

Mission Resources: A Journey to Vitality

“Who are you waiting for?”

By Nicole Caldwell-Gross, Director of Mission & Multi-Cultural Ministries
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Hamilton UMC Community Garden

literacy program. It grew to 80 student participants. When our work started getting noticed, we had people from the community start reaching out to us as partners. With their help, we started planning a community garden. The casinos, a local restaurant, a local college and the fire department got involved. The plan for the garden turned into a garden with an amphitheater and a playground. The food produced in the garden led to a community nutrition initiative and a family cooking ministry. As a result we grew new disciples and our worship attendance increased.

Looking back I know that our experience is not unique. The same Holy Spirit is alive and moving mission forward all over Greater New Jersey. So, what are you waiting on? You are who you are waiting for!

When my husband and I began serving Hamilton Memorial UMC in Atlantic City, there were 27 people in worship and a couple of hundred dollars in the bank. Within a few months a dead body was dropped in front of the church. With these harsh realities it would have been easy to believe that our best days were behind us and the best people were beyond us.

Yet, God reminded us of one simple reality: with the power of the Holy Spirit what looks dead may be resurrected. We began by asking one simple question: We know what we don't have, but what do we have that God can use? What we had was an empty lot next door, a few educators within the congregation and a sincere passion for youth education. Building on these assets within the congregation we created a summer



Rev. Jevon Caldwell-Gross and Rev. Cliff Still, former and current pastors at Hamilton Memorial UMC in Atlantic City.

Missional Movement Starters

WATCH:

Derek Sivers Ted Talk, “How to start a Movement” at www.ted.com

READ:

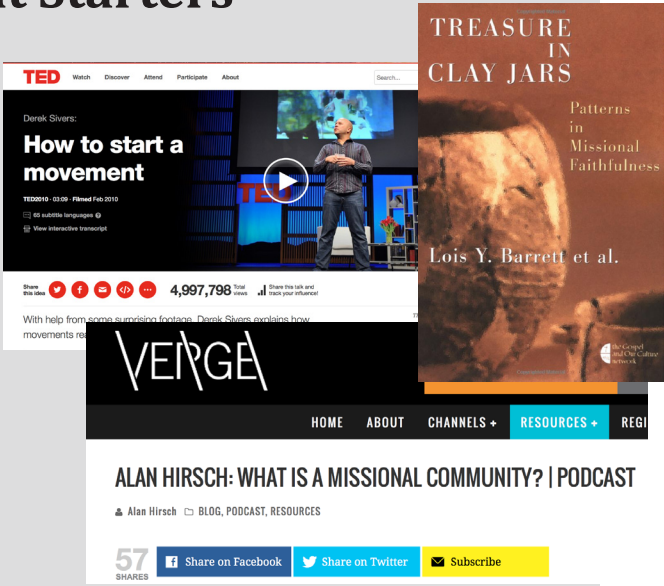
Treasures in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness, Lois Barrett

LISTEN:

“What is a Missional Community?” podcast by Alan Hirsch at www.vergenetwork.org

REMEMBER:

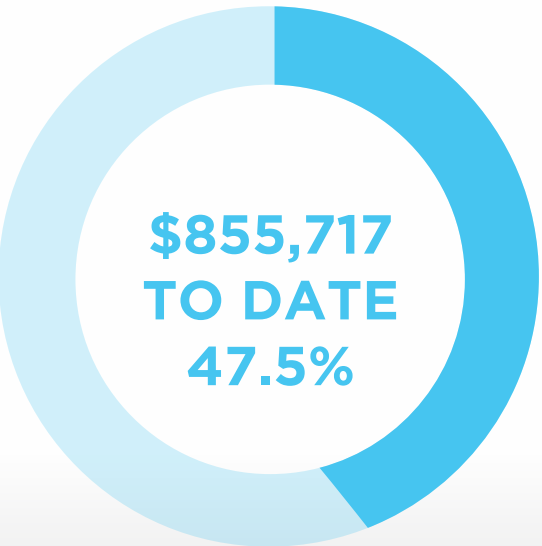
“The church is not sent on a mission by God, rather God is on a mission and the church is called to join it.”
– Neil Cole



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MAKE A DIFFERENCE



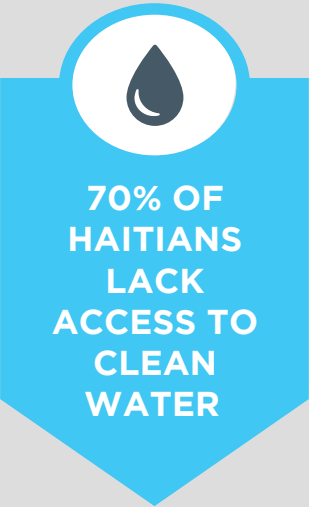
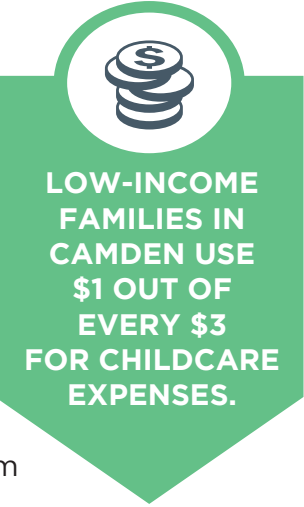
**Partner with CUMAC
in Patterson.**
www.cumacecho.org

Contact: Community Engagement Coordinator for Volunteers, Stephanie Ames.
sames@cumacecho.org
973-742-5518 ext.13.



**Visit the
Neighborhood Center**
www.ncicamden.org
Contact: Volunteer Director, Christa Galvin.
856-365-5295.

Visit Respond Inc.
www.respondinc.com
Contact: Executive Director, Dr. Wilbert Mitchell.
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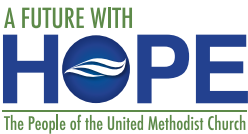
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Contact: 732-359-1012 to help with construction, feed volunteers or donate to help rebuild homes



**For additional information and
support on mission resources:**



www.gnjumc.org/mission

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