

September 5th, 2025



## From a Broomstick to a New Beginning: Timotea's Story



Timotea hobbled into the Parish Clinic in Guastatoya, Guatemala, broomstick in hand. **But it wasn't for sweeping—it was her makeshift cane,** the only support she had to navigate the uneven floors of her home. It offered some balance, but not the stability she truly needed. Every step was a challenge.

This was a special day at the clinic. Patients were gathering in the large community room, many relying on broken-down wheelchairs, improvised mobility aids, or unsteady feet. But today, they would be receiving something life-changing: proper medical equipment tailored to their needs.

Each individual had been evaluated by the clinic's physical therapist, who took the time to understand their unique situations. In places like Guatemala, access to even the most basic medical supplies—like canes, walkers, or wheelchairs—is limited or unaffordable. For many, these items are completely out of reach.

Thankfully, the Parish Clinic, run by the local church, is bridging that gap. Through its partnership with Midwest Mission, Food For The Poor, and the Order of Malta, the clinic received a shipment of donated mobility aids—supplies that would drastically improve patients' quality of life.

Timotea was the first to be called forward.

Carefully, she stood up, leaning on her broomstick as she made her way across the room. The physical therapist greeted her with a real cane, adjusted it to the right height, and encouraged her to take a few steps.

Timotea's face lit up.

She smiled as she confidently walked—really walked—for the first time in years. Then, without hesitation, she handed over the broomstick. She wouldn't be needing it anymore.

Overcome with gratitude, Timotea thanked the staff and Midwest Mission for their generosity. The cane changed everything for her!

Now, she can go to the market. She can attend church. She can move around her home without fear. **A simple cane gave her back her independence.**

**You can help make stories like Timotea's possible.**

If you have new or gently used medical supplies—canes, walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, orthopedic braces—please consider donating them to Midwest Mission. **What sits forgotten in a closet could be the key to someone else's freedom.**

Learn more: [midwestmission.org/collect-donate](https://midwestmission.org/collect-donate)



## Welcome, Jeremiah!

Please join us in welcoming Jeremiah Miller to the Midwest Mission family! Jeremiah joined the





team as our new Reservations Coordinator this past week. He will be assisting folks who are reserving their volunteer shifts.

If you call or stop in, be sure to say hi and make him feel welcome!

Previously, Pat Wright, Director Emeritus, was working as the Reservations Coordinator. She is now transitioning to a new position — Engagement Coordinator. Pat is excited to work with volunteers and donors, and make sure they have a great missional experience!

## 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 at [www.midwestmission.org/permanent-collection-sites](http://www.midwestmission.org/permanent-collection-sites).

### What's Happening @ Permanent Collection Sites?

**Center UMC, Cambridge, OH** – WELCOME to our newest Permanent Collection Site! Kathy Warhola is working to get started collecting donations. This is a much needed site in the state of Ohio.

**Nebraska City FUMC, Nebraska City, NE** – Dean Thomson reports the church is getting ready for their Fall Kick-Off! It will be held this Sunday, September 7th with a Blessing Bag Pack and a Midwest Mission display.

**University UMC, East Lansing, MI** – Scott McRee will be onsite in Illinois next week with a volunteer team from his church. They have collected four sewing machines



and a good supply of bicycles.

**Glenview UMC, Glenview, IL** – Ethyl Doyle and her congregants will be hosting a Blessing Bag Pack on October 5th. They will also be coming to our Illinois campus October 22—24th to volunteer. Can't wait to see you!

**Riverside UMC, Park Rapids, MN** – Lisa Rigoni and Teresa Whitehouse were welcomed by Spike Wellman and members of Riverside UMC for several days of fun in August! They were housed in a beautiful cabin at Northern Pines Camp and took part in a Midwest Mission fundraiser, featuring the Jump'in Jehosafats jazz band, pizza, and ice cream. They toured Living at Home, a senior facility in the area, and the storage barn where donations are housed for the Permanent Collection Site.

"We had a great time during our stay in Minnesota," said Teresa. "Thank you to Riverside UMC for welcoming us into your church and homes."



*If your congregation is interested in becoming a New Permanent Collection Site, please contact [teresa@midwestmission.org](mailto:teresa@midwestmission.org) for more information.*

## Last Week for This Quarter's Online Store!

This is the last week the online store will be open for presale, if you want your order by October!

Orders must be placed by September 8, 2025.  
The orders will be fulfilled by September 26, 2025.

[Shop!](#)

## Thrift With A Mission

It's garage sale season! If you love to thrift, browse estate sales, or hunt for treasures at garage sales, why not turn your shopping into serving? Be on the lookout for items you can donate to Midwest Mission. Download a flyer and tell your friends, family or even take it to your church!

