



"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

-Matthew 13: 31-32

2012

Annual Report

Our Vision | A vibrant Church in the city, sharing the hope of Christ with all people.



Our Mission

Restoring the city to God by linking and developing people, communities and congregations.

Mission & Ministry Report

To the Building Hope Faithful:

You're holding in your hands our attempt to summarize the many amazing things Building Hope in the City was able to achieve in 2012, thanks to God's goodness and your support. While it's impossible to capture every story of transformation we witnessed last year, we believe this report will give you a substantial taste of how lives are being changed. Thank you for joining us in this important work.

Building Hope in the City's vision is for a healthy, vibrant and effective church in the city that renews all it touches with news of God's love and favor through faith in His Son Jesus. That vision continues to generate ministries that are as multi-faceted as the city. And, why not? We believe that the church's role and message in urban society can and should extend far beyond Sunday mornings. When fully equipped, the local church can, in addition to Gospel proclamation, tackle many of the issues that plague our city - education, employment, recovery, immigration, community development and leadership cultivation.

This vision is one that God continues to bless in abundance. As you will see in the pages that follow, 2012 was a strong year fiscally. Moreover, last year, we completed a study in partnership with some of our leadership supporters, who overwhelmingly encouraged us to continue pursuing a ministry model that's self-sufficient and better poised to extend its impact even further. More to follow on that in the months ahead!

For now, please know that your ongoing commitment and support are a great encouragement to us. Your contribution - be it financially, via a helping hand as a volunteer, or in much-needed prayer - matters greatly. Thank you for all that you're doing and for all the ways you give.

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Leadership Development & Church Planting

MISSION: Provide training, mentoring, peer support and resources so that traditional and emerging non-traditional leaders grow into God's calling of starting new churches and ministries throughout the city.

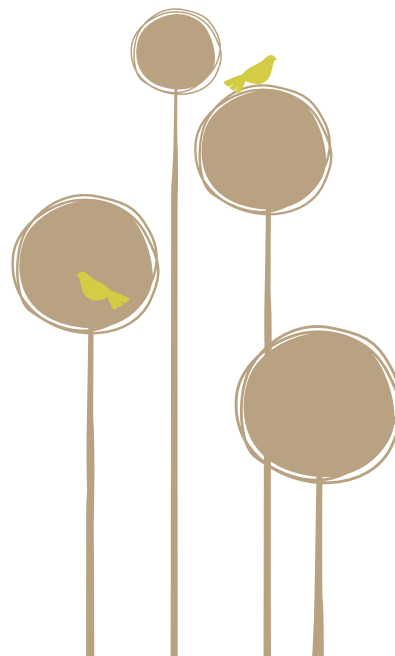
2012 Accomplishments

Westown Church Plant

- 30+ people gathered in weekly small groups, neighborhood contacts with 300+ residents, continued progress toward 2014 public worship launch.
- Additional community engagement activities thanks to arrival in Cleveland of Rev. Ramdat Sarran and his family.

Urban Ministry Leadership Institute

- Peer-based mentoring for eight local pastors and church leaders.
- Leadership conference with Alan Hirsch that equipped and networked 175+ local leaders.
- New "The City" ministry and Bible study course attended by 20 people.
- Publication of Rev. Johnson's book "How to Hug a Smelly Guy."



