

September 1, 2023

MIDWEST

disaster relief • education



MISSION

health • micro business

SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Shipment Goes to Maui to Help Victims of the Wildfire



During the second week of August, wildfires sparked around the island of Maui that quickly led to a devastating inferno that destroyed the historic community of Lahaina.

The community of Lahaina was made up of local residents. This was their home — not their week of vacation or temporary living. Many of the people that had to evacuate and who lost everything, *really lost everything*. They lost pieces of their culture, their historic landmarks, and a piece of the island that was their own.

Shortly after the wildfires began, Midwest Mission was in contact with Convoy of Hope, out of Springfield, Missouri. Convoy of Hope was on the ground in Lahaina

distributing disaster relief within a week of the fires igniting.

After discussing what we had and what their needs were, it was decided that we would send Bed Packs (sheet sets and bed pillows), Hygiene Kits, and Rice Meal Bags for Convoy to distribute at their discretion.

On Monday, August 28, a container arrived that would go to one of Convoy of Hope's warehouses in Sacramento, California. Needed items would be flown to Maui.

Midwest Mission's operations team loaded the container, and everyone gathered around to pray for the safety of the shipment and for those who had been impacted by the fire.

What was already a heart-wrenching moment became more personal as NOMAD volunteers, Mary and Mark Grant, shared their personal connection to the disaster.

"Our son Nick and his wife Beth have been in Lahaina for about 8 years now, and they lost everything," Mary shared with the group.

As the fires spread towards their apartment complex, the couple fled on foot to safety. (You can read about their experience in their blog post [here](#).)

"They were good people to lose things because they basically live out of their backpacks. They lived in a furnished apartment they were renting... **but the apartment is gone, the car they were going to buy is gone, both of the dive shops they worked at are gone and all of the dive boats.**

"They don't have jobs and they don't have stuff, *but they don't really care about that.*

"**They care about being a part of that community.** They really feel that Lahaina has become home. They have realized that most of the people who live in Lahaina are the ones who do the work on Maui - the ones who serve all the tourists and fix things and teach the kids. They want to be part of that community and help them as much as they can through all of this."

The couple was given a hotel room by their insurance company, but they gave it to someone else in need, and are staying with friends on different parts of the island. Since the fire, they have jumped in to help in the relief process, helping with tarps and gas, and they make supply runs for the community.

We were blessed to be able to hear a personal story about the people who are the recipients of the shipment that was sent off.

We don't know if Mark and Mary's son and daughter-in-law will receive our Hygiene



Kits or Bed Packs, or maybe they will be assisting in the distribution of the supplies. But, we do know that needed resources will reach the people of Lahaina, because we serve a good God who is present in the midst of disasters.

May the supplies and the love that was sent with them bring hope in the midst of the crisis, and peace in the chaos.

Please be praying for everyone affected, and specifically for Nick and Beth as they seek to serve their community, even within their own devastation.

Midwest Mission Serving Sunday 5 Ways to Participate



Midwest Mission Sunday is a day to reinvigorate your congregation by getting them excited about serving and making a difference around the world and around the corner. Join people around the Midwest for a day of serving!

You could:

1. Pack Rice Meals
2. Assemble Kits
3. Make Sleeping Mats
4. Make Handmade Items
5. Hold a Supply Drive

[Click here](#) to learn more about how you and your church can get involved with Midwest Mission Serving Sunday.

Midwest Mission Serving Sunday Church Bulletin Insert

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[Download MM Sunday PDF](#)

Current Needs

You can purchase these items at your local store, or make them, and take them to Midwest Mission or a Collection Site near you. You can also buy items online and have them shipped right to Midwest Mission.

****These items must be new****

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Bed Pillows

must be new!

Diaper Cream

2 oz – we don't accept A+D brand

Click Here to Register

THE HEALTHY CHURCH EVENT

WORKSHOPS –

Finding Hope in these Challenging Times as a United Methodist – DS Brad Watkins

Reinvigorating Healthy Churches – Chantel Corrie

Effective Functioning of Church Council – Mary Katherine Pearce

Creating Healthy Individuals – Jacqui King

Sunday, September 10, 2023 • 1:30PM - 5PM • Sugar Creek UMC, Chatham, IL

[Click here to register.](#)

Hosted by the Sangamon (Central) District.

