

June 2, 2023

MIDWEST

disaster relief • education



MISSION

health • micro business

SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Save the Date for Midwest Mission Iowa's Grand Opening!



Save the Date for Midwest Mission Iowa's Grand Opening!

God's plan is always greater than our plan, we just have to follow along.

Back in November 2022, Midwest Mission's board of directors and staff began to plan what it would look like to have a second location in Iowa. Danille Curtis had been our Iowa Coordinator for a couple of years, and she was excited to continue to grow the ministry opportunities available in Iowa. She was holding several volunteer days a month at Jefferson First United Methodist Church, and was seeing the excitement and the potential in the Jefferson community. With this information, the board of directors had agreed to a feasibility study that would be discussed in May

2023.

But, God had different plans.

Instead of a feasibility study being completed, by May 2023, what we can only determine was that the Holy Spirit had made a path for us to jump start an Iowa location. We had found a building that was perfect for warehouse, volunteer, and gift shop space, volunteers to assist, and a roar of excitement from anyone who caught wind of the plans. We listened to the Spirit's direction, forced our foot off of the brake, and let God lead us.

And so, Midwest Mission Iowa became a reality. This location in Jefferson, Iowa is much like the Illinois location, offering volunteer shifts, accepting donations, and having a gift shop. Our hope is that more people are able to volunteer at Midwest Mission, and experience the joy that comes from serving.

On Saturday, June 17th, we are hosting the Grand Opening of Midwest Mission Iowa!

You are invited to the open house from 10 am - 2 pm. You will have the opportunity to learn about volunteering at this location, learn about the Loom Project, and shop at Midwest Mission Gifts, a Fair Trade gift shop.

We will also be hosting a Rice Meal Pack during the Grand Opening! We'd love to know if you are coming. Email iowa@midwestmission.org to let us know.

We are so excited to see how God will continue to use this ministry for the glory of His Kingdom. God has blessed and grown Midwest Mission in abundant ways, and our mission remains: bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.

Stay up to date about the Iowa location by following the Midwest Mission Iowa Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/midwestmissioniowa>

Beyond the Doors of Midwest Mission — M&M's Sewing Group



Being a volunteer for Midwest Mission is not limited to the boundaries of the campus. Being a volunteer for Midwest Mission means being the hands and feet of Jesus wherever you are — serving local organizations, global organizations, and individuals alike. We love to see the work you are doing amongst friends and loved ones while at home.

M&M's (Mavens and Mavericks) of Kewanee First United Methodist Church is a great example of this. They meet weekly to make handmade items for nursing homes and nonprofits. Locally, they have made holiday gifts for their shut-ins, including a handmade gift and tasty treat that they personally deliver. They passed out hand-sewn fabric bookmarks with a sweet message to mothers in their congregation. Shirt-savers and walker and wheelchair bags have been donated to local nursing homes, shut-ins, and Abilities Plus which serves special needs adults. They see needs in their communities and organizations and work to meet them.



Recently, the project for the M&M's group was Midwest Mission Layette Kits. Ten of their active members completed 15 Layette Kits, each containing six cloth diapers, two gowns or sleepers, two onesies or undershirts, two infant washcloths, six diaper pins, one sweater or jacket, and two receiving blankets. They plan to personally deliver the kits to Midwest Mission in the near future.

Wherever you are, whatever your skills may be, you can be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Thank you, M&M's, for sharing your story with us. We'd love to hear what you are working on at home. Email stories@midwestmission.org with your stories and pictures.

Current Needs

You can purchase these items at your local store 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.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Women's Underwear
child size 10-14 or women size 5-8
for the Feminine Hygiene Kit

Bicycles
we need adult bicycles in good
condition with minimal rust

Annual Conferences

United Methodist Annual Conferences are here! Midwest Mission will be traveling to nine different Annual Conferences in the month of June. Stop by our exhibit booth or collection truck and say hi!

[Click here to see which conferences we will be at, and which conferences we will be collecting at!](#)

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 pray for our Midwest Mission staff and volunteers that will be on the road the next couple of weeks for Annual Conferences.