[Thrift with a Mission Flyer](#)

## Prayers to Lift Up

Jesus, we are so grateful that we can call you friend. You walk alongside us as we navigate life and live on mission. There is no other like you, God! We pray that, though we are a ministry that reaches far and wide, you would be personally at work in the hearts of all who come into contact with us. We want our focus on you to be what brings us together and unifies us, across cultures and across the street.

“...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”  
-Hebrews 12:1-2



Our 2025 Summer Update is available for download! Using the button below, you can download the report and share with someone you know!

Download

# CURRENT Needs

Please consider collecting and donating:

- **Feminine Hygiene Kit Items:**
  - Day and Night Pads
  - Waterproof Bags
- **Dish Soap** (42-64 oz)
- **Bed Packs**
- **Layette Kit Gowns & Sleepers** (Size 0-6 months)
- **Liquid Laundry Detergent** (max of 150 oz)

You can purchase our current needs on Amazon [here](#).  
Sewing Patterns and instructions [here](#).

You can bring items to a Midwest Mission location or a [Permanent Collection Site](#) near you — or send them through the mail to 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558.

# Download the September Church Bulletin!



## Serving September

Midwest Mission Serving September is a month dedicated to service! You and your church are relevant to God's Great Commission. Midwest Mission helps people in their times of crisis, but we also use our mission to revitalize congregations through service. We have easy and accessible opportunities to show God's love in a practical way and get people involved who may or may not know Jesus personally.

This is a great opportunity for you and your congregation to learn about our hands-on activities and how to implement them right where you are. You can reinvigorate your community by getting them excited about serving and making a difference around the world and around the corner. Join people around the Midwest for a month of serving! To join us for a month of service, visit: [midwestmission.org/servingseptember](http://midwestmission.org/servingseptember).



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## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

### Work Done

#### Onsite:

- Desk Shop
- Bike Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop
- Campus Improvements
- Items counted into inventory
- Offsite Pack Prep

- 7 Bed Packs
- 529 Blessing Bags Packed
- 540 Home Care Kits
- 70 Personal Dignity Kits

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?



Here are three ways you can get involved at Midwest Mission:

## 1. Host a Mission Event

We have several hands-on mission opportunities you can host at your location! Visit [midwestmission.org/missionevents](https://midwestmission.org/missionevents) to learn more. Contact Melissa Brookens at 217-483-7911 or [melissa@midwestmission.org](mailto:melissa@midwestmission.org) to book your event or for questions.

## 2. Serve From Home

You can serve people around the world from right at home! From sewing, to assembling kits, there's something for everyone. Learn how at [midwestmission.org/at-home](https://midwestmission.org/at-home).

## 3. Volunteer at Midwest Mission

We have dates available in 2025 and 2026! [Click here](#) to check calendar openings and to reserve your spots.

**2025 and 2026 Volunteer Calendar is open for Lodge 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 open 3 months from the present date.

Learn more at [midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission](https://midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission).

### Midwest Mission Iowa

If you would like to volunteer at our Jefferson, IA location, visit [midwestmission.org/iowa](https://midwestmission.org/iowa) - or reach out to [Melissa Brookens](#).

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## Volunteers at Work

September 2-5, 2025

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### Volunteer Leaders



Teri & Evelyn Erbele  
Charlton, MN



Mike & Jane Strayer  
Valparaiso, IN

## Illinois Teams



Lincoln First UMC  
Lincoln, IL



Tampico UMC  
Tampico, IL



Taylorville UMC  
Taylorville, IL



Simpson Group  
Springfield, IL





First UMC  
O'Fallon, IL

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## Iowa Volunteers

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Ben Carter-Allen  
Sewing Repair Shop



Stitch and Serve Sewers





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!

[Donate](#)

[Visit our Website](#)



[Click here for the UMVIM newsletter](#)







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September 12th, 2025



## Blessing Bags Packed into School Bus that is Heading Towards Haiti!



This week, we had an unusual shipment leave this warehouse!

4,800 Rice and Soy Blessing Bags are on their way to Haiti, but this time, the mode of transportation is a little different. All the Blessing Bags were packed into a school bus, along with donated items from other organizations!

Hosean International Ministries (HIM Haiti) has worked in Haiti for over 40 years, bringing hope and real help to the people of Haiti. Their staff of 150 Haitians works with international partners from the United States, Brazil, and Canada.

Midwest Mission was connected to Hosean International Ministries through Gene Turner, who was formerly our Mission in Motion Manager. Gene's father-in-law, Bernie, volunteers at HIM Haiti for over six months every year. He shared about needs the organization had, and ways they could ship the supplies into Haiti.

