

Why Fill a Boatload for Children?

Nearly 13 million children in our rich nation are living in poverty which jeopardizes their health, learning, dreams, and very lives. Most poor children live in working families.

Food pantries, homeless shelters, and other emergency services across the nation are facing growing demands as government services are cut and safety nets for the underprivileged are withdrawn.

The needs of children should be a priority for all of us as individuals, groups and communities of faith. Our Baptismal Covenant calls us to put our faith into action by seeking justice for children.

AWE: Children's Ministries and the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Bethlehem invite you to join in praying for a brighter future for all of God's children and to take action by filling a boatload and joining the *Cruising to Equity* Campaign.

Working together, we can make a difference where the needs, hopes and dreams of children are involved.

...whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Matthew 18:5



For More Information Contact:

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Share Your Project with Us!

You are invited to share your project.

Please send stories, pictures,

copies of programs, etc.

to the above address.



THE DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM

Cruising To Equity

...make a boatload of difference for Kids



Putting Our Faith into Action to Seek Justice for Children

**Children's Sabbath
2005-2006**

Sponsored by
**AWE: Children's Ministries
& Diocesan ECW**

Cruising to Equity



Cruising to Equity, is an advocacy and prayer vigil project that invites congregations throughout the Diocese of Bethlehem to join in a *Sabbath Season of Prayer for Children*. It begins with the observance of the National **Children's Sabbath** (sponsored by the *Children's Defense Fund*, Washington, D.C.) and the Diocesan ECW's collection of **Undies for Children at Risk** at our Diocesan Convention.

In the months that follow congregations throughout the Diocese can unite simultaneously in witness for children through prayer, education and worship using the **Cruising to Equity Itinerary** on the next page.

Cruising to Equity will come to the end of its journey with two simultaneously held Diocesan-wide *Safe Harbor Celebrations* on May 7, 2006.

Cruising to Equity Itinerary

Launching the Ship

Get a rubber lifeboat or make a small boat to collect items in your congregation throughout the upcoming seasons.

Ports of Call



A Healthy Start – Children need all the basics to get started with a healthy life. Fill your boat with children's toothbrushes and children's toothpaste, first aid kit items, child sensitive soap, shampoo, ointment and diaper wipes.

Season: Diocesan Convention to Advent (10/14/05—11/26/05)



A Fair Start – The Department of Agriculture reports that nearly 13 million children live in families who are not getting enough to eat. Others live in homes with no heat. Fill your boat with non-perishable food items and warm clothes like hats and mittens.

Season: Advent to Epiphany (11/27/05—1/06/06)



A Head Start – In many communities quality child care and early childhood education are not available or affordable. Collect children's books, tablets, pencils, crayons, puzzles and other stimulating toys for your local Head Start class or school.

Season: Season after Epiphany (1/07/06—2/28/06)



A Moral Start – Millions of children live in substandard housing or are homeless with parents who struggle to know how to parent. Gather books to distribute to parents and children that promote positive values and teach parenting skills.

Season: Lent (3/01/06—4/15/06)



A Safe Start – Every day, almost 8,000 children are reported victims of abuse and neglect. Gather duffel bags, suitcases, cuddly toys for children going into foster care. Fill your boat with nightlights and nap blankets.

Season: Easter Season (4/16/06—5/6/06)



Finding Safe Harbor - May 7, 2006, 4:00 pm Trinity, Bethlehem & St. Luke's, Scranton

Come to one of the Diocesan celebrations on May 7th at 4:00 pm. Bring your lifeboat, pictures and photos of your parish's efforts to fill a *Boatload for Children*. Come to celebrate, worship and pray for children and to share the *Log of your Journey* and other artifacts!