

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MISSION GIVING:

# Standing Strong When Times Are Tough

by MARTHA KNIGHT

"When times are tough, women come through for each other!" That is a direct quote from the Treasurer's Report to the Women's Division board of directors meeting in October 2008. The subject was the 2008 financials, year-to-date, and the projection for Mission Giving through the end of that year.

That statement was a declaration of confidence in the dedication of each local United Methodist Women member to the mis-

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Martha Knight is treasurer of the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

sion they share with each other and with women, children and youth here at home and around the world. It was also based on a deep-seeded belief in this characteristic of women down through the ages. Women are about helping each other and caring for their own children, and when need-be other women's children.

Well, you did it! You proved this confidence to be well founded! United Methodist Women members succeeded in meeting their Pledge to Mission in one of the most difficult years in U.S. economic history. It is because of each one of you reading this article that United Methodist Women met its 2008 commitments to our sisters

and their children. Were you able to do so because your economic responsibilities were lighter? No. Was it because none of you have lost your jobs in this new economy? No. Was it because your bills were lower or your mortgage paid off? Again, no.

United Methodist Women is a tireless and inspiring community of Christian women who seek to follow Christ in his ministry, ever guided by his Word and example, and acting on their love of Christ and belief in his teachings of love and service.

Your Mission Giving supports programs addressing the core needs of women everywhere: speaking up for those who cannot speak up for



Betty Backstrom/UMNS

*Children enjoy swim lessons at Mission Giving-supported North Rampart Community Center in New Orleans, La.*

themselves; helping to provide women with food, shelter, health care and an empowered status so they can care for their families.

Because of you 30 scholarships were given to women seeking to improve their minds, futures and ability to care for their families through education and career training. Because of you 71 community centers were better able to care for children who otherwise would not have day and other care. You supported nine schools, nine residences for children, seven homes for women in times of trouble or transition. Your pledge of support sustained seven missionaries in the United States and other countries serving in education, health care, and other ministries of presence that spread God's love to people too often forgotten by world leaders.

Each year, you have the opportunity to give your mission dollars, time, efforts and prayers to the collective ministry of United Methodist Women. Your gifts make a world of difference. In 2008 and in the foreseeable future your gifts will mean even more, for times are tough and demands for Mission Giving dollars are many. Mission Giving dollars will mean the world to children whose parents may have lost their jobs, to mothers who find it harder to make ends meet. Scholarships and grants to community centers will mean even more this year as schools and mission institutions face declining state and local funding.

Your Mission Giving in 2008 totaled \$16.5 million. This is up \$180,000 from 2007. That is truly a reason to celebrate. Total revenue from all sources was \$29.5 million for 2008, or \$200,000 more than 2007 — even with interest earned on endowment funds down more than \$500,000 for the year. This also was a significant achievement. Income from publications helped to make up this difference. Publication revenue was up from 2007 by \$1.8 million. Mission Giving

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN- Treasurer's Report

December 31, 2008

<i>Operating Revenues</i>	2008	2007
Mission Giving.....	\$16,550,597	\$16,370,902
Designated Giving.....	1,313,554	1,314,551
Interest and Investment Income....	1,605,646	2,070,287
Bequest, Gifts and Contributions..	673,031	1,393,420
Publication, rental income and other revenues.....	5,883,297	4,724,356
Brooks Howell House Receipts from Residents.....	2,724,638	2,729,707
Other.....	685,691	681,393
<b>Total Operating Revenue .....</b>	<b>\$29,476,503</b>	<b>\$29,284,616</b>
<i>Mission Giving</i>		
Pledge to Mission.....	\$12,690,689	\$12,824,634
Special Mission Recognition .....	897,938	893,546
Gift to Mission.....	937,445	619,866
Gift in Memory.....	412,576	415,495
World Thank Offering.....	1,611,949	1,617,361
<b>Total Mission Giving .....</b>	<b>\$16,550,597</b>	<b>\$16,370,902</b>
<i>Designated Giving</i>		
Call to Prayer.....	\$ 1,003,384	\$ 986,539
Brighter Future for Children and Youth.....	59,929	54,234
Assembly Offering.....	8,909	8,929
Other.....	241,332	264,849
<b>Total Designated Giving .....</b>	<b>\$ 1,313,554</b>	<b>\$ 1,314,551</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenditures.....</b>	<b>\$27,686,919</b>	<b>\$35,858,754</b>
<b>Total Net Assets.....</b>	<b>\$47,715,693</b>	<b>\$74,751,511</b>

represented 61 percent of revenue.

The change in spending on operations and program from 2007 to 2008 was \$744,819. However, due to the change in financial accounting standards in 2007, which resulted in a one-time recognition of pension liabilities, the total change in expenditures from 2007 to 2008 was \$8.2 million.

Total operating revenue exceeded total operating expenditures by \$1.79 million. However, realized and unrealized decreases in the value of endowment and pension investments of \$28.4 million for 2008 due to the market crisis, resulted in a decrease of net assets from \$74.75 million in 2007 to \$47.72 million at the end of 2008.

