

## **Process for Identifying Projects for Cedar Lane's Alternative Giving Program**

The mission of the International Concerns Coalition (ICC) is to build on the congregation's shared commitment to the ideals of justice, peace, freedom, compassion, and service to those in need in countries around the world. The ICC helps translate commitment into action by providing information and support to the Cedar Lane community, and other communities as appropriate, which are working to address international concerns.

ICC membership is open to all. Meeting dates and times will be publicized. For more information, contact Annette Scarpitta (annettedcedarlane@spamex.com).

The ICC has the responsibility to identify and select specific projects to support for the Alternative Giving Program at Cedar Lane. The program offers several nonprofit international organizations to which Cedar Laners and others can donate in exchange for an acknowledgment of that donation to a giftee.

The ICC considers nominations from the congregation for projects in which they, the congregants, are actively involved. Criteria for selection include the following:

- The project must support a specific international concern, not a broad international concern (e.g., to feed hungry children in a town in Guatemala, not to support world hunger).
- Donated funds go to support the specific needs of individuals and not an organization (e.g., to Organization X to pay for the purchase of solar lights, not to Organization X to support its programs).
- Because the ICC is a coalition, it is expected that a nominee would be willing to help implement the Alternative Giving Program should the nomination be approved for inclusion in the Cedar Lane Alternative Giving catalog. The nominee may also choose to go a step further by organizing a Cedar Lane event that focuses on and educates the congregation about the organization.
- Nominations from religious education classes and youth are encouraged. We often include RE social justice projects of an international nature.
- We may also offer an alternative giving catalog catered to RE children and youth.

When submitting your nomination, please consider that the ICC will look for a variety of organizations in different areas both geographical and type that represent opportunities for self-empowerment and/or aid to improve a community or region.

Examples below are of ICC core organizations that have been included in past year's catalogs. Each is affiliated with an ICC founding member.

- Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), which seeks to improve the status of poor, self-employed women in India by organizing them to achieve their goals of full employment and self-reliance (looking for an affiliate for this program)
- Kabultec, which provides adult literacy classes in Afghanistan
- Pueblo a Pueblo, which empowers Guatemalan individuals, organizations, and communities to improve their own lives by facilitating access to services, commodities, and financial resources
- Kakenya Center for Excellence, a groundbreaking school in Maasai Kenya that offers fourth and fifth grade girls a chance to learn and thrive in a self-empowering environment
- Cedar Lane's Partner Church Committee, which offers aid and self-empowerment to our partner church community in Transylvania
- Friends of Chernobyl Centers United States (FOCCUS), which offers relief and self-empowerment to communities affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster

Nominations must be submitted to the ICC, a subcommittee of the Social Justice Council, and can be handed to a representative at the SJC lounge table after services or placed in the SJC box in the Cedar Lane office.