Last year, on a trip to Haiti, Gene and Bernie delivered Blessing Bags, medical supplies, Little Boy's and Girl's Outfits, and other requested items. The

response from the recipients was full of gratitude.

Now, over a year later, Haiti is still in turmoil, and is in desperate need of supplies. When Bernie called Brad Walton, Director of Operations, inquiring about a joint-partnership shipment, we were elated! It's been almost exactly one year since we've been able to ship to Haiti, with our last shipment leaving the warehouse on September 4, 2024. The ports have been closed for much of the year, but now, the port in Cap Haitian is open, and we were eager to get supplies in.



HIM Haiti received a school bus from a donor in Wisconsin for their school. But, if they were shipping a school bus, they needed to fill it first!

So, on Wednesday, September 10, the bus rolled onto campus and Ramon Ortiz, Operations Manager, and a team of volunteers packed four pallets of meals into the bus. The remainder of the bus was filled with a variety of other supplies that had previously been loaded onto the bus.



From Midwest Mission, the bus will be driven down to Miami, where it will be loaded onto a container, and shipped on a boat to the Cap Haitian port.

Volunteers serving at Midwest Mission on Wednesday were very excited to pray over the bus, and hear from Bernie himself about the great work that is happening in Haiti.

Please continue to pray over this shipment, that it will safely arrive and be distributed. Pray for the people of Haiti — for safety, for the ability to receive needed supplies, and for the turmoil to come to an end.

We praise God that the ports have opened, and hope in the form of Blessing Bags will soon be in the hands of the hungry!





You are invited to join us at Midwest Mission's Annual Rice and Soy Blessing Bag Pack on September 25 and 26, 2025! We hope to pack **10,000 meals** that will feed **60,000 people** in Haiti!

All of the meals packed will go on a shipment to HIM Haiti in October. Haiti has been in desperate need of food for a long time. Now that the ports are open, this is our chance to help feed Haiti!

Would a small group or even your entire church family consider joining us for a **two-hour volunteer shift**?

The Blessing Bag Pack, hosted at both Midwest Mission locations, is a free, assembly-line style event to pack meals. This is a great opportunity to show God's love in a practical way, being the hands and feet of Jesus.

**Midwest Mission Illinois (1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558)**

Volunteer shifts are available on Thursday, September 25, and Friday, September 26 from 9-11am, 1-3pm, and 5-7pm.

Sign up at [midwest-mission.vomo.org/opportunity/serving-september](https://midwest-mission.vomo.org/opportunity/serving-september)

**Midwest Mission Iowa (219 N Chestnut St, Jefferson, IA 50129)**

Volunteer shifts are available on Thursday, September 25 from 9-11am, 1-3pm, and 5-7pm and Friday, September 26 from 9-11am and 1-3pm.

Space is limited, so sign up soon at [midwest-mission.vomo.org/opportunity/iowa-serving-september-blessing-bag-event](https://midwest-mission.vomo.org/opportunity/iowa-serving-september-blessing-bag-event)

**A few helpful notes:**

- Each packing line needs 10 volunteers, and 4 of those volunteers will have sitting positions.
- We do have a **minimum volunteer age of 11 years old**, since it is a working warehouse. **Volunteers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult** (there is a [waiver](#) that must be signed by a

parent or guardian ahead of time if not accompanying their child).

- We ask that participants wear closed-toe shoes. Hairnets, beard nets, and gloves will be provided.

If you have any questions, please email [mallory@midwestmission.org](mailto:mallory@midwestmission.org) or call 217-483-7911.

## Midwest Mission is Accepting Board Applications Through September 15th

The Midwest Mission Board of Directors helps to ensure the organization is the best steward of the resources God has given and makes the most significant impact on those we serve and those who serve with us. The board conducts regular strategic planning, SWOT analysis, and Ambassador Training, and prays for our abundance to overflow on every occasion we are called upon.

Midwest Mission has a large class of Board Members who are coming to the end of their term this year. We are a growing organization, and want to keep our board strong. **If this is something that interests you, please prayerfully consider applying.**

Below is a Perspective Board Member Packet with great information, frequently asked questions, and more. Please download this if you are interested.

### Current Open Regional Board Seats:

Dakotas - 2  
East Ohio - 1  
Illinois Great Rivers - 1  
Indiana - 1  
Iowa- 1  
Kentucky 1  
Minnesota - 2  
Missouri 1  
Northern Illinois - 1  
Wisconsin -1

To apply, fill out the online application or download the application and send the completed form to Chantel Corrie, Executive Director, at [chantel@midwestmission.org](mailto:chantel@midwestmission.org) and Patty Nelson, our Personnel and Nominating Chair, at [pnelson@nktelco.net](mailto:pnelson@nktelco.net).