**"The name of the Lord is a strong tower;
The righteous runs into it and is safe."**

Proverbs 18:10

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 860 Student Kits
- 192 Home Care Kits
- 960 UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits
- 80 Personal Dignity Kits

Other work done

- Bike repair
- Cleaning
- Sewing machines repaired
- Counting into inventory
- Painting
- Desks - built and polyurethaned
- Stuffing mailers

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!

Do you have family or friends that need some GOOD News - GOD News - to uplift them? If so please click on the button below and share the link provided. The more we can spread the word about the work God is doing here, the more we can make the world a 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 May 30 - June 2, 2023



Volunteer Leaders



Chuck and Karen Porter
Brighton, IL



Deb and Howard Orndorff
Nebraska City, Nebraska

Volunteer Teams



Ogden Friendship House UMC
Manhattan, KS



Osceola UMC
Osceola, WI



Wesley and Garver Brick UMC
Decatur, IL



Christ UMC
Algonquin, IL

We are so grateful for all our 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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June 9, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Student Kits Distributed in Haiti to assist in Flood and Earthquake Relief



Haiti, located on an island in the Caribbean, has been continuously impacted by disasters — both natural and man-made — for years. This has left the country plagued with malnutrition, poverty, and violence.

Recently, the devastation worsened. Last weekend, torrential rains led to widespread flooding, causing damage to houses and a breakdown in transportation.

Shortly after, on the morning of June 6, a 4.9 magnitude earthquake struck the southern part of Haiti — the same area where the floods had caused damage.

These events left over 50 people dead, over 140 injured, and many without needed resources.

Food For The Poor, our biggest international partner, is responding to the urgent needs in Haiti. As part of their disaster pre-staging, they already have Disaster Prepositioned Kits in Haiti. These kits include supplies from several different organizations, including hygiene kits, water, food, emergency blankets, and Midwest Mission Student Kits.



The Student Kits provide kids a way to just feel like a kid, even in the midst of a disaster. The notebooks, pencils, crayons, coloring sheet, and other items allow them a way to work through some of the traumatic experiences they are going through.

Food For The Poor is continuing to respond to the needs, with more disaster supplies en route.

These natural disasters are crippling to the Haitian community, as they were already in a food and resource crisis. Blockades by gangs continue to make relief efforts complicated, and continuous disasters make recovery difficult.

But, we know our God is with the people of Haiti. Although it seems that these crises will never end, we have hope for a future where there is no pain and suffering. In the meantime, we continue to do what we can to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and provide hope to those who need it most.

Please join us in praying for the people of Haiti. Our God is a God of miracles!

Two Shipments to Honduras



Last week was a busy week at Midwest Mission. Two shipments were sent to Honduras.

The first shipment was an Angels of Hope container. It contained items that will be distributed to children's homes and orphanages in Honduras.

This included:

- 1,680 Personal Dignity Kits
- 432 Home Care Kits
- 312 Cases of disinfecting wipes

The second shipment was what we call a "General In-Kind" shipment, meaning it contained all sorts of items, from kits to medical supplies. The items will be distributed all over the country to organizations who are working hard to meet people's needs, and provide them a little bit of hope in their crisis.

This shipment included:

- 22 Electric Sewing Machines
- 6 Treadle Sewing Machines
- 348 Pillowcase Dresses
- 170 Birthing Kits
- 1,120 Student Kits
- 280 Personal Dignity Kits
- Redirect medical supplies
- Redirect school desks and chairs, folding chairs, tools, tarps, and clothing
- Disinfectant wipes

We have now sent 24 international shipments this year!

Thank you for being a big part of our mission — Bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.



Current Needs

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

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Women's Underwear
child size 10-14 or women size 5-8
for the Feminine Hygiene Kit

Onesies
size 0-6 months for the
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Prayers to Lift Up

Pray for those in Haiti who have been affected by the flooding and earthquake. Pray for safety, peace, and protection. Pray that disaster relief supplies will reach those who need them most as quickly as possible.