Mission in Motion Calendar

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Click here to see the Mission in Motion Calendar to know where we will be in the next few weeks!

Prayers to Lift Up

This week, please pray for everyone who has recently experienced a disaster. There were fires in Hawaii, floods in California, and the recent hurricane in Florida. Please pray for comfort and peace in their crisis, and that supplies will reach them quickly.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

- Work on Quonset Hut
- Refurbish Bikes
- Refurbish Sewing Machines
- Build Desks
- Polyurethane Desks
- Count into inventory
- Sort medical supplies
- Stuff Summer Mailer

Disbursements

- **Children's Clothes Closet**, Panora, IA: Redirect cloth bags, clothing items **Value: \$49.00**
- **Maui Shipment**: See story above
- **Chatham Micropantry**, Chatham, IL: redirect food items **Value: \$34.00**
- **Midwest Food Bank**, Bloomington, IL: redirect food items **Value: \$261.80**
- **The Outlet**, Springfield, IL: redirect food items **Value: \$680.00**
- **Pawnee Food Pantry**, Pawnee, IL: redirect food items **Value: \$34.00**

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Share some GOD news with those you love!

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happier place.

[Link to Share the Midwest Mission Newsletter](#)

Ready to Get Involved?



Volunteer at Midwest Mission
Dates are available in 2023, 2024, and 2025

Need a Saturday option for team volunteering or assistance in booking? Contact **Pat Wright** at pat@midwestmission.org or 217-697-4063

Click below to check calendar openings and to reserve your spots.

[Volunteer Reservation Calendar](#)

2025 Volunteer Calendar is now open for dorm reservations!

Go to our [Reservation Calendar](#), log in, reserve your rooms, and submit payment for your Non-refundable Reservation Fee via credit card or electronic check. We will email you the Access Code to reserve Volunteer Shifts for your team. You must complete this step for your team to volunteer at Midwest Mission.

For local teams and individuals: Volunteer Shifts will only be available 3 months ahead of time. Beginning October 1, 2023 you will be able to reserve Volunteer Shifts for January of 2024.

Thank you for your patience as we try to improve the reservation experience for both local teams and those staying in the dorm.

Volunteers at Work

August 28 - September 1, 2023





Volunteer Leaders



Stan and Jennie Lowrey
Pattonsburg, Missouri

Volunteer Teams



Sewing Group from First UMC Springfield
Springfield, IL



Trinity
New Albany, IN



Lighthouse
Rochester, IL



Carroll FUMC
Carroll, IA



Barb Huttman
Springfield, IL

We are so grateful for all our local and regular volunteers, and the time they give towards volunteering at Midwest Mission. We appreciate their passion and dedication to the ministry!

Click Here for the UMVIM
NCJ Newsletter



Visit our website

Midwest Mission | 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558 | 217-483-7911

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September 8, 2023



SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Midwest Mission Serving Sunday - September 17

Revitalize your congregation with simple service opportunities.

Midwest Mission Serving Sunday is just over one week away!

Midwest Mission is here to help you create easy, accessible, low barrier mission projects that all ages and abilities can take part in. We are here to help you reignite the fire in your congregation and get new people connected to Christ through service.

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

**MIDWEST MISSION
SERVING SUNDAY**

celebrate the joy of service

That is why we created Midwest Mission Sunday — to celebrate the joy of serving, through connecting to one another and to Christ.

We see God working in and through Midwest Mission daily. We share all of these God stories weekly, here on our newsletter. We believe God is doing the same thing in and through your congregation, and we can't wait to see how He will move on Midwest Mission Sunday.

Together let's spread JOY around the world and around the corner.

There's still time to get involved! Go to midwestmission.org/mmsunday to learn more.

—

Midwest Mission will be hosting Rice Meal packing and mat weaving on September 17th from 1-4 PM.

There are 5 other locations (including our Iowa location!) that will also be hosting Rice Meal packs on that weekend. See the locations [here](#).

