



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
— CHURCH —
E P C

PLANNED GIVING FUND

LEAVING A LEGACY

[FPCTHOMASVILLE.ORG/PLANNEDGIVING](https://fpcthomasville.org/plannedgiving)

2022 OVERVIEW

During 2022, the Planned Giving Fund awarded two grants totaling \$12,000. Earlier this year, a \$2,000 grant went to Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) in support of Madeleine Dorst's campus ministry internship at the University of Southern California. More recently, New Horizons for Children (NHFC) was the beneficiary of a \$10,000 grant from The Planned Giving Fund in support of Operation Safe Haven, this American faith-based organization's heroic work rescuing and finding safe shelter for orphans evacuated from war zones throughout Ukraine. On the pages that follow, we provide more information on the work of these two grant beneficiaries.

Campus ministry is the classic example of Christianity confronting culture. This is Madeleine's second year at USC which, as you would guess, is not an institution that is particularly hospitable to evangelical Christians. The stories she shared with us reveal how she is sowing seeds of faith on the USC campus and that her 'wins' are counted one student... one soul at a time.

The orphan rescue ministry in Ukraine was borne out of necessity created by war. Prior to the war, NHFC's ministry was exclusively focused on arranging for adoptable Ukrainian orphans to spend a couple of weeks with host families in the U.S. Many of the children who participated in this 'hosting' program were teenagers, an age group for which hopes of finding a new forever family are almost always grim. Prospective adoptive parents usually prefer a young child or infant, but when they have the opportunity to spend time with an 'older' orphan through the hosting procedure, their hearts are often softened and changed.

Within days of the start of the war in Ukraine, the mission of New Horizons For Children changed dramatically. With hosting programs and adoptions suspended, NHFC responded to God's call to undertake the arduous and dangerous task of evacuating and rescuing displaced orphans. NHFC's Operation Safe Haven has evacuated more than 2,000 orphans to safety in western Ukraine... providing them medications, food, clothes, shoes, bedding, toiletries, toys, sports equipment, books, computers, medical care and emotional care.

The stories presented here vividly demonstrate how the Planned Giving Fund is impacting the lives of real people in the name of Jesus Christ.

RUF CAMPUS MINISTRY AT USC

As Told by Madeleine Dorst

Sharing the Gospel with Hindus

Last Thanksgiving, since I didn't have any plans, I decided to invite international students to have a Thanksgiving meal with me. Through a program with USC, I was put in contact with two students from India named Simran and Sushanth. They came over to my apartment for Thanksgiving, and the three of us really hit it off. I invited them to RUF events, and even though they are both Hindu, they came to our Christmas party, and for almost a year, they have been coming to our Wednesday worship nights whenever they are able. This has led to us having some spiritual conversations. While I don't know how God will use their involvement with RUF, I know he won't waste it. At the very least, this could be these students' first positive interaction with Christianity, which could set the stage for God to change their hearts over the course of their lives. I don't know where it will lead, but I do know that I've learned not to underestimate what God can do. All we're called to do is be faithful and present, and let Him do the rest.



The Power of Authentic Christian Community

One of the highlights of the spring semester for me was helping lead a Bible study through Colossians for our senior students. Beyond the enriching discussion, I also saw real friendships develop among the students in the study, none of who really knew each other before. One of our female students told me on the last night of the

study that she hasn't made any male friends in college, because most of the men she's interacted with, in her words, "don't really listen to you, they just want to hook up." But in the Bible study and RUF at large, the male students there really listened to her, without ulterior motives, and displayed genuine friendship. For her, it was healing to have such a positive experience with men. It reminds me of the power of authentic Christian community to heal our relational wounds and demonstrate God's love.



Living in the Light

Many of our students struggle with being treated differently if they tell their friends they are Christians. At USC, it's not cool to be a Christian, it can even be a real social disadvantage. One of our leader students, Amber, really wrestles with wanting to be strong in her faith, but also wanting to fit into her sorority. Over the course of the year, she and I had many conversations about how Jesus calls us to give up chasing the approval of this world. At the beginning of this school year, she was featured on a "get to know me" social media post by her sorority. In the post, she said she was a Christian. While this may seem like a small thing, to her, it was a big step in choosing to put God first and to live in the light as a Christian, even if it cost her some popularity. All of our students continue to wrestle with this, but part of the work we do at RUF is to come alongside them in their struggle and be a friend, a listening ear, and point them over and over again to Jesus.



NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN

Operation Safe Haven

Thursday, February 24, 2022

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has started. Air raid sirens are screaming. Alerts have sounded, warnings of incoming missiles from multiple directions are being broadcast. Kamikaze drones are remotely launched. Every region in Ukraine is in danger, Kyiv is being hit. Then, Khmelnytskyi. Then, Sumy and Poltava. Then, Rivne.

Can you imagine living in a war zone? Millions of people have been displaced, and thousands of those are orphans. Try to imagine being an orphaned child that has been separated from your family for abuse or neglect and placed in an institution and all the trauma that entails... and now being told to flee for your life from bombs in the sky. Imagine not knowing where you are going, who you are going with, or what is around the next corner. Imagine cowering in the basement of a building waiting to see where the bombs fall. This is the devastating trauma that these children are experiencing. This is the trauma that "I" has experienced.



This is "I". Although he's been evacuated to a safer region, he had to say good-bye to all that was familiar. Life has changed: he is in a new bed, there are new faces all around, the food isn't prepared the same way. His home, his school, his community, and even his older siblings were all left behind. He has even less now than he had before.

There are literally thousands of children like "I" who are being rescued and provided for daily by New Horizons For Children. Our financial support and that of Christians around the world is enabling NHFC to protect these children and love them through the most unimaginably horrific trauma a child could face.



PLANNED GIVING FUND 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE FPC SESSION AND CONGREGATION

WHAT IS THE PLANNED GIVING FUND (PGF)?

The Planned Giving Fund (PGF) was created a little more than 20 years ago primarily to provide a means for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to remember the mission of FPCT in their estate plans. The PGF represents faithful stewardship to enable the church to achieve its Kingdom-building mission beyond what is possible through our yearly Stewardship Campaign and annual World Mission Conference. Gifts are made to the PGF in a variety of ways... cash, stocks, real estate, life insurance, living trusts, and of course – as mentioned – via planned gifts or bequests in a person's Will or Estate Plan. Checks may be written directly to the PGF or to FPCT earmarked for the PGF. PGF assets are conservatively invested by the Community Foundation of South Georgia, and – with guidance from church-member Fund Advisors – annual distributions are made from the PGF earnings in support of missions and ministries which are compatible with the Fund's purpose and objectives.

“One generation shall commend thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.”

PSALM 145:4

2022 PGF ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Through November of this year, Fund Advisors approved distributions totaling \$12,000. Earlier this year, PGF Advisors approved a grant to Reformed University Fellowship in support of Madeleine Dorst's work at USC. This grant represented a continuation of last year's support for Ms. Dorst's campus ministry. More recently, a grant of \$10,000 was approved for New Horizons for Children (NHFC). NHFC is a non-profit that is rescuing children from the war zone in Ukraine and finding safe housing for them and providing for their needs. They have rescued over 2000 orphans so far. This grant was pooled with gifts from other donors, including First Baptist Church, to comprise a larger combined grant totaling \$30,000. Attached is a report from Ms. Dorst that describes several examples of the kind of impact that her campus ministry is having. Also attached is a gripping account of one Ukrainian orphan and how his life has been forever changed through HHFC.

As of September 30, 2022, the cumulative Fund Balance across the three core funds was \$364,465.60 (\$316,373.09 in the Facilities and Outreach Fund and \$48,092.51 in the Sisson Music Fund).

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION

If you or your estate planner want to know more about the PGF, we invite you to look for copies of the PGF brochure in each of the two church vestibules, at the table in the back of Fellowship Hall, and at the display table in the hallway of the education building. Additionally, the Fund Advisors (Harry Jones, Jim Hardy, Becky Miller, Margaret Singletary and Mike Bixler) and David Carlton, President of the Community Foundation, would welcome the chance to speak with you about the PGF.