Hope Reaches Beyond Cleveland

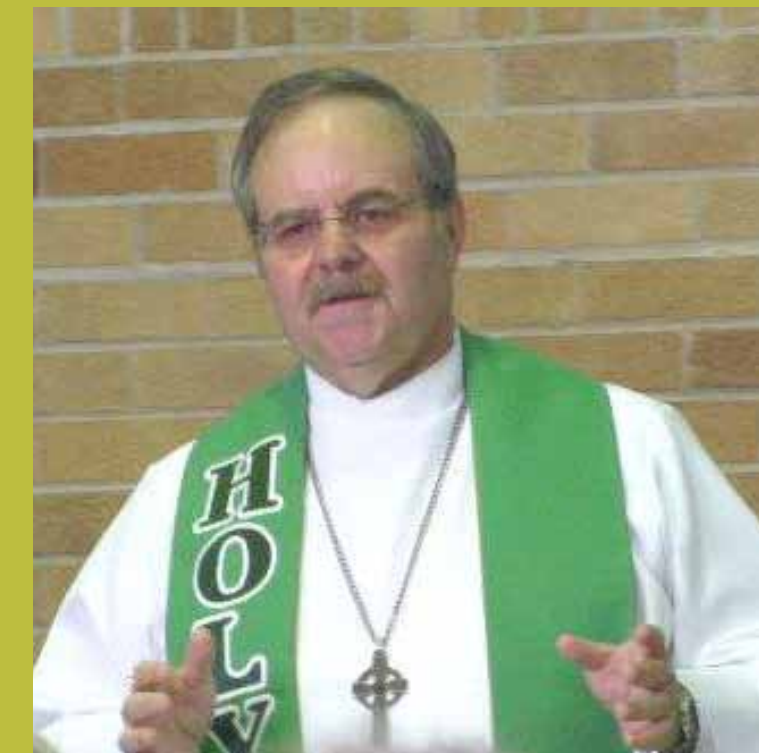
REV. ERIC LINTHICUM, WASHINGTON DC

"When I graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, I had no interest in urban ministry, at all. Shortly after I met Jeff Johnson at an event sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church, he challenged me to think about it."

Some years later, I was called to an urban congregation. I accepted that call in part because of Jeff's words. It wasn't long before I realized I was in over my head; I quickly called Jeff and Building Hope in the City. While it took some years for it to happen, out of that call came Building Hope in the City - Cincinnati, a sister nonprofit mission organization to BHITC in Cleveland.

Building Hope in the City ended up helping me, my congregation, and other Cincinnati congregations understand what urban ministry is and is not and how to do it. There are Cincinnatians being touched with the Gospel of Jesus Christ because Building Hope in the City and Jeff Johnson didn't just care about their church, but about the church, including the one in Cincinnati. But it didn't end there.

I eventually was called to the Metro Washington DC area and Jeff Johnson and Building Hope in the City, once again, have been here to encourage my understanding of this very diverse congregation and neighborhood. If I can be called an urban ministry pastor it is because of what Building Hope in the City and Jeff Johnson have taught me."

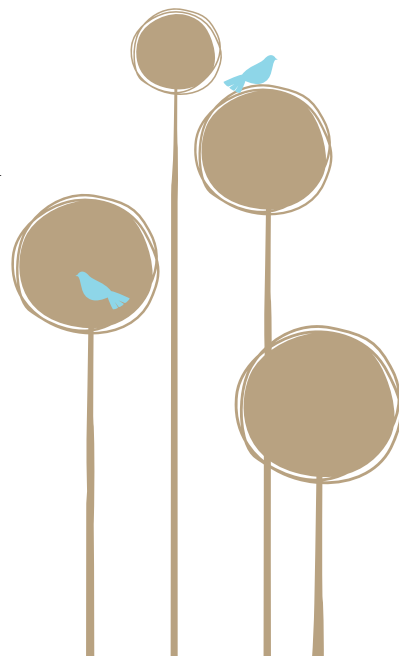


Refugee and Immigrant Ministries

MISSION: Meet the social, educational and spiritual needs of refugee and immigrant communities through a variety of relational-based ministries that build trust between Christians and non-Christians and enable these people to thrive.