Please tag us on your social media using #MMSunday

If you plan to participate, let us know [here](#).

32nd International Shipment Goes to Guyana

On **Thursday, September 7**, we sent a shipment to **Guyana** in South America. The container will be unloaded in Georgetown, Guyana, and then will be distributed to different organizations across the country.

This was our **32nd international shipment of the year**.

The container included:

- 55 Student Desks built at Midwest Mission
- 25 electric sewing machines
- 130 little girl outfits
- 45 tarps (donated from Lamar Advertising)
- 852 Layette Kits
- 28 Sleeping Mats (weaved using plastic grocery bags and a loom)
- 280 Student Kits
- 6 treadle sewing machines
- 15 bikes
- 60 twin mattresses
- other medical supplies

Weight: 16,613 lbs

Value: \$136,815.72

Thank you, NOMADS!

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the NOMAD team that served at Midwest Mission for three weeks.

They endured extremely high temperatures for several of their work days, and even blessed us with working on their days off to finish the projects.

The team finished putting siding and doors on the Quonset Hut, put siding on a garage, and placed Brick by Brick Campaign bricks by the front entrance.

It is always *so* good to hear their stories and hear how God is working in organizations around the country.

On their last day, Brad Walton, Operations Manager, presented model Midwest Mission semi-trucks to the NOMADS as a thank you for their work.

Join us in praying for all of the NOMAD teams who generously give of their time and talents around the country.

PERMANENT COLLECTION SITE *News*

Midwest Mission has been blessed with volunteers across the Midwest who give of their time, energy and resources to assist us in carrying out God's mission to help those in need. Some of these volunteers use the facilities God has blessed them with to provide a donation collection point for needed supplies. These are our Permanent Collection Sites! You can find their contact information [HERE](#).

What's Happening at our Collection Sites?

We asked and you delivered. In the past few weeks **Riverside UMC**-Park Rapids, MN, **Glenview UMC**-Glenview, IL, **Nebraska City FUMC**-Nebraska City, NE and others have been excited to receive your many **sewing machine donations**. Way to go!

Our newest Permanent Collection Site (PCS) location, **Gay Street UMC**, Mt. Vernon, OH is reaching out to their surrounding communities via radio and newspaper to share that they are now a Permanent Collection Site for Midwest Mission. Check out their Midwest Mission link on their website at gaystreetumc.org.

Bethany UMC-Green Bay, WI is sharing their love of missions with their VBS groups, putting together Personal Dignity Kits as a mission project. They are also reaching out to other churches in their area to get them involved.

Along with their own collection initiatives, **Trinity UMC**-Elk Mound, WI is reaching out to other clubs and organizations in their community making them aware of our mission and asking them to assist.

Our PCS are also reaching out to assist each other in getting their collected donations to our warehouse in Pawnee, IL. Thanks to Ray Trent, **New Lenox UMC**-New Lenox, IL for reaching out to assist Ethyl Doyle, **Glenview UMC**-Glenview, IL.

We have added several new sites in 2023 and **hope to add even more**. If your congregation is interested in becoming a Permanent Collection Site, please contact teresa@midwestmission.org for more information.

Midwest Mission Serving Sunday

Church Bulletin Insert

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Prayers to Lift Up

Please continue to pray for those recovering from disaster. Unfortunately, while the disaster leaves the news cycle rather quickly, the lasting effects of a disaster will impact people for months, and years, to come. Pray for wisdom, guidance, and peace in this trying time.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:27

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects
Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

- Refurbish bikes
- Build desks
- Count into inventory
- Tape shampoo
- Bag wipes
- Trace patterns
- Cleaning
- Sort blankets
- Cut plan

Disbursements

- **Guyana**, Food For The Poor: see story above
- **CICIM**, Decatur, IL: picnic tables for Camp Warren in Mt. Zion **Value: \$2,000.00**
- **Gridley Food Pantry**, Gridley, IL: 12 twin mattresses **Value: \$1,200.00**
- **Chatham Micropantry**, Chatham, IL: redirect hygiene supplies **Value: \$80.00**

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Thank you for your patience as we try to improve the reservation experience for both local teams and those staying in the dorm.

