

# GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS

## Motivation

Jesus in the gospel gives us the commission to do as he did. We express this commission by supporting social service and social action to bring about a more just society. In response to Jesus' call, our parish moved toward action by adopting the following goals:

1. Raise the consciousness of individuals to local, national, and international needs.
2. Allocate funds to alleviate poverty and human suffering.
3. Inform the parish of human needs identified within the community.
4. Encourage people to volunteer their time, talent, and treasure.

We invite STA parishioners, to apply for a Social Justice Grant on behalf of organizations that will work to implement these goals. These grants are funded with a percentage of the STA weekly collection, which includes envelopes, loose change, and direct deposits. The collection does not include special envelopes, such as Catholic Charities and the Campaign for Human Development, or contributions from alumni or parents. Additional contributions received from individuals who specify Social Justice support, are also included as part of the grant fund.

## Eligibility

Funds may be requested **only** by current members of St. Thomas Aquinas (STA) Church and Catholic Student Center for organizations and causes with which they have a close connection and commitment.

## Applying for a grant

Applications are due once a year on April 1. [Application forms](#) may be found on the Social Justice page of the STA website. Forms are also available in the church office.

## Review

Priority will be given to organizations and projects that serve the basic needs of marginalized people. Factors considered in selecting recipients include, but are not limited to:

- a. Financial need
- b. Impact of assistance to the target organization
- c. Commitment to their goals
- d. Effect of withholding aid
- e. Stability of the organization
- f. Consistency with the philosophy and mission of the STA community

Up to 90% of the budget line available will be allocated to applicants selected from among those who meet the April 1 deadline. The other 10% will be maintained in a fund for emergency applications throughout the year. At least 50% of the allocations will be to agencies within Story County.

The review will be conducted by an ad hoc committee appointed by the STA Social Justice Committee, that consists of at least three residents and at least one student. The ad hoc committee will review applications according to these guidelines, and present recommendations to the STA Social Justice Committee, which will make the final recommendations. Anyone who submits a grant application for consideration may not be a part of the ad hoc committee reviewing the applications.

## Disbursement

The STA Coordinator of Ministries, in cooperation with the STA Financial Secretary, will arrange that checks or wired funds are transmitted as soon as possible after the review and recommendation, but no later than June 1.

Grant applications received after the April 1 deadline will be considered at the discretion of the Social Justice Committee, and based upon the availability of funds.