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."
Colossians 4:2

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 16 Bed Packs
- 280 Feminine Hygiene Kits
- 6272 Home Care Kits
- 140 Layette Kits
- 30 Personal Dignity Kits
- 940 Student Kits
- 36 UMCOR Cleaning Kits
- 18 Desk

Other work done

- Desks - parts prepared, built, polyurethaned
- Bikes - repaired
- Sewing Machines - repaired
- Cleaning
- Grounds Keeping
- Unloading donations from Annual Conferences
- Counting items into inventory

Disbursements

- **Helping Hands, Springfield, IL: 100 Student Kits, 20 Bikes Value: \$3,400.00**

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Volunteers at Work June 5 - June 9, 2023





Volunteer Leaders



Deb and Howard Orndorff
Nebraska City, Nebraska

Volunteer Teams



Athens UMC
Athens, IL



Riverside UMC
Park Rapids, MN



Wellspring UMC
Oswego, IL



Simpson Group
Springfield, IL



Church of the Good Shepherd
Oswego, IL



Union Reunion
St. Louis, MO



Trinity Lutheran Youth
Auburn, IL



Troy Youth
Troy, IL

We are so grateful for all our 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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June 16, 2023

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Jefferson, Iowa



Saturday, June 17, 10am-2pm – 219 N Chestnut St, Jefferson, IA 50129

Pack Rice Meals, learn about the Loom Project, and shop in our gift shop!

Successful Annual Conference Collections



Whew! June is one of the busiest times of the year for our volunteers and staff. Why? It's the United Methodist Annual Conference season and we have the amazing opportunity to go out and represent the ministry of Midwest Mission and receive the gifts of your donations.

This year, Midwest Mission was represented at nine Annual Conferences, and held collections at the Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, West Ohio, East Ohio, Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and Illinois Great Rivers conferences.



The collected items are still being weighed and counted, but over 30,000 lbs of donations have been inventoried so far! And, we are only half way through the trucks and trailers that came back from the conferences. The items we received are such a blessing to this ministry.

From Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits, to wheelchairs and sewing machines, we were overwhelmed (in the best way!) with how much was donated.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated items, money, or time to make these collections such a success. We are already looking forward to next year!



Through exhibit tables and time on stages, we got the word out about Midwest Mission. We want to welcome more people into our family, engage more people in service opportunities, and make a greater impact around the world and around the corner. These times to share are vital in growing this ministry.



There were a few things we really wanted people to know, and you can share too!

- We are opening a new location in Jefferson, IA that will host volunteer teams. Grand opening is tomorrow, June 17 10am-2pm.
- Serving with others is a way to reach out to those who don't know Jesus, and to better connect in fellowship with those who do know Jesus. There are three main ways to get involved with Midwest Mission:
 1. Volunteer at Midwest Mission (Illinois or Iowa) — midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission OR midwestmission.org/iowa
 2. Host an Off-Site Event (Rice Meal Pack, Student Kit Assembly, or Personal Dignity Kit Assembly) — midwestmission.org/off-site
 3. Serve from Home (Make Handmade Items, Assemble Kits, or Collect and Donate) — midwestmission.org/at-home

The Annual Conference season is not just a time to collect items or share about

Midwest Mission with others, but also to connect with our volunteers and supporters from all over the country. Our staff was overjoyed to spend time with so many of our loved volunteers, and to hear stories of how serving and supporting Midwest Mission has impacted their life. We love all of our volunteers, and are always thankful for opportunities to see you! Hearing your stories is an encouragement and a beautiful representation of how God's Kingdom is grown through relationships and serving together.

We talked to Mary in Michigan.

Before the Michigan Annual Conference began, Mary prayed and prayed that she could find someone to take her beloved treadle machine.

Treadle sewing machines generally hold a lot of cherished memories and moments. Years of sewing, teaching, and learning attaches an invaluable price to a family's possession. Many times, these machines are passed down through generations, until there isn't a need for it anymore.

As the Michigan Annual Conference approached, Mary was ready to give her treadle away, but she wanted it to go to someone who would use it, and whose life would be changed by it.

