

## Hands Across Niagara: Call for Grant Applications

We are grateful for the generous support that Hands Across Niagara is receiving; because of this we are able to fund innovative and life-changing partnerships again in 2016.

The focus for our grants this year will be projects directed at the justice concerns of people who find themselves marginalized in our society. Given the incredible response to the global refugee crisis, we are particularly interested in inclusionary projects that foster full participation in our society for newcomers to Canada, as well as for those who are oppressed because of their ethnicity, ability, socioeconomic status, language, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. Only new projects will be considered for these grants of up to \$2,500 that will be awarded to seed ministry partnerships in this critical area.

There are a number of steps that ministry groups can take now, to prepare a successful grant application ahead of the **May 12<sup>th</sup> application deadline**:

1. View the descriptions of the projects which received grants last year at <http://niagaraanglican.ca/ministry/hands-across-niagara>
2. Make connections with local community organizations: successful grant applications will include a description of how your ministry group will work together with a community organization on a project that would be difficult for you (or for them!) to accomplish working alone. Your partner may be another congregation, a local serving agency, or a group engaged in advocacy or activism. Consider ways to include the voices of the marginalized population your project seeks to serve; a strong proposal will reflect the lived experience of people and highlight their inclusion in the program as more than recipients of services.
3. Reflect upon the root causes of injustice faced by people in your neighbourhood. Successful applicants will propose ministry projects which attempt to redress the values, beliefs, policies and structures which habitually exclude people from accessing opportunities to flourish. That is to say, the ministry proposal must describe in detail the area of concern addressed by the ministry plan, and outline how the marginalized population will be empowered to overcome the injustices they face through the work of your partnership or how the oppressive population will be transformed through anti-oppressive practices or programs.
4. Reflect upon the differences between ministry projects that have a charity focus versus projects that target injustice. An example of the difference might be providing bedding or household items for newcomers to Canada (charity) compared to an event which seeks to build relationships with newcomers and their new neighbours in a way that enhances social capital and creates opportunities to respond to the experience of life in Canada (justice).
5. Investigate the real costs of the ministry plan you intend to propose. Each application will need to include a budget that lists all sources of funding (received and applied for) and all costs associated with the ministry proposal.
6. Save the date: one representative for each application will need to be available when the granting committee meets on the afternoon of **June 6, 2016** to answer any questions the committee may have about the proposal.

Applications may be downloaded at: <http://niagaraanglican.ca/resources/grants>

For more information please contact:

Canon Derek Anderson at 905-632-1233 or Bill Mous at 905-527-1316 ext 330.