



**One Great Hour of Sharing** The First Church Outreach Team is inviting your donation to One Great Hour of Sharing - OGHS, the United Church of Christ's annual offering empowering the UCC to work ecumenically, and with global partners, to respond to people in need in the U.S. and globally.

**Why Give?** When you give, One Great Hour of Sharing funding helps families around the world become stronger, healthier, and better equipped to address hardships and catastrophes that would otherwise leave them destitute and hopeless.

**How to Give to OGHS:** To give online, access the First Church Realm account using this [LINK](#) – then use the fund drop-down menu selecting OGHS - OR write a check to First Congregational Church, MEMO: OGHS, and mail to: First Congregational Church - 38 S. Winooski Ave. - Burlington, VT 05401

*God calls us to bear one another's burdens.* (Galatians 6)

**OGHS Funding Responds to Global Emergencies:** After storms large or small, One Great Hour of Sharing helps communities recover. Hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes nor the Ebola virus were able to escape our watchful eyes. OGHS funding provided real assistance to people in the Philippines, Vanuatu, Fiji, the northeast United States, western Africa, Haiti, and Japan as well as in other places where disaster struck.

*God walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death so we fear no evil.  
God's rod and staff comfort us. Our cup overflows.* (Psalm 23 adapted)

**OGHS Helps in the U.S.:** Families in over 30 states in the U.S. have been assisted in rebuilding their homes and lives after natural disasters. In the last decade, \$4.6 million has been provided by OGHS to respond to disaster response and recovery in the United States. The support given has leveraged millions more by building capacities of local communities to respond.

*I was a stranger and you welcomed me.* (Matthew 23:35)

**OGHS Supports Refugee Assistance and Resettlement:** One in every 122 people in the world today is forcibly displaced from their home, seeking refuge either within their national borders or beyond (data from UNHCR/United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees). Refugees are helped every day with finding safety and care through the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Life in a refugee camp - or as a refugee in an urban setting - is a permanent temporariness that defies the wholeness of individuals or communities. Our support offers deep and critical support for the immediate and ongoing needs of Syrian and other Refugees even before they arrive in the U.S. or another resettled country.

- Watch the video linked [HERE](#) to learn more about this work from the perspective of a refugee.

**OGHS Helps Women & Children:** With OGHS support, new mothers in places like East Timor, India and South Sudan gave birth in safe circumstances, even in out-of-the-way locations not otherwise served by medical facilities. Children in poor or minority communities are provided opportunities for a chance at the life education offers.

One Great Hour of Sharing ensures that much important work - helping families worldwide - continues. Through education, healthcare, and rebuilding communities, people are finding hope for a better future. Help the UCC help others now, and in the future through OGHS.