2012 Accomplishments

- 110 refugees (adult and children) paired by family with BHITC volunteers in mentoring relationships, representing a 40% increase in reach over the previous year. BHITC mentors encouraged greater self-sufficiency through cultural learning, English instruction, home purchases and the pursuit of employment.
- Multiple New American Café events in Cleveland and Akron expanded BHITC's reach by more than 30% over 2011, reaching 150 refugees with skills-building lessons on understanding life and culture in America.
- 65 Arabic-speaking women were served by more than 55 BHITC volunteers through women's care and fellowship gatherings, small group Bible studies and other activities.
- A new partnership with ABLE (Adult Basic & Literacy Education) helped expand BHITC's instruction courses in English to serve 27 new adult immigrants. An added 30 refugees and immigrants gained greater self-sufficiency through advanced studies to complete a GED or the U.S. Citizenship exam.



Citizen of Hope (and America!)

Racca enrolled in a BHITC English class in 2009. At that time, the married mother of two knew little English. She had been raised in Morocco and moved to Cleveland in 2004.

BHITC staff and volunteers began lovingly pouring themselves into Racca. Her English improved steadily. Soon, she began studies for the U.S. Citizenship test, tutored weekly by her BHITC friends to pass the exam. Last year, Racca became a citizen of the United States, a dream she thought she'd never realize.

Soon afterward, however, Racca's life took a turn for the worse. Her husband abandoned her with little warning and returned to Palestine. Circumstances deteriorated quickly, as she lost her job due to no available childcare. Left with no family in America, no income, limited English and only an elementary school education, Racca's options looked grim....but God had other ideas.

Through the support of volunteers and BHITC, Racca was able to pay her rent until she was able to find a job. She was hired at a local hospital, found an apartment she could afford, enrolled her children in school and herself in GED classes.

Recently Racca was hospitalized with an infection that was so severe that it was uncertain if she would survive. Once again, BHITC volunteers stepped in, helping coordinate transportation and childcare for Racca as she recovered. "If Building Hope in the City had not been there, I think I would have died in my apartment, and no one would have known," she says.

Racca describes her experience over the last few years as "having a darkness in front of my eyes that stopped me from seeing where I was going or what to do next, but when I met all of you at Building Hope in the City, I trusted that you were leading me through the darkness. Now, my future looks clearer. Racca now meets regularly with BHITC's Nadia Abuamsha and other women for prayer and study."



Faith-Based Neighborhood and Community Ministries

MISSION: Effectively address “urban life” issues from the congregational and neighborhood level with Christ-centered ministries (BHITC’s “Toolbox”) that bring people into deeper relationship with God and one another.

2012 Accomplishments

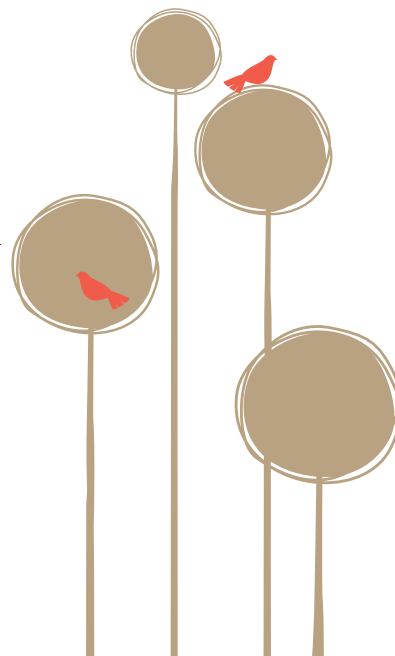
Urban Life Issue: Youth Literacy, Mentoring and Academic Achievement

- Summer Programs: 42 youth were served through summer reading initiatives at Family Ministry Center and Gethsemane Lutheran Church. 80% of those enrollees were not connected to BHITC or its partner ministries previously.
- Tutoring/Literacy Ministries: 95 school-aged students served through five church partners, receiving free weekly one-on-one tutoring and mentoring with an adult volunteer. Adults in 15% of these families were linked to additional BHITC ministries, such as GED and English courses.

- In 2012, 78% of tutoring students increased their reading level by at least half a grade level; 40% of tutoring students were reading at grade level by the end of the 2011-2012 school year, an improvement of 10%. One half of BHITC’s tutoring students begin the school year two or more grades behind in reading.

