

## A few examples of assistance we have provided include:

**Casandra**—Single mother with four children got behind on KUB bill. Casandra works at a local bread company. We provided \$56.54 to help her keep service connected.

**Jerry**—Disabled individual with old KUB bill, attempting to qualify for Section 8 housing assistance. Provided \$100.00 toward his bill after he raised \$410.00. These payments permitted Jerry to qualify for rental assistance under Section 8. His reduced rental payments allowed him to retire the remainder of his original, delinquent KUB bill of \$1,080.00.

**J.C.**—Homeless individual needing transportation money to get to Johnson City V.A. drug rehabilitation program. We provided \$25.00 gas voucher after verification with V.A. Center regarding his treatment appointment.

**Randy**—Unemployed, homeless individual living at KARM needed transportation assistance to return to Orlando, Florida, where a construction job was available. We provided a \$50.00 partial-payment of a bus ticket after verifying his story with his aunt.

## How Can Our Church Members Participate in the Benevolence Ministry?

You can support these efforts financially by contributing to our collections each month during our Communion Service, by volunteering to be a member of the Benevolence Team, and through your prayers for the needy and homeless.

If you would like more information about participating in this effort, contact Associate Pastor Darryll Rasnake at 865/521-0279 or by email: [drasnake@churchstreetumc.org](mailto:drasnake@churchstreetumc.org).

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# Benevolence Program

Church Street United Methodist Church



*"Rich and poor have this in common:  
The Lord is maker of them all."*

Proverbs 22:2

## Background

Last August, Church Street United Methodist Church established a lay benevolence team. Its purpose was to assume broader responsibilities for our church outreach mission to the homeless and needy in our service area. As a prominent downtown church, we receive countless requests for assistance from letters, phone calls, and walk-in needy individuals. Requests for assistance are varied, but include:

- Assistance with utility bills
- Temporary rent assistance
- One-time emergency assistance for out of town destinations
- Food
- Gasoline vouchers
- Miscellaneous assistance with dental bills, etc.

Our benevolence team handles these request by requiring individuals to set up appointments for informal interviews. In these interviews we listen with compassionate hearts, verify needs and coordinate with other charitable organizations in the Knoxville area. We do this to ensure that our limited financial resources are efficiently and effectively utilized to maximize positive outcomes.

## Summary of Activities from August 2010 – March 2011

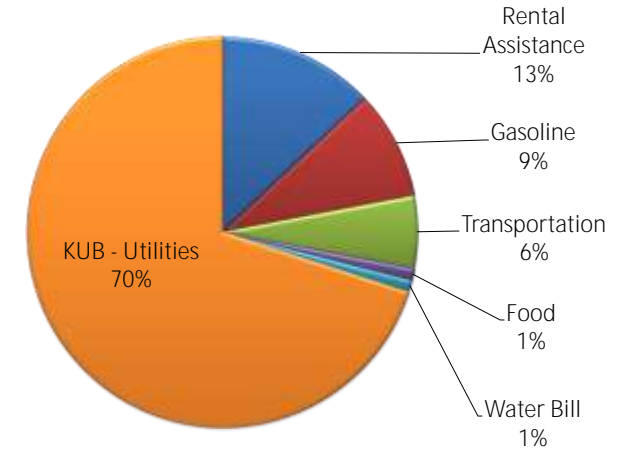
The following summary describes the work CSUMC's Benevolence Team has conducted during the last eight months of its lay mission. During this period our team has received 209 requests for assistance, conducted 158 personal interviews, and assisted 113 individuals.

A breakdown on the types of assistance provided and the distribution of financial assistance granted is shown on Figure 1 and Figure 2.

In addition to the financial assistance granted, our team makes referrals to other organizations in the Knoxville area who can deal with unique needs. Such organizations include CAC, Compassion Coalition, the Knoxville Health Department, KARM, Volunteer Mission, and the Salvation Army. All of these organizations have programs and resources which can complement our limited resources.

### Figure 1:

Breakdown by % of assistance



### Figure 2:

Breakdown by monetary %