Volunteers at Work

September 5-8, 2023

Volunteer Leaders



Stan and Jennie Lowrey
Pattonsburg, Missouri

Volunteer Teams

Athens UMC
Athens, IL

Wes and Mary Eddy
North Ridgeville, OH

Tampico UMC
Tampico, IL

Douglas Avenue UMC
Springfield, IL

Mahomet UMC
Mahomet, IL

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September 15, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Midwest Mission Serving Sunday - September 17

Revitalize your congregation with simple service opportunities.

Join us at one of our six Rice Meal Packs — no sign up necessary!

*** For the Rice Meal Packs at a Midwest Mission location: Minors must be accompanied by an adult. If the adult is not a legal guardian, they must get their waiver signed ahead of time by their legal guardian. You*

*can find the waiver [here](#). ***

Visit our Website

Dometic Donates 400 Coolers for Disaster Relief

We never know what connections in our small world will lead to big blessings — *but God does.*

In the past, a volunteer at Midwest Mission had taken redirect supplies to the **Mt. Olive Care Center** in Mt. Olive, Illinois. This happens quite often when we get donations that don't fit in our kits, but can be redirected to another organization. That small connection led to a big donation.

In early September, **Dometic**, an outdoor equipment company that specializes in vanlife, RVing, car camping, and overlanding supplies, reached out to Midwest Mission about a corporate donation.



Dometic's product manager, Jordan Kettler, explained that Dometic had white coolers in inventory that they could no longer sell on the open market because some of them were beginning to discolor. Aesthetically, there were issues, but they were fully functional.

Kettler had received our name from Nancy Hubert from the Mt. Olive Care Center who had already received a small donation of coolers. He wanted to know if we would also be interested in receiving a donation .

"We are taking the opportunity to work with local non-profit organizations on donating our inventory to those who could use them," Kettler said.

Otherwise, the damaged coolers would wind up in a landfill.

We jumped at the opportunity to partner with Dometic. These coolers would be a huge blessing to someone who has lost power in a disaster. It could hold perishable food items or vital medicines that must be kept cool.

Being able to offer these coolers in the midst of a disaster has the potential to bring a bit of relief and stability to their crisis.



After communicating back and forth, it was decided we would take **400 coolers** — an entire semi-load!

On Thursday, September 14, we traveled to **Dometic's** warehouse in Litchfield, IL to pick up the **260 small and 140 medium coolers**.

The value of this donation was \$77,600!

Thank you, **Dometic**, for this generous donation. And, thank you, Mt. Olive Care Center, for directing them to us.

We never know what connections will bring the next big blessing.

Two International Shipments in Two Days

It was a busy week here at Midwest Mission! We picked up the Dometic donation, prepared for the Rice Meal Pack coming up on Midwest Mission Sunday, and we sent *two international shipments in two days. Whew!*

On **Wednesday, September 13**, we sent a shipment to **Guatemala**. This was the 33rd international shipment of the year, and included:

- 50 Layette Kits
- 535 tarps
- 113 little boy outfits
- 381 Cover Them With Love Quilts
- 60 hospital mattresses
- 47 electric sewing machines
- 6 treadle sewing machines
- 16 bikes
- 50 canes
- 22 walkers
- 6 wheelchairs
- and other medical supplies

Weight: 13,702 lbs

Value: \$149,767.50



Value: \$50,900.00

On **Thursday, September 14**, we shipped an Angels of Hope container to Haiti, to serve children's homes and orphanages around the country.

This was the 34th international shipment of the year, and included:

- 432 Home Care Kits
- 1,960 Personal Dignity Kits
- 329 cases of disinfectant wipes

Weight: 18,475 lbs

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****These items must be new****

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Bed Pillows

must be new!

Diaper Cream

2 oz – we don't accept A+D brand

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Prayers to Lift Up

Please pray for Midwest Mission Sunday — for those traveling, for those attending, and for those hosting! Pray that churches will be revitalized, and that hearts will be open to the work God is doing in all of us.