At the exhibit booth, Chantel Corrie, Executive Director, shared with Mary about Midwest Mission's micro business area and how valuable these machines are to the people who receive them. People are able to make a living using sewing machines, and it completely transforms their lives.

Mary was beyond excited to learn that her prayers were answered, and God had placed her at the right place at the right time, to connect with us about where her precious treadle machine could go and the life-changing difference it could make.

Thank you, Mary, for sharing this with us, and for listening to God's prompting! Your treadle machine will be of great value to someone around the world.

If you have a treadle sewing machine you would like to donate, go to midwestmission.org/collect-donate to learn more.



Current Needs

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

Click here to learn more!

Women's Underwear
child size 10-14 or women size 5-8
for the Feminine Hygiene Kit

Onesies
size 0-6 months for the
Layette Kit

Mission in Motion Calendar

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Prayers to Lift Up

Please be praying for our new Iowa location this week. Pray for a smooth and exciting grand opening, and for blessing over this extension of the ministry.

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."
Colossians 4:2

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 18 Desks
- 21 Bikes
- 7 Bed Pack
- 20 Birthing Kits
- 50 Feminine Hygiene Kits
- 10 Layette Kits
- 1960 Personal Dignity Kits
- 60 Student Kits
- 34 Tornado Kits
- 600 Rice Meals - Bethany UMC, Middletown, OH

Other work done

- Bikes - repaired
- Desks - parts prepared, built, polyurethaned
- Sewing Machines - repaired
- Sewing
- Cleaning
- Sorting donations from Annual Conferences
- Sorting outfits
- Counting items into inventory

Disbursements

- CICIM, Decatur, IL: 100 Personal Dignity Kits, redirect furniture Value: **\$3,600.00**
- Northcott Children's Home, Milwaukee, WI: 100 Personal Dignity Kits, 100 Student Kits Value: **\$3,200.00**

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love!

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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

June 12 - June 16, 2023





Volunteer Leaders



Donna Downen
Tolono, IL



Karen Chumbley
Savoy, Illinois



Deb and Howard Orndorff



Chuck and Karen Porter

Volunteer Teams



Richmond UMC
Whitewater, WI



First UMC
Nebraska City, NE



Waverly First UMC
Waverly, IL



Grace UMC
Jacksonville, IL



Simonson Group
Delavan, IL



Skyler Moyer
Springfield, IL



Centennial UMC Youth
Roseville, MN



SPARC
Springfield, IL



Flora UMC
Flora, IL

Not pictured:
Springfield First UMC Sewing Group, Springfield, IL

We are so grateful for all our 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
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June 23, 2023



New Place, New Faces, Same Mission: Over 200 Attend Iowa Grand Opening



On Saturday, June 17, Midwest Mission officially opened its doors to a second location with a Ribbon Cutting Grand Opening at the new campus in Jefferson, Iowa.

Midwest Mission was founded in the year 2000 and was commissioned by the Illinois Great Rivers Conference with \$100,000 seed money. The purpose was to create a place where needed resources could be brought together and sent to those in crisis to actively be the hands and feet of Jesus.



God was working in and through Midwest Mission to create the Iowa location. God sped up the timeline, and within six months of what was supposed to be the start of a feasibility study period, God put the right people in place, and the doors were opened to the new facility.



Danille Curtis, Midwest Mission's Iowa Coordinator, was instrumental in making this happen. She has been on staff since 2020, and felt God's call to make a home for Midwest Mission in Iowa. What began as a Permanent Collection Site at Jefferson First United Methodist Church evolved into hosting volunteer days, and finally God led her and the rest of the staff to open a branch of Midwest Mission in Iowa.

The ribbon cutting, held by Jefferson Matters, commenced the Grand Opening event.

Midwest Mission was grateful for the presence of Iowa Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai and Assistant to the Bishop Rev William Poland at the Grand Opening. Bishop Kennetha shared a beautiful sentiment to how the Holy Spirit is working through the ministry of Midwest

Mission, saying "the Holy Spirit did the feasibility study."