Urban Life Issue: Recovery Support

- 25 adults participated in a weekly, faith-based 12-step ministry.



Hope Pays It Forward

DERIC AND BRITTANY TURNER

Each Thursday night, nearly 50 student-volunteer tutor pairs, 90+ people total, meet in the basement of Trinity’s Community Center on West 30th Street for an evening of tutoring, literacy and mentoring. It’s a recipe for ministry that’s causing grades to improve and giving students hope for completing their education. Moreover, as demonstrated by siblings Deric and Brittany Turner, it’s a ministry that’s highly contagious!

The Turners – Brittany, a 9th grade student, and Deric, a 10th grade student – were introduced to the Tutoring Ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church two years ago by fellow student and Trinity tutoring participant, Josh Latorres. Josh and Deric were in the same school at that time.

Since enrolling, the Turners have flourished academically and beyond. Tutor Kathy Foldesy reports that Brittany’s math grades have improved from a B to an A for this most recent school period. Plus, Brittany has joined Trinity’s Youth Group, participating in multiple church activities, small group Bible studies and more.

Deric was also initially tutored in math. In 2012, however, Deric switched roles, moving from receiving assistance as a student to providing it as a tutor. Each Thursday night, Deric now mentors and tutors kindergarten student Tayeshawn Harris, passing on the encouragement he received to someone else. Mary Forsythe, Trinity’s tutoring coordinator, says she sees a future teacher in Deric and is encouraging him to set his sights on college. “Thanks to Deric, Tayeshawn has learned a lot, including how to print his name, and is eager to learn more,” says Mary. “I’ve watched Deric prepare many activities for Tayeshawn. They really enjoy each other’s company, which makes learning fun.”

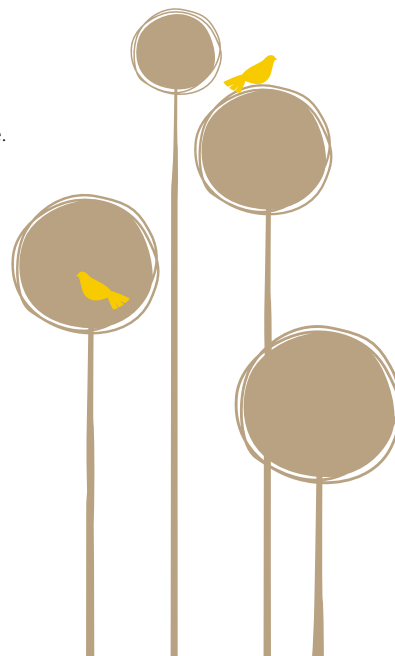


Volunteer Training and Deployment for Urban Mission

MISSION: To identify and recruit new volunteers with a passion for urban ministry, and assist them in determining and developing their God-given gifts and abilities for His service.

2012 Accomplishments

- Volunteers donated 21,403 hours to Building Hope in the City - a value of \$449,463!
- 168 new volunteers incorporated into city ministries.
- 400+ volunteers received additional training in urban ministry, attending BHITC-led workshops on poverty, cross-cultural awareness, refugee/immigrant mentoring, teaching English, tutoring children with special needs and Bible study courses.
- 523 volunteers participated in BHITC's two annual days of service. These volunteers blessed the work of 46 different city ministries, churches, and agencies in Cleveland and Akron.
- 72 volunteers participated in three *Grace in the City* Mission weekends, which is a partnership between Grace Church (Middleburg Heights) and BHITC to provide its members with experiential learning in urban ministry.



Inspired by Hope

SARAH OLENIK

Sarah Olenik, one of BHITC's generous volunteers, is the driving force behind our annual Christmas Bag Drive. Sarah organizes, shops for, and packs over 300 Christmas bags per year that are then distributed to children and youth in BHITC's tutoring, refugee and community programs.

Every November and December, Sarah's home is filled with bags and bags of donations and gifts while she painstakingly fills and labels each bag, making sure that the gifts are a perfect match for the recipient. Although Sarah and her husband are in the process of selling their home, they put showings on hold in November and December in order to use their home for the Christmas project!

