

Global Relationships

One year ago we unveiled our new additional sponsorship model, Connected Communities, at the E3 regional meetings. There are now more than 25 Connected Communities, and growing!

Connected Communities allows a church in the U.S. to come alongside a particular school, hostel, child development center or other ministry of the Free Methodist church somewhere in the world. Locally, this relational model creates the synergy of shared vision and mutual love for a particular people and place. Globally, it makes a space for true relationships to form and flourish across cultures and international borders. If a church is currently supporting a missionary or country project, this model allows for a stronger partnership with that country or ministry.

We first introduced you to a “match made in heaven,” between Pearce Memorial Church (Rochester, NY) and Nzige, Rwanda. This beautiful partnership includes

prayer, education and financial support in the form of visits, email, photos, videos and Skype. ([Click here for the Connected Communities video](#), or go to <https://vimeo.com/200002213>.)



Connected Communities come in all shapes and sizes, from smaller churches to entire conferences!

Communities including Togo, the Philippines, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Brazil, and some creative access areas are being changed by their partnerships with churches in the U.S. These churches are impacted locally, too, by developing deeper relationships in a shared missional focus within their own churches.

With what world area would your church like to connect?



The Pittsburgh Conference is partnering with a school that educates refugee children in a creative access country. We feel this Connected Communities model allows us to work together toward one common goal. While we also encourage individual sponsors to support individual children, this project has brought a new sense of community and connectedness to our conference. And because we have taken on a bigger responsibility, there is a greater sense of ownership. We look forward to how we, together, can impact one community for the Lord.

– *Pastor Collene Carney, Monacrest FMC, Monacrest, PA*

The **Keystone Conference** has committed to a Connected Community with Costa Rica. The Connected Community model is much more than monthly financial support. It's connecting with each other on a deeper level with regular contact and hands on ministry opportunities. In connecting with Costa Rica as a conference, we are building a connected community with each other. We have taken on this financial goal TOGETHER. We will pray for Costa Rica TOGETHER. We will plan missions trips TOGETHER. We will serve TOGETHER.

– Sharon Hughes, Missions Liaison, Keystone Conference



“This month, **Journey Church** will officially begin a Connected Community partnership with Kaburiro village, in the Western Province of Rwanda. We have had an ongoing connection with ICCM Rwanda since sending a team there in 2015 to work with Ephaste, the Rwanda ICCM Coordinator. Before that, my family and I served for 2 years as missionaries working with ICCM and The Rwanda Free Methodist Church. The partnership between us will begin with the sponsoring of 25 children through ICCM. It will continue to develop based on the identified needs of the Kaburiro community. We at Journey Church are excited to establish an ongoing partnership with

the people of Kaburiro knowing there is equal opportunity to bless, encourage, and learn from one another.

– Pastor Scott Endinger, Journey Church, Sherwood, OR

Citizens Church is supporting an entire ICCM school in Paraguay. Through our individual sponsorship we are forming relationships that lead to life change, here and abroad. We are a church about authentic relationships. This is the perfect opportunity for us to build a closer connection through Christ, with the kids we sponsor and their community. It's



a purpose we feel called to explore out of our Arizona neighborhood to make a difference in the lives of those in Paraguay. As we prepare for our 2019 Paraguay missions trip, we are engaging in local and regional efforts to make sure we are fulfilling our mandate to reach and serve all we can here, near, and far.

– Dereck Bermudez and Jillian Vaughan, Missions Team Leaders, Citizens Church, Phoenix, AZ

Page 1 – photo 1 Creative Access, photo 2 Nzige, Rwanda

Page 2 – photo 1 Ethiopia waiting to become a Connected Community, photo 2 Costa Rica, photo 3 Rwanda, photo 4 Paraguay