

DAKOTAS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 9, 2011



Shoebox Christmas a Success!

The Shoebox Christmas program was a success! This year the people of the Dakotas Conference and VIM teams from across the country donated 3,665 gifts for the children of the Dakota's reservations. Unfortunately, the giving looked like it was down by 400 gifts. Some last minute donations from local churches and individuals allowed us to provide the Turtle Mountain Reservation with 400 Shoebox Christmas gifts. Here are a few stories of how those gifts affected the people who received them. Your generosity shared the love of Jesus Christ with 3,665 children. The gifts also affected the parents of these children. Blessings to you all! Thank you for helping us share the love of Jesus Christ with the children and adults of the Reservations in the Dakotas.

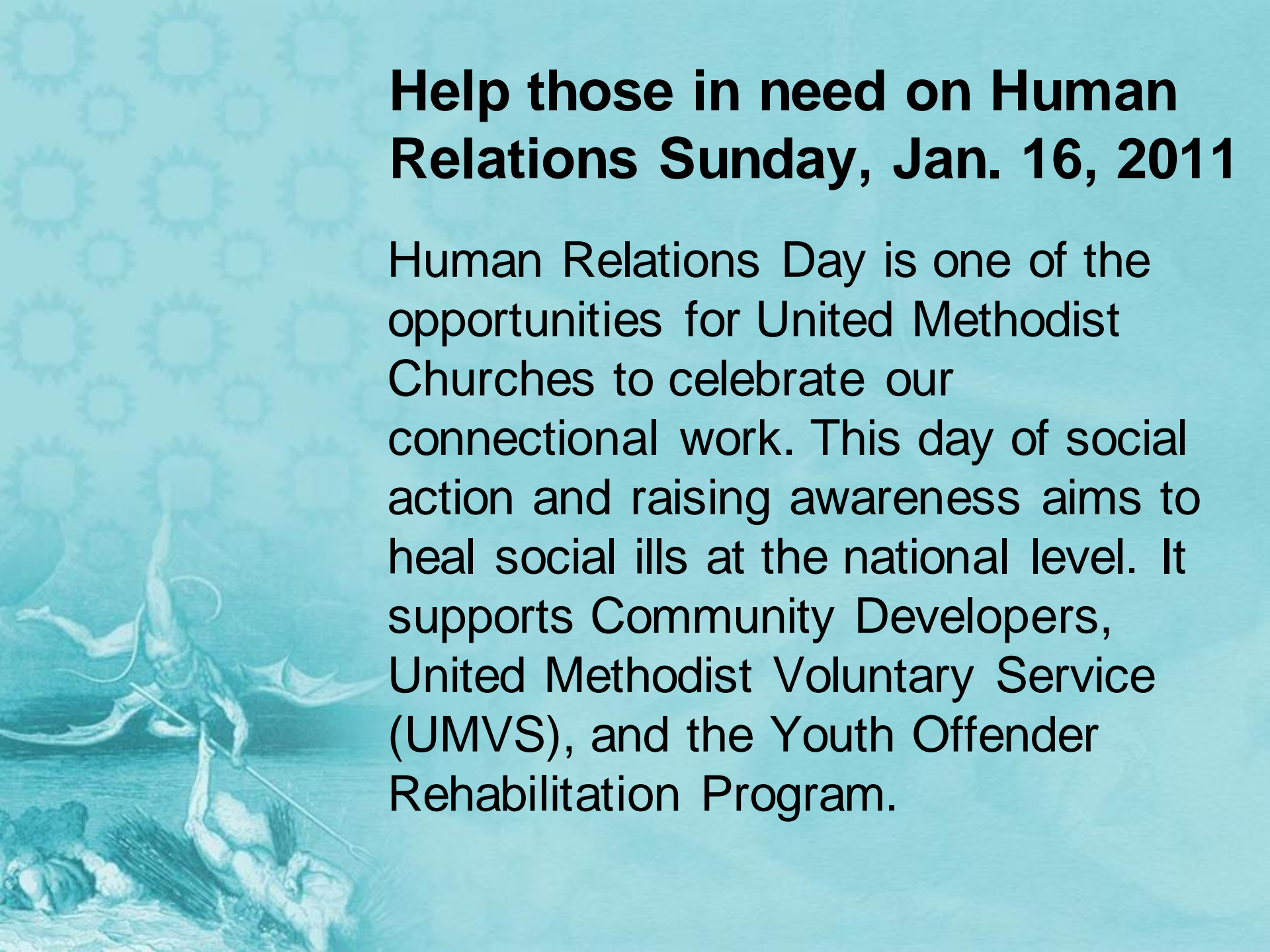
Blessings -- Mike and Libby Flowers

Welcome news for those age 70 ½ and older!

The new Tax Reform Act that was just signed into law on December 17th restores the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Charitable Rollover for 2010 and permits its use through December 31, 2011. It was also approved for the entire year of 2011. If you own an IRA and are over age 70 ½, you may transfer your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) directly from your IRA to the Dakotas United Methodist Foundation, your local United Methodist Church, or any qualified public charity. Contact your tax preparer or accountant for specific information in your case.

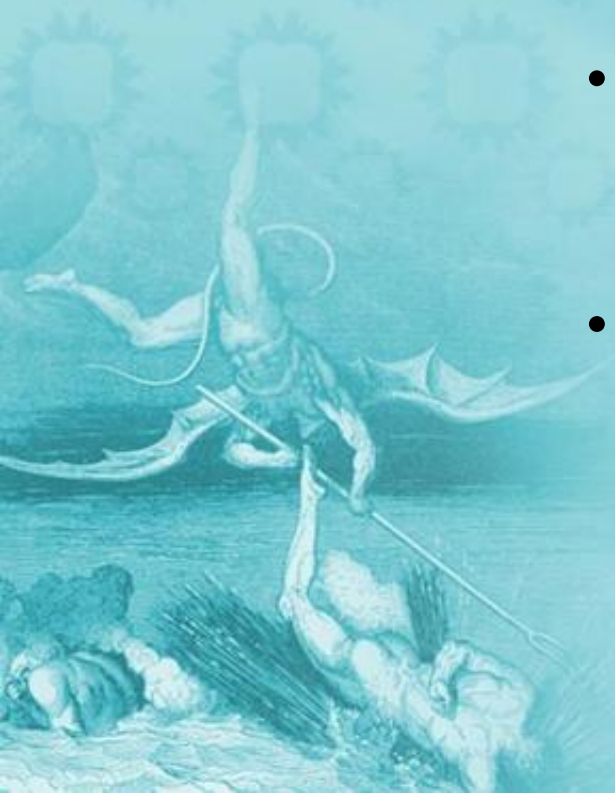
Help those in need on Human Relations Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011

Human Relations Day is one of the opportunities for United Methodist Churches to celebrate our connectional work. This day of social action and raising awareness aims to heal social ills at the national level. It supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service (UMVS), and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.



The Human Relations Day offering receipts will be allocated and administered as follows:

- Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program: 10%, administered by the General Board of Church & Society;
- Community Developers Program: 57%, administered by the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM); and
- United Methodist Voluntary Services Program: 33%, also administered by GBGM.



Adoption Information Meetings

Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota (LSS) will be holding information meetings for families interested in both domestic and international adoption services. Information meetings are scheduled for January 10, 2011 and February 7, 2011 at 6 pm at Lutheran Social Services – Center for Children and Youth, 621 East Presentation Street, Sioux Falls. If you are not able to attend either meeting an Information webinar is also scheduled for Saturday, February 5, 2011 at 10am (CT). If you are interested in the wonderful experience of growing your family through adoption please RSVP to an Information meeting/webinar or to find out more about LSS Adoption Services please contact Dede Mogck, Adoption Director, at 221-2351, toll free at 1-888-201-5061 (extension 2351) or dede.mogck@lsssd.org.

DAKOTAS CONFERENCE

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