Chantel Corrie, Midwest Mission Executive Director, spoke to those in attendance about how the Iowa location came to be, and extended gratitude to all those who made it possible. The hard work of volunteer leaders, Brett and Kristi Ahrens and Bill and Connie Ridgley, Iowa Board member Alaire Willits, and Danille Curtis, her husband Kent, and her daughters Hannah and Grace opened the doors to Midwest Mission in Iowa. Chantel and the team were also grateful to the Greene County Development Committee for their excitement, encouragement, and support of making Jefferson, Iowa Midwest Mission's second home.

As the time came to cut the ribbon, Bishop Kennetha stood side-by-side with Danille, and together they cut the ribbon, officially opening Midwest Mission Iowa.



Over 200 people came to the Grand Opening event. They toured the Jefferson facility, learned about making plastic sleeping mats out of grocery bags using looms, packed Rice Meals, shopped at Midwest Mission Gifts (a Fair Trade gift shop), learned about serving opportunities with Midwest Mission, and celebrated the work God is doing in and through Midwest Mission.

The Jefferson location will take in donations, make Midwest Mission Kits, Sleeping

Mats, and Rice Meals, do sewing projects, and distribute some supplies locally.

Most items will be driven to the Midwest Mission headquarters in Illinois for national and international distribution, working together to live out the ministry's mission: bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.

Midwest Mission Iowa is now open for volunteers. Volunteer shifts are available Monday through Thursday from 8:30am-4pm. To sign up for a shift, volunteers can go to midwestmission.org/iowa.

Midwest Mission Gifts will be open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm, and Saturday 9am-12pm.

"We just want to say a big thank you to everyone who prayed for this new opportunity, to those who dedicated their time, money, and resources, and those who let God continue to lead us to this new adventure," Chantel Corrie said. "The Holy Spirit is alive and active in this place. We hope you can join us at one of our locations soon."



Guess the number of plastic bags it takes to make a sleeping mat

During the Grand Opening, we had people guess how many plastic grocery bags it takes to make one sleeping mat with the loom.

The correct answer: 481 bags!

Corinne Bancroft had the closest guess with 472 bags
Great job, Corinne!

Highest guess: 8,010

Lowest guess: 82

Watch the Grand Opening Recap Video [here](#)

Fibers of Love Donates 357 lbs of Handmade Items

Fibers of Love, a sewing group based out of Bloomington, Illinois, dropped off 357 lbs of handmade items on Wednesday, June 21. The group started 28 years ago, “sewing for the community, county, country and the world.”

Trisha Horner and Karen Henry came by Midwest Mission to donate **190 lbs of one-handed bags** that will be used in Student Kits and Feminine Hygiene Kits. They also donated **167 lbs of other handmade items** such as receiving blankets, baby sweaters, and little girl outfits. These items were all made by the group since the last time they donated items to Midwest Mission in March.

They use donated materials to make handmade items that they send out to organizations. A few months ago, Midwest Mission received a large donation of fabric from a fabric store that had closed. Fibers of Love was able to take some of the fabric back to Bloomington. While stopping in to donate on Wednesday, they told us a lot of the items they made used the fabric they received from that donation. That is mission in motion!

Almost **30 people** meet on a weekly basis to sew and cut fabric. They meet in the basement of **First Christian Church in Bloomington**, along with congregants from **seven other churches** in the area of several different denominations. What a beautiful representation of unity among God’s people through serving God’s kingdom together.

If you would like to learn more about ways you can serve from home, go to midwestmission.org/at-home



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These items must be new

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Onesies

size 0-6 months for the Layette Kit

Diaper Ointment

1 oz -2 oz

Colored Pencils

box of 12

Mission in Motion Calendar

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Prayers to Lift Up

This week, join us in praying for those who are currently experiencing disasters - whether natural or man-made. Pray that they will call upon Jesus for help, and that their basic needs can be met, so that they will be filled with hope for their future.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."
Romans 15:13*

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 3 Bed Packs
- 30 Birthing Kits
- 10 Layette Kits
- 2190 Personal Dignity Kits
- 310 Student Kits

