

Action Items - African American Community

In addition to the teaching and educational resources we have provided on the African American experience, we have also been striving to create positive relational and financial impact in our community around the issue of race. Below is a list of many of the activities we are participating in this year. If you have questions or would like to get involved, please email outreach@gracechurchsc.org for more details.

- Finance department has transferred \$250,000 of our reserve savings into an African American owned bank based in South Carolina, recently renamed Optus Bank.
- Many members have initiated personal relationships aimed at understanding, reconciling, and partnering in the gospel (e.g., a pastoral and leadership reconciliation group in the Powdersville and Easley area continues to sponsor events that promote diversity and understanding through our foster care ministry).
- Multifaceted ministry (including foster family recruitment, training, and support) is taking place in the foster care community (1/3 of children in the DSS system are African American).
- Over forty African American children have been adopted into Grace families.
- \$40,000 has been contributed to help with remodeling efforts at two churches in Greenville County, one African American and one multicultural.
- An additional \$50,000 has been gifted to a local African American church for debt payoff.
- Financial support and both inside and outside mentors have been provided for JumpStart prison ministry. (53% of JumpStart participants are African-American). The financial investment this year is \$112,000.
- Yearly support (\$15,000) is provided to two church plant/revitalization efforts in Greenville.
- Staff are working with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) to recruit students for leadership and ministry training.
- Work is ongoing in Allendale County, including a youth leadership program, tutoring, and summer camp. This partnership was established in 2009, and the financial investment in 2020 is \$163,000.
- Staff are working with several African American churches in the Upstate on affordable housing opportunities.
- Staff are collaborating with Homes of Hope on affordable housing solutions for vulnerable populations. Financial support this year is \$100,000
- Financial support for Mill Community Ministries is \$65,000 this year.
- COVID-19 donations are going to organizations working with vulnerable populations, including African-Americans (\$115,000).

