



**Nazarene  
Compassionate  
Ministries**

*Compassion as a lifestyle*



**September 2015**

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## About NCM USA/Canada

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries seeks to live and act compassionately in the world following Christ's own life and ministry. We seek to be incarnations of the same gospel that Christ lived and preached and to be witnesses to the same love and compassion God has for our world.

**In the United States and Canada, NCM works closely with Compassionate Ministry Centers (CMCs) to bring compassion and healing to communities that need the love and presence of Christ.**

### Mission

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries USA/Canada partners with Nazarene interests to facilitate ministries which address the temporal as well as the spiritual needs of the economically disadvantaged.

### Churches

Local churches are the primary avenue for Nazarenes to reach out to those in their communities. Nazarene Compassionate



Forward to a Friend



**Our Mission:** *To inspire, train, and connect Christians who seek to bear witness to the Kingdom of God by reclaiming and restoring under-resourced neighborhoods*

**Our Vision:** *Holistically restored communities with Christians fully engaged in the process of transformation*

The Annual National Conference is the capstone of CCDA's ministry, designed to provide training and networking opportunities so ministers, leaders, practitioners, and volunteers can more effectively proclaim and live out Christ's Kingdom. It also provides practitioners living in under-resourced communities an opportunity to rest and refuel with like-minded individuals seeking reconciliation and Biblical justice. With Illuminate as the theme for this year's conference, we are asking Christ to shine light in our hearts and minds as we remember the past and how it shapes us, understand our present realities, and look forward to a future filled with God's grace and justice.

**Our National Conference includes:**

Ministries seeks to support churches in starting and maintaining ministry to the underserved and marginalized. We believe every church, no matter size or budget, can find ways to meet needs in their community with compassion, creative, and the firm foundation and life-changing power of the Gospel message.

### **CMCs- Compassionate Ministry Centers**

A Compassionate Ministry Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the under-resourced in the community. While these organizations are often affiliated with a specific local church, they are in a strategic position to unite others in their community around a high-needs cause.

### **NDR- Nazarene Disaster Response**

Nazarene Disaster Response is Nazarenes mobilizing for disaster through Readiness, Response, and Recovery. Local Nazarenes are in a unique position to understand, serve, and remain with disaster victims in their own neighborhoods. In large-scale events the denomination can come alongside local efforts with the support of volunteers and donors from across the country and through our strong partnerships with other disaster relief agencies. NDR serves victims regardless of race, creed, or economic status by concentrating on assistance to the poor, elderly, and handicapped.

### **W&W- Work & Witness**

Work & Witness provides opportunities for Nazarenes to serve together in support of existing ministries such as churches, CMCs, and Nazarene Disaster Response. Work & Witness can be any type of project, from construction to evangelism to compassionate outreach.

## **Contact**

Toll Free Number: 1-800-306-

\* **Workshops** highlighting best practices in Christian Community Development; providing examples, insights and practical how-to's that can be replicated in communities across the country.

\* **Plenary sessions** featuring inspirational, experienced practitioners of Christian Community Development.

\* **Opportunities for networking** with other ministry leaders who share a similar vision, bringing different perspectives and ideas. In addition, regional networking sessions provide opportunities for collaboration.

\* **Exhibits** providing an opportunity for continuous learning beyond the conference through training resources, books, websites, and consulting.

\* **Action Tanks** provide our experienced members an opportunity to listen and engage with each other and develop innovative solutions to enhance the flourishing of all our communities.

\* **Conversations** are offered as opportunities for listening and dialogue on significant issues at the forefront of our communities and relationships with each other.

We encourage you to join with our Wesleyan friends at this amazing conference. [\*\*Click HERE to Register\*\*](#)

## **Current Funding Opportunities**

**Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Child Well-Being Program** supports innovative, potentially replicable approaches to preventing child abuse and neglect that targeted the youngest children ages 0-6 years.

[\*\*For guidelines on submitting a letter of inquiry\*\*](#)

**Heinz Foundation** gives to programs that improve nutrition, advance educational and community opportunities for minorities, and foster healthy communities for children and youth. [\*\*Review grant guidelines\*\*](#)

**Dollar General Family Literacy** funds organizations that provide adult and children's education, parent and child together time, and parenting classes. [\*\*Application Available in January 2016\*\*](#)

**Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Pathways Out of Poverty Initiative** supports programs and that improve economic security for working families by promoting savings and asset development, helping the hard-to-serve find entry-level employment and promoting career development among low-wage workers. [\*\*For details on submitting a Letter of Inquiry\*\*](#)

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**State Farm GoodNeighbor Citizenship Company Grants** support safety (disaster preparedness and recovery) and education (life skills and service learning) programs. [Apply](#)  
*Deadline: October 30, 2015*

**Ben and Jerry's Foundation** seeks proposals for social and environmental justice projects organized by grassroots community organizing groups with annual budgets under \$500,000. [More information](#)  
*Deadline: October 15, 2015*

## Family Strengthening

**Parental interactions are critical for healthy early childhood development.** However, instability and parenting stress prevent low income families from encouraging healthy development of their children's emotional, social, cognitive, and motor abilities. Positive parenting is associated with appropriate child development, school outcomes, and successful adulthood.