Other work done

- Bikes - repaired
- Desks - parts prepared, built, polyurethaned
- Sewing Machines - repaired
- Cleaning
- Sorting donations from Annual Conferences
- Sorting outfits
- Counting items into inventory
- Sewing

Disbursements

- **CICIM, Decatur, IL: Redirect clothing for Kentucky Mountain Mission Value: \$4,705.00**
- **Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery, Springfield, IL: 144 Cover Them With Love Quilts Value: \$8,640.00**
- **Fibers of Love, Bloomington, IL: 2 Electric sewing machines Value: \$400.00**
- **The Giving Place, Tolono, IL: Redirect hygiene and school supplies Value: \$498.00**
- **Watseka First UMC, Watseka, IL: Redirect hygiene and school supplies Value: \$234.00**

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[Volunteer Reservation Calendar](#)

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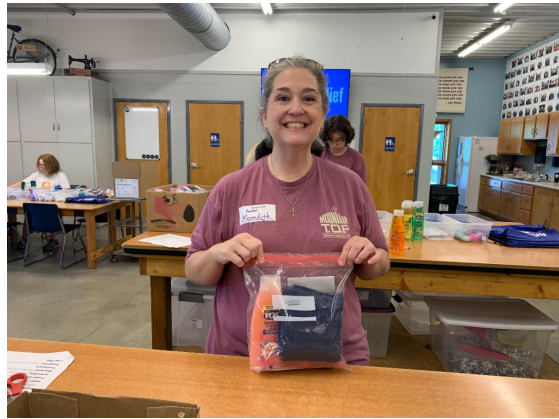
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Volunteers at Work

June 19 - June 23, 2023





Volunteer Leaders



Donna Downen
Tolono, IL



Karen Chumbley
Savoy, Illinois

Volunteer Teams



Salem UMC
Evansville, IN



Taylorville UMC
Taylorville, IL



SPARC Summer Program
Springfield, IL



Monticello UMC
Monticello, IL



St. Joseph UMC
St. Joseph, IL



Bellflower UMW
Bellflower, IL



Douglas Avenue UMC Youth
Springfield, IL

We are so grateful for all our 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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June 30, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Layette Kits Gifted to New Moms in Guatemala



Bringing a new life into this world is a beautiful thing. A newborn brings joy and love like no other into the lives of moms and dads. But, with the joy comes the stress of taking care of the baby, and meeting their needs. For mothers in Guatemala, that stress and worry about taking care of their newborn is amplified.

In Guatemala, almost 60 percent of the

population lives under the poverty line. As a result, malnutrition and lack of medical care are widespread. New mothers have to make serious choices about how they will spend their money to best care for the life of their child. Many sacrifices have to be made.

That's why these Layette Kits are such a gift to those who receive them. The kits bring hope to the expecting mothers, and empower them to use the resources they have to better the life of them and their children.



“Young single moms like Danelik (pictured above) are unable to afford many essentials for their newborns, so it gives us great joy to be able to provide this assistance,” said Byron Paredes, Food For The Poor’s in-country partner representative.

Danelik is a new mom who has a story like many mothers in Guatemala. The father of the baby does not support the baby’s essential needs. As a single mother, Danelik must work long hours in a bakery to try to make ends meet, but it still isn’t enough. The gift of a Layette Kit allows her to use the money she makes for food without worrying about how they will afford other basic items. The Layette Kit she received consists of six cloth diapers, two sleepers, two onesies, two infant washcloths, six diaper pins, one sweater, two receiving blankets, and diaper cream.

“With Food For The Poor’s continued support and that of its donor (Midwest Mission), we can continue to provide these much-needed essentials to many Guatemalans in need, and to continue this humanitarian mission,” Byron said.



Team Assists after Storms at Midwest Mission in Illinois



Thursday, June 29 was an eventful day at Midwest Mission in Pawnee, IL. A sunny, warm day quickly turned into a dark and cloudy day as storms rolled in.

Early in the day, Chuck Porter, longtime regular volunteer, decided it was time to clean out the storm shelter, removing leftover paint buckets, tiles, and debris that had been stored down there for years. At this time, it was a beautiful day, and the teams joyfully hauled all of the items out of the shelter. Little did we know, the shelter would shortly be used.



