

PROFILE OF A LOCAL CHURCH HUNGER RELIEF ADVOCATE

A Hunger Relief Advocate (HRA) is called to serve the local church as an **advocate**, an **educator** and an **enabler** of action to relieve hunger in America.

The HRA's three-fold goal is to:

- 1) Bring the local church into hands-on ministry with the hungry and the poor
- 2) Advocate on behalf of the nation's hungry and the poor
- 3) Raise funding resources through the MEALS for MILLIONS program to sustain the HRA program, including direct relief to the nation's hungry

A LITTLE HISTORY

In September 1998, the General Commission on United Methodist Men joined with the Society of St. Andrew to establish HRA's in each of the denomination's annual conferences. This project, begun in 1999, is based in the Nashville office of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. It will ultimately consist of a full-time paid national HRA coordinator in Nashville, a part-time paid advocate in each conference, and volunteer advocates in each United Methodist Men's district and local United Methodist Men's group or church.

AN OVERVIEW OF A LOCAL CHURCH HRA

A Hunger Relief Advocate assists their congregation and other groups to become engaged with the poor in their own communities. As an **advocate**, you provide links with United Methodists and other ecumenical agencies, which deal with hunger issues of all kinds. As an **educator** of others, you will resource, alert, and mobilize United Methodists for specific hunger action. As an **enabler**, you will focus on bringing your local church and community into hands-on ministry to meet the needs of the poor. The local HRA is responsible for generating United Methodist Men's support for the MEALS for MILLIONS program, which fund the HRA initiative. Meals for Millions was founded by the Society of St. Andrew.

BECOMING A LOCAL CHURCH HRA

At the local church level, volunteers that are elected or selected by their men's group become HRA's. If a person is interested in becoming a local HRA and there is no men's group, a person may volunteer and then be approved by the local pastor with advice and consent of a district or conference HRA. An HRA may be a man or women.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A LOCAL CHURCH HRA

- An earnest desire to end hunger in your community, the nation and the world.
- A demonstrated concern for and understanding of hunger issues.
- A demonstrated ability to empower others, including committees.
- Knowledge of ecumenical organizations, and the ability to work with them.
- The ability to envision new possibilities for all people.
- Active in a congregation.

EXPECTATIONS OF A LOCAL CHURCH HRA

Develop or strengthen a commitment to hunger ministry within the church and your community through a focus on congregational education and action. Educate the people in your church and community about the impact of poverty and hunger on individuals and society. Establish a new hunger ministry within the local church which brings United Methodists into hands-on ministry with the poor; wherever possible, this will be a gleaning ministry. Develop a MEALS for MILLIONS campaign with United Methodist Men in your church. To work cooperatively with Hunger Relief Advocates from other United Methodist churches in your district and conference and to combine efforts with other groups whenever possible.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LOCAL CHURCH HRA ?

Contact your Pastor and/or your UMMen's Group and express your interest in hunger issues and how you might become a Hunger Relief Advocate.

OR

Contact your district or conference HRA if there is one.

IF NOT

Contact the National Coordinator of the HRA program at:

HUNGER RELIEF ADVOCATE

GCUMM

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