Sarah's work with BHITC has spurred her on to serve in other urban ministry roles within and beyond BHITC. Moreover, she has decided to return to school to obtain her Masters in Social Work at Cleveland State University. According to Sarah, "God definitely used Building Hope in the City in my return to college. The greatest influence came from participating in a winter blanket drive, where we would take clothing, bedding and hot food out onto Cleveland's streets to serve the homeless. I loved those! Building Hope in the City has absolutely influenced my decision about how and where I want to invest my career in the future!"

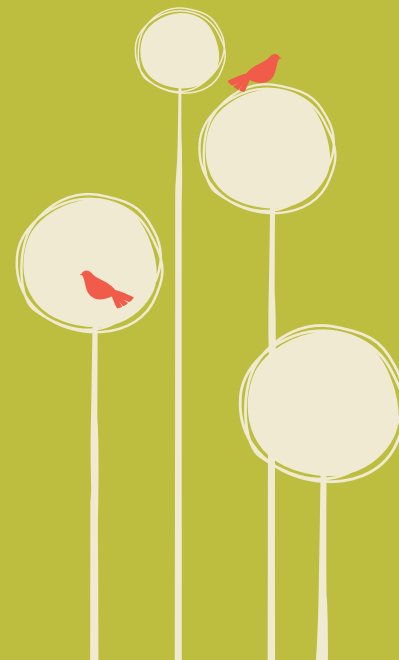




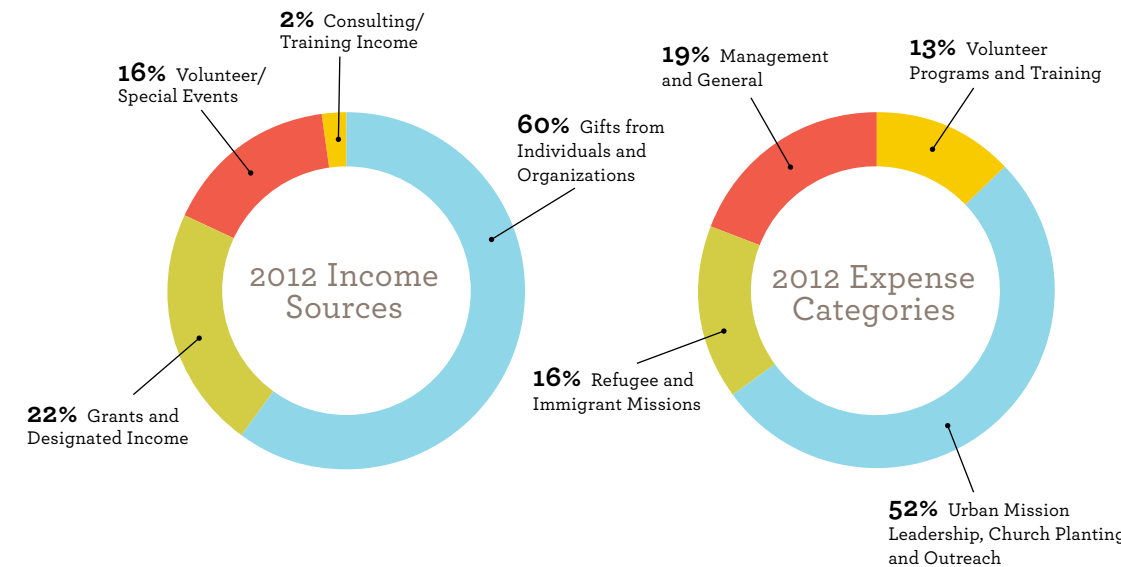
Endowment for Mission and Ministry

The BHITC Endowment Fund can accept many kinds of gifts, including cash, securities, real estate/property, IRA and life insurance designations and bequests. Many of these gifts may create income or a tax deduction for you during your lifetime, while also leaving a lasting legacy and witness.

