

Regional Bahá'í Council of the Atlantic States

Delaware · District of Columbia · Maryland · North Carolina · Virginia

December 16, 2017

Invitation to Support the Regional Bahá'í Fund

To all Spiritual Assemblies, Registered Groups and Individuals in the Atlantic Region

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

A recent letter from our beloved Universal House of Justice began with the words "See how the community of the Greatest Name arises!" We have been so encouraged by the reports emerging from the 14 regional teaching conferences and the many Bicentenary activities in the Atlantic Region. The Council's love for you is immense and you are always in our prayers.

In cluster after cluster, throughout the region, the response of the wider community to the Person of Bahá'u'lláh and His teachings has been inspiring. In some of the clearest evidence of capacity-building, friends of the Faith assisted in planning several of the celebrations. Dignitaries attended many gatherings and expressed their appreciation for Bahá'u'lláh and His message. One county supervisor said that the Bahá'í principles are essential, and that they underpin the efforts of county officials to ensure justice and equity for all residents. Such recognition arises, in part, from recognition of the value of grassroots efforts of Bahá'ís, many of whom serve sacrificially with modest support from the Regional Fund.

"Contributing to the Bahá'í fund constitutes an act of spiritual discipline which is an intrinsic element of the devotional life of the individual... The practice of giving to the Fund strengthens the connection between the believer and the Cause and enhances his sense of identification with it." ~The Universal House of Justice, 17 September 1991

The Universal House of Justice notes that a Regional Council, among its duties, *"encourages believers... to contribute to... the regional branch of the national fund, with the aim that, in due course, the entire expenditure for the region would be provided by the believers in the region."* ~The Universal House of Justice, 30 May 1997

The Regional Baha'i Fund fuels the vital teaching work at the grassroots by supporting volunteers engaged in community-building activities in selected neighborhoods; helping to settle homefront pioneers in goal clusters where there are limited jobs; and supporting many other initiatives, such as the 14 recently-held Teaching Conferences, that assist the friends in sharing widely Baha'u'llah's healing Message.

The level of participation in contributing to the Regional Fund as of October 31, 2017 is reflected in the following chart:

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Contributor	Total in Region	2017-2018 Goal	Contributing Year-to-Date	Needed to meet goal
<i>Assemblies</i>	87	66	52	14 more
<i>Adult Individuals</i>	6,649	300	228	72 more
% of Regional Expenditures Covered by Regional Fund contributions		20%	18%	2% more

We invite all assemblies, groups, and individuals to consider how they can directly and materially support the work of the Cause in the Atlantic region through regular contributions to the Regional Fund, of whatever amount, leading to further possibilities for success and growth.

"...the generality of the friends must be invited to consider afresh the responsibility of all believers to support the work of the Faith through their own means, and further, to manage their financial affairs in the light of the teachings." ~The Universal House of Justice, 29 December 2015

With gratitude for your sacrificial offerings at the altar of Bahá'u'lláh,



Regional Bahá'í Council of the Atlantic States
William P. Collins
Treasurer

"To give and to be generous are attributes of Mine; well is it with him that adorneth himself with My virtues." — Bahá'u'lláh