"Yesterday we had to clear out the storm shelter," said Ryanne Erb, a youth volunteer from Dixon FUMC. "We did not know we would be using it an hour or two later. I think God knew something was going to happen and had us clear out the shelter."

As the teams from Dixon, IL and Coal City, IL came back from lunch, phones started ringing with alerts about tornado warnings. Everyone in the warehouse and dorm was quickly whisked away into the newly cleaned storm shelter located under the duplex. Volunteer leaders bravely assisted getting everyone down the steps and tucked away into safety. Staff and volunteers alike sat side-by-side on the benches, wrapped in blankets stored in the shelter for times like these. After about 30 minutes of high winds, sheets of rainfall, and booms of thunder, the tornado warning was lifted.

After a time of prayer, everyone headed up the steps and into the fresh, damp air. Immediately everyone could see the evidence of a storm. Trees were down across the road, corn was turned sideways, and branches littered the ground. But, thankfully, Midwest Mission was blessed with no damage.

On Thursday night, the team from Dixon FUMC and volunteer leaders Kristi and Brett Ahrens helped clear branches at Sugar Creek United Methodist Church. Today (Friday, June 30), they assisted with debris removal at Ball-Chatham Elementary school.

"What mattered here... was the work we did to clean up at the church after the storm," Reid Scott, a youth volunteer from Dixon FUMC said. "We were able to help

repair God's kingdom."

We are so grateful for their help, and keeping a missional and servant-like mindset, even in the midst of the chaos of a storm.



Two Shipments in One Week!



This was an exciting week at Midwest Mission. We sent out two international shipments in two days, bringing our total for the year to **26 international shipments**.

The first shipment left the warehouse on **Wednesday, June 28**. It was a general in-kind shipment to **Guatemala**. "General in-kind" means that the container was filled with requested supplies such as kits, medical supplies, tools, and other items we typically send. The container was packed to the brim! It included Feminine Hygiene Kits, donated desks and chairs, medical supplies, and more. It was valued at \$145,840.36.

The second shipment left on **Thursday, June 29**. This shipment was an **Angels of Hope** shipment to **Honduras**. An Angels of Hope shipment always includes Personal Dignity Kits, Home Care Kits, and disinfecting wipes. These shipments help children's homes across Latin America and the Caribbean stay clean and help the children with hygiene. The shipment was valued at \$46,420.00.



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!](#)

Handmade Day Pads

for the Feminine Hygiene Kit – see pattern
at midwestmission.org/patterns

Women's Underwear

for the Feminine Hygiene Kit
women's size 5-8, child's size 10-14

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

This week, we pray for everyone affected by the continuing wildfires in Canada. Please also pray for those who have damages from the storms that blew through in Central Illinois. Praise God with us that the Midwest Mission campus had no dam

*"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."
Psalm 31:24*

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

- Kit Assembly — Layette Kits, Student Kits, Home Care Kits, and Personal Dignity Kits
- Bikes - repaired
- Desks - parts prepared, built, polyurethaned
- Sewing Machines - repaired
- Cleaning
- Counting items into inventory
- Sewing
- Storm clean up

Disbursements

- Bidwell Food Pantry, Des Moines, IA: Redirect hygiene items Value: \$50.00
- Food For The Poor, Guatemala: See above story
- Food For The Poor, Honduras: See above story

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

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Volunteers at Work June 26 - June 30, 2023





Volunteer Leaders



Chuck and Karen Porter
Brighton, Illinois



Brett and Kristi Ahrens
Stratford, Iowa

Illinois Volunteer Teams



First UMC
Dixon, IL



Coal City UMC
Coal City, IL



Union Reunion
St. Louis, MO



SPARC
Springfield, IL

Not Pictured: Springfield First UMC Sewing Group, Springfield, IL

Iowa Volunteer Teams



Hope UMC
Blue Earth, MN



Terry "Doc" Sprague
Guthrie Center, IA



Staves Memorial UMC
Des Moines, IA



Great Plains Conference UWF
Lincoln, NE

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