

UTO Annual Report for 2023

Hello, my name is Debbie Luke, and I am your United Thank Offering (UTO) Director for the Diocese of East Carolina. I would like to tell you a little about UTO and how we can take part in this wonderful ministry.

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

God blesses us each day. From moments of self-care to moments of interaction with people who are helping us, good things are happening all the time that we simply miss because we are rushing to the next thing. Today, UTO challenges us to notice all the good things happening. UTO encourages us to GIVE, MAKE and BLESS.

GIVE

Give God Thanks for your blessings!

MAKE

Make an offering for each Blessing-UTO Blue Boxes have allowed us to do this for years.

BLESS

Your blessing becomes a blessing for others.

Once all the thank offerings are collected, the UTO Board gives them away as grants. UTO grants often focus on urgent human needs – meaning your individual gratitude gift helps with racial reconciliation efforts, ending poverty, and much more.

The thank offerings that you put into your Blue Box combined with others, funds innovative missions and ministry in The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. UTO Grants can be used for startup funds for new ministries or take a current ministry in a new and exciting direction. This year Father Fred is applying for a UTO grant for the Hispanic ministry. So please keep him in your prayers.

Most of us want to serve God, live a happy life, leave a lasting impression on someone, and make the world a better place. It can seem like too much to accomplish for the average person, but UTO (the United Thank Offering) supports everyone in doing just that through practicing

gratitude daily. Becoming mindful of the good things in your life every day makes you happier. Being a happier and more grateful person allows you to be more generous with others, which will leave a lasting impression on them and often make them happier too. And acting on your gratitude by giving to others through donations to your UTO Blue Box makes the world a better place, UTO combines all of those gratitude gifts and disperses them around the world in grants for projects that change peoples' lives every day. You can change the world, and it starts with gratitude for God's gifts every day.

So, let's start this year with being thankful and making our blessing by filling your Little Blue Box. Our ingathering for the Spring will be the first Sunday in June 2nd, 2024 and our Fall ingather is Nov. 3rd, 2024. If you should need blue boxes, UTO supplies please feel free to contact me. God Bless.