## HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



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hen you support Human Relations Day, your gift builds community leadership and resources. In Chicago, churches are in partnership to engage in community-based alternatives to juvenile incarceration. In the Philippines, organizations strengthen family resiliency to address substance abuse, particularly with those who are living in the Manila North Cemetery. And in West Congo, United Methodist Churches are working with ecumenical partners to provide pastoral support and advocacy for children and youth who are in prison.

Buena Vista United Methodist Church's slogan is "Building beloved community."

Among the programs of the Alameda, California, church is a partnership with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IM4HI) to engage in joint immigration advocacy. Members have co-sponsored "Know Your Rights" trainings, lobbied for human rights legislation and attended monthly protest vigils on behalf of incarcerated immigrants. Working with IM4HI and its East Bay affiliate enables the church to network and advocate with other congregations.

The church's immigration committee in 2016 began its accompaniment ministry and provided temporary housing to the Alva-Garcia family from Guatemala. That allowed the family to establish residency in Alameda and to welcome other family members entering the country seeking asylum.

Lynette Lee, chair of the Buena Vista Community Institute, and Alton Chinn, the immigration committee's new chair, want to increase participation and indigenous leadership in the ministry and do more to protect and support immigrants.

According to Chinn, "COVID-19 doesn't change our commitment to this ministry."

Please write your check to your local church with "HRD" on the memo line and place it in the offering. To give online or set up monthly giving, go to **UMC.org/SSGive**.

