

**First Parish in Cohasset
Outreach Committee**

Members: Margie Brown, facilitator & treasurer; JoAnne Chittick, clerk;
Mark Alves; Bev Burgess; Carol Martin; Mary Parker; Mary Toropov

Mission: The purpose of the Outreach Committee (“Outreach”) is to provide First Parish members and friends with opportunities to make a difference in the lives of people outside our immediate church community. Our mission is to provide funds, raise awareness of, and help facilitate participation in non-partisan social programs that need help and assistance.

Current Functions: The current functions of Outreach are to:

1. **Identify charities** to receive funds from 50% of our **weekly plate collections** and provide information about these charities to the congregation. The beneficiaries may be local, national, or international. They represent a wide range of causes. Examples of the charities are social services, i.e. organizations addressing needs such as, but not limited to, food, housing, medicine, and education. These needs may be caused by war, climate change, immigration, and poverty. The plate collection proceeds and distributions are not related to the Community Outreach Fund expenditures (see below).
2. **Ensure full payment** of First Parish’s commitment to a sponsored child in Guatemala through the **Common Hope** organization.
3. **Manage the use of funds from the Community Outreach Fund** established by the First Parish by-laws, initially funded from a gift from Warner Brothers, and currently invested in Vanguard. Outreach will:
 - a. Promote the use of Community Outreach Fund money to seed activities for congregational involvement – both local (within 50 miles, e.g. packing food, trips to Rosie’s Place, and participation in Habitat for Humanity building) and non-local (e.g. trip to Guatemala, New Orleans).
 - b. Focus primarily on social services and education for distribution of these funds.
 - c. Distribute Community Outreach Funds through three categories:
 - i. **GRANTS** applied for by individual First Parish members to be used for a specific charitable project for which the individual will be providing charitable service (e.g. Eagle Scout building project for Food Pantry) or a First Parish group of no fewer than 5 members (e.g. Religious Education food packing project). Grants for individual projects will not exceed \$500. These grants generally are not given to provide a pledge for a fund raiser, e.g. walk for charity by an individual.
 - ii. **SUPPORT FUNDS** for church-wide charitable activities including the work of any First Parish social action committee. In the past these support funds have helped pay for fees required by charitable organizations such as Rosie’s place or Habitat for Humanity. Outreach is not a social action committee.
 - iii. **GENERAL DONATIONS** decided by the Outreach Committee (e.g. gift to Doctors Without Borders). On the basis that Outreach’s capacity for impact would be minimal, Outreach has determined not to fund international and non-local national natural disaster relief. Outreach may, however, support local natural disaster relief.
 - d. Ensure the Defined Principal is maintained at or above the by-law required amount, currently \$33,200.