

# Mission Endowment Fund of the Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod Continuing a Legacy



*For 25 years the Mission Endowment Fund has been entrusted to support ministries, projects, and organizations all across the NT-NL geography with needed finances to spread the Gospel and change lives. In our current environment, the traditional church, as we have known it, is changing dramatically. Some congregations are considering alternatives, and in some instances making the difficult determination to close their church. This decision is accompanied by many emotions, as members mourn the loss of their church, their ministry and the impact they have made in the world. While the physical church may no longer be there, the mission, impact, and legacy can continue by supporting your fellow NT-NL congregations with a gift to the Mission Endowment Fund.*

**How will a gift to the MEF honor the donating congregation?** In the last 25 years, the MEF has received several end-of-life gifts from congregations who have chosen to leave a legacy to the NT-NL. Such gifts from the final assets ensure that the congregation's ministry will continue forever through the grant giving ministry of the MEF. These special gifts enabled the fund to grow significantly over the years. There are no adequate words to express the joy and appreciation for this kind of consideration and trust from the Synod's congregations.

**How are the gifts to the Mission Endowment Fund managed and distributed?** Because the fund is an endowment, only the earnings are distributed on an annual basis to congregations and organizations who apply for funding for specific ministries, enabling continued distribution of grants year after year. The investment and grants are administered by a Board of lay and clergy members. The administrative cost of this fund is under 1%. As of 2021, almost one MILLION dollars has been awarded in grants by the MEF in its 25-year history.

**How does the Mission Endowment Fund investment grow?** Because of generous donors and wise investments over its first 25 years, the fund has grown to over \$1.7 million. The fund increases by donations, and interestingly, the largest donations have come as end-of-life gifts from individuals as well as from congregations. The MEF currently has several named Memorial Endowments within the investment that will honor these individuals and congregations forever. Without these generous legacy gifts several vital ministries within our Synod would not exist.

**Who receives the annual grants?** In 1995, the MEF was founded primarily to help establish start-up ministries as the NT-NL was in an expansion period 25 years ago. The demographics of the NT-NL have evolved over the years. Now the grant recipients are often community outreach and service orientated programs to aid the vulnerable with feeding programs, youth initiatives, and assistance to the elderly, to name a few. Page 2 provides additional information and illustrates general areas of funding in the last two years.

**Will you consider a legacy gift to the Mission Endowment Fund?** The congregations of the NT-NL have been blessed that this fund exists and because it is an endowment, this grant-giving mission will continue for another 25 years and beyond. Please consider a gift in the name of your congregation. More information and answers to any questions can be addressed to Linda Ness, Mission Endowment Fund Executive Director, at the contact information below. A gift to this fund will ensure that even though a beloved congregation's doors may close, a legacy and Christian ministry in the name of the congregation will continue for years to come.



Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod of the ELCA

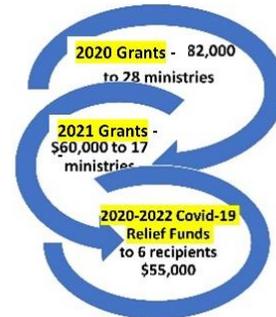
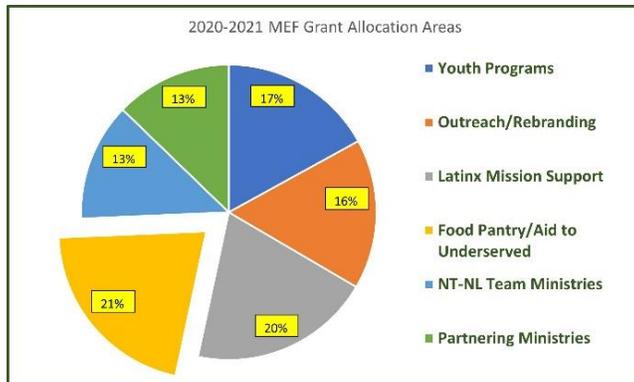
## NT-NL Mission Endowment Fund

*Investment total as of the first quarter of 2021 = over \$1,700,000*

*First distribution of grants in 1996 = \$5,000*

*Total funds distributed in 2020 and 2021,  
including Covid-19 Relief Funds = \$197,000*

*Special emphasis of Grant distribution in 2020 and 2021:*



*Total Grants awarded over the 25-year history = almost \$1,000,000!*

*Gifts of any size are welcomed and appreciated. Substantial gifts will have a Memorial Endowment within the investment established in the name of the congregation.*

*Please contact Linda Ness, Executive Director of MEF, for more information. An invitation to speak to the leaders is most welcomed! [MEF@NTNL.org](mailto:MEF@NTNL.org) 682-429-3446*

Visit the MEF webpage: <https://www.ntnl.org/ministries/mef/>