

PROFILE OF A CONFERENCE HUNGER RELIEF ADVOCATE

A Hunger Relief Advocate (HRA) is called to serve the annual conference 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 all levels of the 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 (SoSA) 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 CONFERENCE HRA

A Hunger Relief Advocate assists all levels of the church 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 all levels of the church and society into hands-on ministry to meet the needs of the poor. The conference 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.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A CONFERENCE HRA

- An earnest desire to end hunger in your conference, the nation and the world.
- A demonstrated concern for and understanding of hunger issues.
- A demonstrated ability to empower others, especially at the district and conference levels.
- Knowledge of ecumenical organizations, and the ability to work with them.
- The ability to accept people where they are and provide opportunities for growth.
- Active in a congregation.

EXPECTATIONS OF A CONFERENCE HRA

Develop or strengthen a commitment to hunger ministry within the conference, districts, local churches and local communities through a focus on conference and district education, training, and action. Educate the people in your conference about the impact of poverty and hunger on individuals and society. Develop new hunger ministries which bring United Methodists into hands-on ministry with the poor and empower others in the conference to do the same. Wherever possible, this will be a gleaning ministry. Develop in your conference a strategy for a MEALS for MILLIONS campaign using United Methodist Men's groups. Develop a network of HRA's in your districts and local churches. Combine efforts with other groups whenever possible.

BECOMING A CONFERENCE HRA

A conference HRA is hired by the Society of St. Andrew of St. Andrew and is a paid part-time position. Additional information about the position may be obtained by visiting the SoSA web site at www.endhunger.org or calling the Church Relations in Virginia or the National Coordinator of the HRA program in Nashville.

REALLY INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CONFERENCE HRA

Send a resume and a letter of interest to:

Director of Church Relations
Society of St. Andrew
3383 Sweet Hollow Rd.
Big Island VA 24526

800-333-4597
sosachurch@endhunger.org

Nashville HRA Office:

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