Want to learn more? Consult your tax advisor to explore such benefits for you and your family. To learn more, contact Brian Upton at 216.281.4673.



2012 Financial Overview



- Financial audit completed by Weible & Associates, May 2013.
- \$.81 of every dollar was invested in mission and ministry.
- Net assets totaled \$325,680 as of December 31, 2012.
- BHITC's Endowment totaled \$17,275 as of December 31, 2012.

Gifts to Mission and Ministry

GIFTS IN MEMORY

Melissa Beal
 Carolyn Bogucki
 David Forsythe
 Elvera Hess
 Virginia Huge
 Marilyn Kirst
 Todd Kirst
 Daniel Moore
 Carol Ott
 John & Sue Rokfalusi
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 The Specht Family
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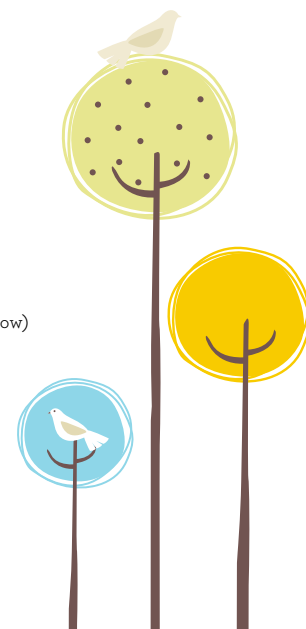
GIFTS IN HONOR

Kim & Sharon Berghaus
 Lesa Hess
 Joseph Jones & Julie Busch-Jones
 Pamela Juris

ORGANIZATIONS

American Greetings Corporation
 Baldwin Wallace College - Office of Community Outreach
 Bay Presbyterian Church/Family Ministry Center
 Bethany Women in God's Service
 Brecksville United Methodist Church - United Methodist Women
 Christ Church (Columbia Station)
 Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church (Livonia, Mich.)
 Cleveland Foundation
 Cleveland Lutheran Veterans Club
 Damascus Friends Church (Damascus, Ohio)
 Edward & Barbara Bell Family Foundation
 Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (Hudson)
 GoodSearch
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Florence, Kentucky)
 Grace CMA Church (Middleburg Heights)
 Grace Lutheran Church (Lakewood)
 Greater Cleveland Community Shares
 In His Steps Foundation
 John & Harriet Wiebe Mission Advancement Fund, LCMS Foundation
 King of Kings Lutheran Church (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)
 King of Kings LWML (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)
 Lutheran High School West, Faculty and Student Body
 Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Ohio District, LCMS
 McDermott, Will & Emery LLP
 Mt. Calvary - LWML (Antwerp, Ohio)

Ohio District - Church Extension Fund
 Ohio District Mission Support Center
 PPG (Oakwood Village store)
 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Medina)
 Printing Partners (Lakewood)
 RE May
 Redeemer Lutheran Church (Convoy)
 Rejoice Lutheran Church (Hudson)
 Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church and School (North Royalton)
 Saint Ignatius High School
 St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (Garfield Heights)
 St. John Lutheran Church (South Euclid)
 St. John Lutheran Church (Stryker)
 St. Paul Lutheran Church (Ashland, Kentucky)
 St. Philip Lutheran Church (Cleveland)
 Shore Haven Lutheran Church - Endowment Fund (Euclid)
 Soul Ministries
 Stow Alliance Fellowship of Christian & Missionary Alliance (Stow)
 The Cleveland Clinic
 The Ellie Fund
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 Truline Industries, Inc.
 Valley Lutheran Church (Chagrin Falls)
 Wegman, Hessler & Vanderburg
 Zion Lutheran Church (Akron)



CityLights Partners

CityLights are BHITC's most generous individual donors, giving \$750 or more annually in undesignated support.

Thank you, CityLights, for your leadership and generosity!

CityLights Partners appear in **bold**.