**"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done."
*Proverbs 19:17***

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

- 198 Bed Packs
- 30 Layette Kits
- 137 Personal Dignity Kits
- Refurbish bikes
- Build desks
- Refurbish sewing machines

- Sewing
- Tape shampoo
- Rice Meal Pack prep
- Check outfits
- Count items into inventory
- Bag mask

Off-Site Rice Meals

- 1,228 Flora First UMC, Flora, IL
- 600 Foundry Circuit, DeWitt, IA
- 1,040 Cloverleaf Collaborative, Seville, OH
- 1,800 Otterbein UMC, Navarre, OH
- 3,160 Knoxville UMC, Knoxville, IL

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Volunteers at Work

September 11-15, 2023





Volunteer Leaders



Chuck and Karen Porter
Brighton, IL



Stan and Debbie Stadel
Yorkville, IL

Volunteer Teams



First UMC
Columbus, NE



Lighthouse
Rochester, IL



Christ Lutheran Church



Bagley UMC



Waterloo Kimball UMC



Lakes UMC

We are so grateful for all our local and regular volunteers, and the time they give towards volunteering at Midwest Mission. We appreciate their passion and dedication to the ministry!

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September 22, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Midwest Mission Serving Sunday Recap



This past Sunday, September 17th, was Midwest Mission Serving Sunday. This is an annual day of service and celebration of the joy of serving. This was the second year of Midwest Mission Serving Sunday, and we were in awe of how God worked through his people.

There was such energy in the air at each of the Rice Meal Packs that were hosted around the Midwest. Churches who hosted other events such as collections and kit assemblies told us how much fun it was to get together and serve with their congregation. It was truly a celebration!

Over 995 volunteers served with us from more than six states. At the six Rice Meal Packs, 27,604 Rice Meal Bags were packed. These nutritious meals will feed 165,624 people in need around the world.

Thank you to everyone who served with us, whether that was through volunteering, donating, or praying for the weekend! We hope you were filled with all the joy God had for you. Our prayer is that God will continue to work in and through your congregations, reinvigorating the Church through the power and joy of serving with one another.

Mark your calendars for next year's Midwest Mission Serving Sunday on September 15th, 2024!

Start thinking about how your congregation can get involved — maybe you want to host a Rice Meal Pack or a Kit Assembly!



Leading the Way in Mission — NCJ Bishops join Midwest Mission in the joy of serving



On September 20, North Central Jurisdiction Bishops, Assistants to the Bishops, and Directors of Connectional Ministries, joined Midwest Mission in the joy of serving during the College of Bishops meeting.

Those in attendance modeled a missional mindset as they joined together and participated in hands-on mission projects with the Midwest Mission staff.

Our Executive Director, Chantel Corrie, and other staff members shared ways the local church can engage through simple mission opportunities to reinvigorate their congregations while making a global and local impact. The churches in our nation

are getting more and more polarized. Serving brings people together and reminds them that we are called to love first and serve one another.

Each person packed nutritious Rice Meal bags, assembled Student Kits and Personal Dignity Kits, and wove sleeping mats using recycled plastic grocery bags. The group was able to fellowship with one another as they worked, and began to dream up ways these mission opportunities could be used with their local churches and conferences.



Within two hours, 153 Student Kits and 107 Personal Dignity Kits were assembled, ½ of a sleeping mat was woven together, and 600 Rice Meal Bags were packed that will feed 3,600 people.

“What we do is send tangible resources to make an *intangible* difference in people's lives,” Chantel said when she spoke to the Bishops. “And on the other side of that ... we are also providing a *tangible mission experience*, a tangible *faith* experience, to make that intangible difference in the lives of the people serving.”

We are so grateful for the opportunity to speak with the Bishops and to serve alongside them and their teams in meeting the needs of people in crisis around the world.



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CURRENT *Needs*

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RECEIVING BLANKETS

28"x28" - 32"x32"

Bed Pillows
must be new!

