



## Mission Grant Report Form

Iowa District West

Grant recipients are asked to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort or, if a continuing ministry, by January 31 of the following year in which the grant is received. Please submit any pictures, as well, that would help to share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their ministry.

### 1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort.

#### **Plan:**

- We took **ACTION**, re-assembled the 2014 committee, planned and carried out the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Military Tribute Concert on “Veteran’s Day” at the Iowa State Fair” honoring Iowa’s veterans.
- Romans 12:9-15-Love in ACTION was our guiding Bible passage.
- The steering committee was comprised of individuals from many organizations. The range of involvement included several LCMS congregations, other Lutheran, other non-Lutheran denominations and unaffiliated individuals who desired to promote our efforts.
- Gloria Dei Lutheran, Urbandale welcomed us to rehearse for our concert.
- Support was provided to Operation Barnabas, the LCMS Armed Forces outreach – a network of care to military members and their families.

#### **Participants:**

- Over 100 participants representing more than 10 counties across Iowa united to form a choir, orchestra, and children’s choir.
- Service members narrated, helping us to express our gratitude.
- Boy Scouts monitored the flag memorial for the day.
- OPERATION BARNABAS setup table and banners for publicity near concert location and flag display.
- Col. Robert King gave a moving speech.
- President Rev. Steve Turner gave the closing prayer.

#### **Families of the fallen:**

- Invitations were sent to the families of the fallen from *The Global War on Terror*.
- These families were offered tickets to the Iowa State Fair.
- A flag memorial was set up as a memorial to all who have served and died through out the 99 counties of Iowa. This memorial was dedicated to all who have served in all of the wars in Iowa’s history.

#### **Promotions:**

- Iowa District East and Iowa District West was our vehicle of communication distributing information across the state.
- Representatives of the concert appeared on the Molly Cooney noontime interview on KCCI-TV channel 8 and the Van and Bonnie Show on 1040WHO radio.
- We walked in the Urbandale 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade to spread the word.
- An advertisement was run in local newspapers in the classified section.

- We live streamed the concert. We contacted the VA hospital and notified congregations as well as our participants to let them know we would be live streaming the event. We had over 400 people view the concert on our website.

2. What goals were established for this effort; that is, what did you hope to accomplish?

Our goals were focused on 4 distinct groups we hoped to serve.

- First, we honored active duty military personnel, veterans and families of fallen heroes. We hoped they would be able to feel our gratitude.
- Second, we provided an opportunity for musicians to show gratitude through using their God given talents. Musicians from across the state, from a variety of churches and even a variety of synods gathered and offered.
- Third, we provided an avenue and opportunity for the audience, to express their gratitude for sacrifices given by active military personnel, veterans and families of fallen heroes.
- Fourth, we provided an opportunity to create greater awareness/publicity/visibility for OPERATION BARNABAS.

3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors?

**Concert participants:**

- Musicians were provided an opportunity to show gratitude to others by using their God given talents.
- A one of a kind group, comprised of musicians from across the state, representing a variety of denominations, united for a common cause.

**Veterans, Active Duty and Families of the Fallen:**

- Veterans, active duty personnel and families of the fallen were thanked and recognized for their service and sacrifice.
- This event provided an opportunity for veterans, active duty personnel, and the families of the fallen to feel gratitude and praise from the people of Iowa who attended as well as from those on stage.
- Through involvement in the planning process and participation in the concert, this event provided an opportunity for veterans and active duty personnel to share and process their life experiences.
- Families of the fallen were invited to celebrate their loved one's life and allegiance to their country.

**Audience Members:**

- The concert provided an avenue for the audience to express gratitude and admiration to veterans, active duty personnel, and the families of the fallen.
- Prayer with the audience provided an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts.

**Operation Barnabas:**

- An information table was setup and staffed for the entire day at the state fairgrounds in conjunction with the flag display.
- A supply drive for veterans was conducted. Eight boxes of supplies were collected from Iowa congregations and concert participants at concert rehearsals. Operation Barnabas volunteers delivered these supplies to the Des Moines Veterans Hospital to support the Domiciliary, Day Program and Veteran Outreach Center.

4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again?

- With a project of this scale it is important to ensure the planning process includes and considers public relations effort.
  - Start advertising sooner.
  - We would have someone from the committee video record the concert.
  - Be prepared for media inquiries at the fairgrounds (flag display) the day of the concert.
- We will continue to look at how we want to organize our committee to be more effective in the future.
- We are working to become a 501(c)3 organization.

5. What lessons were learned through this effort?

- There was a desire for some of the participants to continue to serve the community in a similar way. We will see what develops.
- The live stream seemed to be very effective.
- Col. Robert King brought a new and needed component to the concert with his speech.

6. What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort?

- Don't be afraid to build bridges between individuals of different traditions within Christianity.
- Look for ways to unite many individuals for greater causes within the community so God can be glorified as we support those around us who are faced with challenges.
- Always ask and focus on how to build relationships with God's people and those in the community.
- Visit [www.militarytributeconcert.org](http://www.militarytributeconcert.org) for more information.

7. Contact person

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