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 Ms. Patricia Albanese
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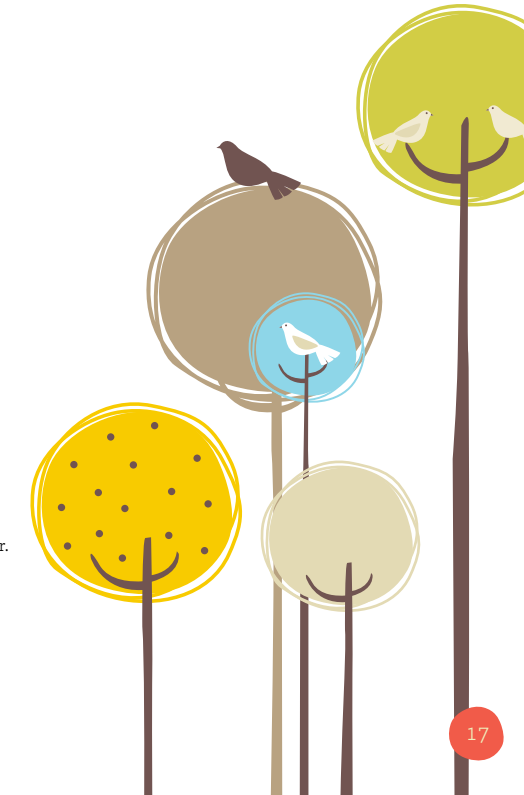


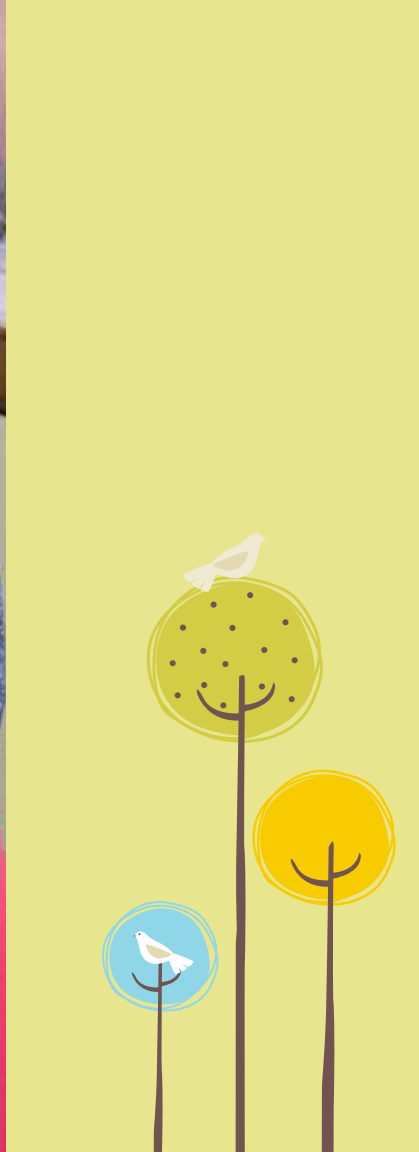
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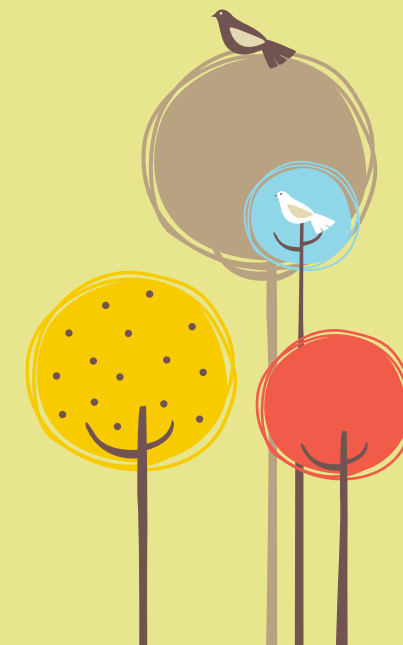


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“He raises the poor from
 the dust and lifts the needy
 from the ash heap...”
 - I Samuel 2:8





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