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**"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done."
*Proverbs 19:17***

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

- 2,049 Student Kits
- 288 Home Care Kits
- 120 Rice Meals
- Count into inventory
- Refurbish Bikes
- Build Desks
- Cleaning
- Polyurethane desks

Off-Site Events

- 100 Student Kits - Urbana FUMC, Urbana, IL
- 5000 Rice Meals - MM Sunday
- 2,604 Rice Meals - Avon UMC, Avon, IN
- 3,600 Rice Meals - Memorial UMC, Terre Haute, IN
- 8,400 Rice Meals - Webster City, IA
- 3,620 Rice Meals - Asbury UMC, Sioux Falls, SD
- 160 Rice Meals - Capital Areal Dietitians

Disbursements

- **Mt. Pleasant UMC**, Greenbriar, TN: 72 UMCOR Hygiene Kits, 30 Menstrual Hygiene Kits **Value: \$1,656.00**
- **St. Vincent Depaul**, Streator, IL: 40 twin mattresses **Value: \$4,000.00**
- **Riverton Birth to Three**, Riverton, IL: Redirect cleaning supplies **Value: \$24.00**
- **St. Martin De Porres**, Springfield, IL: 2 canes **Value: \$30.00**
- **Blessing Box Ministry**, Jefferson, IA: Redirect hygiene items **Value: \$20.00**
- **Helping the Homeless in Springfield**, Springfield, IL: 1 bike **Value: \$90.00**
- **CICM**, Decatur, IL: Redirect clothing and coffee filters **Value: \$6,116.00**
- **First UMC**, Watseka, IL: Redirect school supplies **Value: \$40.00**

Midwest Mission is able to do this work because of your generous donations and willingness to volunteer. Thank you!

Share some GOD news with those you love!

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[Link to Share the Midwest Mission Newsletter](#)

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Click below to check calendar openings and to reserve your spots.



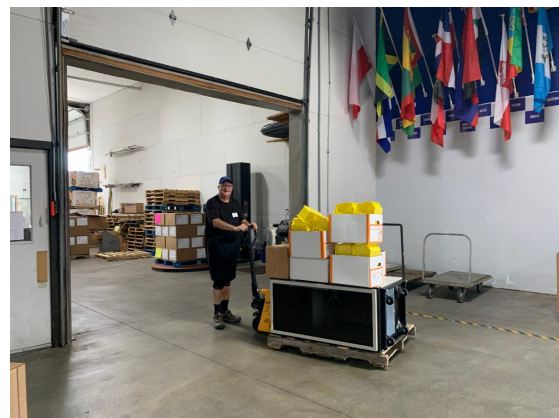
2025 Volunteer Calendar is now open for dorm reservations!

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Thank you for your patience as we try to improve the reservation experience for both local teams and those staying in the dorm.

Volunteers at Work September 18-22, 2023





Volunteer Leaders



Chuck and Karen Porter
Brighton, IL



Stan and Debbie Stadel
Yorkville, IL



Pat and Sharon Baumer
Noblesville, IN

Volunteer Teams



Patterson Family
Beaver Dam, WI



Grace UMC
Jacksonville, IL



Mount Carroll UMC
Mount Carroll, IL



First UMC
Lansing, IL



**Simpson Group
Springfield, IL**



**Dave and Deb Gowdy
Greenbrier, TN**



**Taylorville UMC
Taylorville, IL**



**St. Joseph UMC
St. Joseph, IL**



**Zion UMC, Batavia
Adell, WI**



**Monticello UMC
Monticello, IL**



Gibson City UMC
Gibson City, IL



Lisa Brubaker
Chatham, IL



Hope Church
Pocahontas, IA

We are so grateful for all our local and regular volunteers, and the time they give towards volunteering at Midwest Mission. We appreciate their passion and dedication to the ministry!

[Click Here for the UMVIM
NCJ Newsletter](#)



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September 29, 2023

MIDWEST

disaster relief • education



MISSION

health • micro business

SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

A Note from Ukraine –



Since the beginning of 2023, we have sent six containers full of humanitarian aid to Ukraine and the surrounding area.

The war rages on, and many people are trying to find a new normal within the hard times.

It's been since July since we sent the last shipment, but this week, we were given pictures from our shipping and logistics partner, North Star Foundation.