Family strengthening initiatives should promote family economic security, child-focused education and therapy, and parent-focused interventions through **(1) basic information and support, (2) screening, assessment and referral, (3) parent education and peer support, (4) individualized family case management and home visits, and (5) family preservation.** [1]

Best practices for family strengthening include:

- Weekly contact with families for six months
- Individualized services and family-defined goals
- Family-centered approach
- Opportunities for families to thrive
- Linked services and supports
- Strengthen family assets to achieve self sufficiency
- Combine case management and peer support
- Serve both children and parents

**Center for the Study of Social Policy: Strengthening Families Protective Framework** focuses on five factors that maximize the capacity of parents and communities to promote child well-being and intellectual, emotional, and moral growth during early childhood:

**Parental Resilience** (increase parents' ability to effectively manage both general life and parenting stress)

**Social Connections** (create healthy, sustained relationships between families and people, institutions, and community)

**Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development** (increase developmentally appropriate parenting practices)

- Nurturing, responsive, and trusting relationships

- Regular, predictable, and consistent routines
- Interactive language experiences
- A safe environment
- Opportunities to explore and learn by doing

**Concrete Support in Times of Need** (enable parents to identify, seek, and receive needed services designed to preserve dignity and promote healthy development)

**Social and Emotional Competence of Children** (create an environment and experiences that enable the child to form secure adult and peer relationships and experience, regulate, and express emotions). Promoting factors:

- Caregiver social, emotional competence
- Nurturing, trusting caregiver relationship
- Modeling and practicing skills with the child
- Responsive interaction with caregivers
- Positive encouragement
- Regular, predictable routines
- A safe environment
- Interactive language and emotional expression
- Opportunities to explore and learn by doing

The following concepts should also be considered.

- Build parent capabilities to promote optimal development of their children through **(a) information and skill-building to improve parent-child relationships, (b) case management and referrals to address underlying family issues, and (c) direct services provided simultaneously to children and their parents.**
- Consider the significant impact of culture on parenting beliefs, definitions, values, expectations, and behaviors, and parent-child relationships.
- Focus on strengthening existing family resources and competencies, empowering them to participate in their own development process, solve problems, and learn new skills
- Mediate the negative effects of toxic stress on early child development through supportive parenting, positive peer relationships, and use of available community resources
- Build resilience of parents to positively adapt despite significant life adversity through practice
- Protective factors mediate the effects of risk factors and decrease negative outcomes
- Aim for family well-being in which family members:
  - Know they are loved and enjoy each other
  - Communicate and interact together
  - Protect each other
  - Provide reciprocal care, emotional support, hope, encouragement, and guidance
  - Resolve conflicts and seek peace
  - Demonstrate resilience despite adversity
  - Protective factors mediate the effects of risk factors and decrease negative outcomes

# Information Resources for Family Strengthening

**National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse** provides family strengthening programs with toolkits, webinars, and other resources for engaging fathers.

**National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families Virtual Training Center** offers online courses on healthy relationship skills and tutorials for integrating health marriage and relationship education into other programs.

**Annie E. Casey Center for Working Families** model integrates financial coaching and education, job placement and career advancement, and access to public benefits to help families achieve economic self-sufficiency. **View the How-To Guide**

**SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices** is a clearinghouse of parenting curricula and program resources.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Compassion Conference**

**July 14-16, 2016**

**at Olivet Nazarene University**

**Compassion Conference** is a global gathering that will inspire you to lead your church in living out God's call to compassion and equip you for transformational ministry.

It's an intentional space where you can connect, collaborate, create, and begin to change your world.

**Join together with other leaders and practitioners from the Church of the Nazarene around the world.**

Learn together what it means to live in the margins of your community, and reflect on biblical perspectives on the church's role in living out compassion in transformative ways.

We can no longer turn our heads to the needs in our communities. Compassion is the Church in action. And the time is now to go deeper.

**Register Today**

## Greetings!

Strengthening the family is critical at a time when everything in is working against them. Our culture, divorce, financial struggles, and other daily challenges are tearing our families apart.

**Now, more than ever, we must fight for the sanctity of the family** and equip them with the tools they need to grow stronger.



**God has uniquely charged the Church to support the family.** The Church must be the foundation of our families to equip and support them with the tools they need to not just live, but also thrive.

We hope this eNews provides you with the insights, thoughts, and resources you need to better serve our families.

Thanks for all you do,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Height'.

Jay Height

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