



Mission in Action

Deaconess Foundation helps people take positive steps in their lives. Some examples of the Foundation’s “dollars at work” include the following:

- **Steve and Christopher**, brothers growing up in East St. Louis, find a gym with real basketball hoops, healthy snacks, and coaches that make sure they master homework as well as jump shots.
- **Josephine**, a first-time mom, gets compassionate instruction on how to care for her fragile newborn’s chronic cough.
- **TaNesha**, a vivacious nine-year-old, is matched with a “forever family” and a permanent home that will mark the end of her time in the foster care system.
- **John**, a seven-year-old with a horrible toothache, visits the dentist for the first time.
- **Carol**, a mom earning minimum wage, finds high-quality day care that is affordable and caring.
- Six-year-old **Denise and her sister** have a safe place to stay, a crisis nursery, while their mother looks for an affordable apartment—one that is not peeling with lead paint like their former home.

How Can Your Congregation Get Involved?

Deaconess Foundation welcomes the energy and commitment of the UCC community. If any of the following opportunities interest you, contact Deaconess Foundation.

Volunteer. Many of the agencies with which Deaconess partners need volunteers to do everything from hands-on work with children to serving on boards.

Educate/Advocate. The plight of children growing up in poverty in St. Louis is invisible to many. Call Deaconess Foundation for educational material and guidance on how you can raise awareness.

Donate. Your congregation could organize a book or clothing drive, host a benefit for one of the ministries Deaconess supports, or make a gift of money.

Contact: **Deaconess Foundation**
211 North Broadway, Suite 1260
St. Louis, MO 63102
www.deaconess.org
info@deaconess.org
314.436.8100 (p) / 314.436.5352 (f)



DEACONESS FOUNDATION



In the spirit of our faith heritage, the mission of Deaconess Foundation is the improved health of the St. Louis metropolitan community and its people.





Who We Are

The priority of Deaconess Foundation is to promote the health and well-being of St. Louis, especially for children growing up in the grip of poverty. As a ministry of the United Church of Christ, Deaconess Foundation has made over \$25 million in grants since 1997 to support its vision for a healthy St. Louis.

“Deaconess Foundation has a moral imperative to dramatically change the landscape so that children can grow up with health and hope.”

— **Rev. Jerry W. Paul,**
President and CEO,
Deaconess Foundation

Why It Matters

While St. Louis might be considered a “great place to raise a family,” that perception is hardly a reality for families living in poverty. In St. Louis City, nearly 40 percent of the children live below the poverty level. Three out of ten area neighborhoods are classified as high risk, laced with health threats. Our region has some of the nation’s highest rates of lead prevalence, asthma, child abuse and neglect, infant mortality, and homicide.

The Deaconess Foundation tradition is to respond with compassion and imagination to those with the least options. Improving the health of our community is a collective call to action.

“Deaconess Foundation is a sleeves-rolled-up, smart and caring extension of the United Church of Christ’s longterm commitment to embody the healing love of Jesus. There is a contagious energy in the Foundation’s work, a fresh fearlessness that truly believes that poverty is totally unacceptable and the church can lean in and make a real difference in people’s lives.”

— **Rev. David Mehl**
Pastor, Hope United Church of Christ



Proud Legacy With The United Church Of Christ

Deaconess Foundation is rooted in a rich history with the United Church of Christ. In 1889, clergy and laity of the Evangelical Church (now the United Church of Christ) responded to the untended health needs of a growing—largely immigrant—population by creating the Deaconess Sisterhood and Hospital. For over one hundred years, the Deaconess Hospital, staffed in part by Deaconess Sisters, provided exceptional medical care and nursing education to the community. In 1997, the financial assets from the sale of Deaconess Incarnate Word Health System were invested in Deaconess Foundation for the future well-being of the St. Louis community. Today, Deaconess Foundation remains guided by the Christian spirit of its founders, and is devoted to sustaining a century-old tradition of ministering to the health needs of the most vulnerable. Deaconess Foundation partners with United Church of Christ-affiliated organizations, along with local ministers, in community outreach. In addition, the Foundation is an active member of United Church of Christ’s Council for Health and Human Service Ministries.

What We Do

Deaconess Foundation’s has three main funding programs.

Through the **Deaconess Impact Partnership**, the Foundation provides substantial support to organizations that offer essential services to children in need—everything from health care for babies to character development for teens. Deaconess Foundation’s unique grant making approach is designed to help these vital nonprofits develop the strength and skills to ensure their ability to minister—with both passion and efficiency—to children for generations to come.

United Church of Christ congregations are important homes to healing ministries. **Deaconess Foundation’s Congregational Health Grants** support congregations’ vision for health. In 2005, twenty-four churches from the greater St. Louis Metropolitan area used the small grants to offer health fairs, food pantries, services to the elderly, and much more.

Begun as a means to honor the ministry of the founding **Deaconess Sisters, Deaconess Parish Nurse Ministries** continues to be a key part of Deaconess Foundation. Today, more than thirty registered Deaconess Parish Nurses work on the staff of congregations and faith-based organizations to provide health education, health counseling, advocacy, referrals and support to the community.



Deaconess Foundation also makes other one-time grants in response to specific issues. For example, in response to Hurricane Katrina’s blow, the Foundation made a gift to United Church of Christ-affiliated Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Finally, the Foundation supports child advocacy efforts.