In April and May 2023, our Rice Meals as well as the 5-minute meals donated by Springfield Rotary Club were passed out to those in need throughout Ukraine.

This picture is of kids living at Berkat Charity in Kiev, Ukraine, who received Rice Meals from us. This is an orphanage for kids that need physiological rehabilitation.

Shortly after we received photos from North Star, on Tuesday, we were surprised with a note that landed in our office email inbox. It was from a man named Igor.

This is what he shared with us:

“My name is Igor. I live in Ukraine, now I live in Odesa. I am writing to thank you because right now I’m cooking the rice stuff. Thanks for your help in these difficult times. I pray for you and each other with respect and honor. Your help is very useful. Thank you very much.”

It’s a simple note. A simple acknowledgement that he has received and is using the Rice Meal. But *what weight* the note carries.

A Rice Meal - a simple packaged meal - brought such a strong emotion that he decided to reach out and thank those who packed it.

It can be easy to forget the reality of those we serve. There is no escape from the difficulties they face. But, what we send gives pieces of hope and empowerment for someone like Igor.

It’s worth it. The time given, the money donated, the resources used. It’s all worth it to be able to hear the blessing it gives to someone we may never meet, but will be connected to forever.



Fill the School Bag



Christ United Methodist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska held a Fill the School Bag event during their Sunday service on September 10th in honor of Midwest Mission Serving Sunday.



They hung the colorful, handmade one-handed bags on the edge of the pews. Each person picked one or more bags and went to their

Great Hall to fill the Student Kits in the assembly line.

Altogether, they assembled 132 Student Kits, and filled more on September 24th.

This is a great way to get your entire congregation involved through collecting supplies and assembling kits. It's an easy and accessible mission opportunity for everyone no matter if you are five or ninety-five!

Your church can do this too! To learn more about ways you can get involved at home, visit midwestmission.org/at-home.

October Church Bulletin Insert

We now offer monthly church bulletin inserts that you can slide in your church's bulletin. These inserts keep your congregation up-to-date on our current needs and upcoming events!

[Download October Bulletin PDF](#)

CURRENT *Needs*

You can purchase these items at your local store, or make them, and take them to Midwest Mission or a Collection Site near you. You can also buy items online and have them shipped right to Midwest Mission.

Receiving Blankets

28"x28" - 32"x32"

Bed Pillows

must be new!

Mission in Motion Calendar

Every week, staff members are on the road, speaking at churches, picking up from collection sites, and facilitating off-site events. We want to see you when we are in your area! Whether you have donations, or you want to hear us speak, this Mission in Motion Calendar will help you know when we are in your area.

Click here to see the Mission in Motion Calendar to know where we will be in the next few weeks!

Prayers to Lift Up

Please praise God with us for the ability to serve those in need. Praise God for the opportunities we have to serve with one another, and give out of our abundance to those in crisis.

**"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done."
*Proverbs 19:17***

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

- Cleaning
- Build Desks
- Refurbish Bikes
- Refurbish Sewing Machines
- Sewing
- Weaving Sleeping Mats
- Counting in to inventory
- 1,270 Student Kits
- 90 UMCOR Cleaning Kits

Off-Site Events

- 2,286 Rice Meals — Colona UMC, Colona, IL
- 300 Student Kits - Disciples UMC, Mt. Morris, IL

Disbursements

- Feeding Kids NICA, (Haiti Shipment) Sarasota, FL: 22,464 Rice Meals, 1,680 Student Kits Value: \$63,408.00
- St. Martin de Porres, Springfield, IL: Redirect cleaning , hygiene, and school supplies Value: \$888.00

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Volunteers at Work

September 25-29, 2023





Volunteer Leaders



Chuck and Karen Porter
Brighton, IL



Pat and Sharon Baumer
Noblesville, IN

Volunteer Teams



Emmanuel UMC
Noblesville, IN



Lighthouse
Rochester, IL



Springfield FUMC Sewing Group
Springfield, IL



First UMC
St. Joseph, MI



Quilting Friends
Jacksonville, IL

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Visit our website

Midwest Mission | 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558 | 217-483-7911

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