welcomes helpers to spend a few hours or even overnight to paint, organize, do yard work or other "handy" work.

#### **PRAYER GROUP Bill Meyer**

NOVA members meet together to pray for intentions. A Prayer Book is available at liturgy for people to record an intention.

#### **TRINITY NOVA TOGETHER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE Carmela Ormando, Jeanne Clarkson and Marion Spraggins**

Dedicated to conversations, exploration and action toward creating a more racially just and inclusive community, the interfaith and interracial partnership of NOVA and Trinity Episcopal Church enthusiastically begins its 10th year.

#### **WOMEN'S PRISON BOOK PROJECT Pat Sodo**

This project, based in Minneapolis, provides books to women across the country who are incarcerated. (Virginia does not have the program in its prisons; however, NOVA was positioned to provide books on a one-time basis in 2023 when Prince William County's Public Defender's Office created a library in the PWC Jail.) NOVA members support WPBP by donating books. Some are traded at a used book store for requested subject matter, and then everything makes its way to WPBP as books or cash. The project is self-sustaining and beneficial to both NOVA members and WPBP.