***Applications are due this Monday, September 15th.***

[Download Interest Packet](#)

[Apply Online](#)

[Download Application](#)

# Prayers to Lift Up

Jesus, we love you because you first loved us. Your compassion and grace fill us daily, enabling us to do your good work. Help us to trust you with the big and small and lean on you because you cannot be shaken.

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”  
-Isaiah 54: 10



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MIDWEST MISSION

disaster relief • education



MISSION

health • micro business



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disaster relief • education



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## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

### Work of the Mission Volunteers

#### Work Done

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  - Desk Shop
  - Poly Shop
  - Sewing Shop
  - Sewing Machine Repair Shop
  - Cleaning
  - Groundskeeping
  - Campus Improvements
  - Items counted into inventory
  - Offsite Pack Prep
- 
- 13 Bed Packs
  - 280 Blessing Bags Packed
  - 300 Home Care Kits
  - 550 Personal Dignity Kits
  - 460 Student Kits
  - 180 UMCOR Cleaning Kits

##### Offsite:

- 3,160 Blessing Bags, Knoxville UMC, Knoxville, IL
- 320 Blessing Bags, Willow Hill UMC, Peoria, IL
- 1,800 Blessing Bags, Frankenmuth UMC, Frankenmuth, MI

##### Disbursements:

- St. Martin de Porres, Springfield, IL - Furniture - Value: \$5,824.00
- Hosean International Ministries, Haiti - 4,800 Blessing Bags - Value: \$9,600.00
- CICIM, Decatur, IL - Furniture - \$3,560.0

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

## Share some GOD news with those you love!

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## Volunteers at Work

## Volunteer Leaders



**Teri & Evelyn Erbele**  
Charlton, MN



**Mike & Jane Strayer**  
Valparaiso, IN

## Illinois Teams



**Sewing Group First UMC**  
Springfield, IL



**University UMC**  
Tampico, IL



**First UMC**  
Lansing, MI



**Centenary UMC**  
Jacksonville, IL





Union Reunion  
St. Louis, MO



First UMC  
Lombard, IL



Monticello UMC  
Monticello, IL



St. Joseph UMC  
St. Joseph, IL



Grace UMC  
Jacksonville, IL



Sarah Miller  
Pawnee, IL

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## Iowa Volunteers

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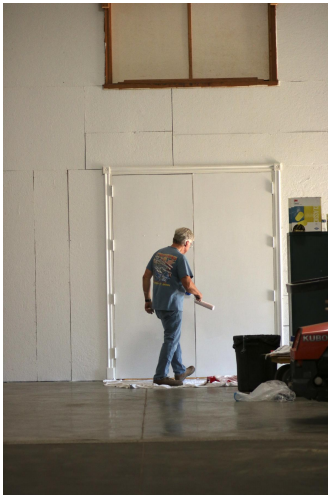
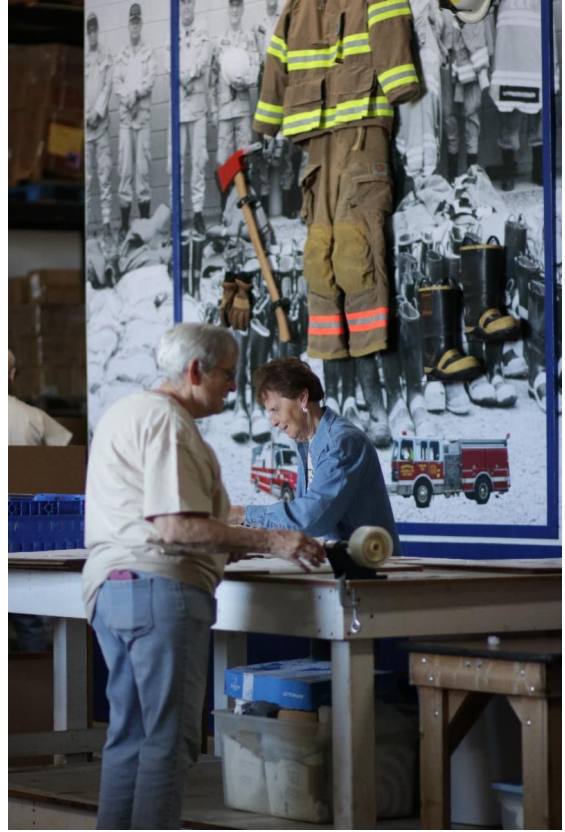
Christ Lutheran UMC  
Jefferson, IA



First UMC  
Cedar Falls, 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!

[Donate](#)

[Visit our Website](#)



[Click here for the UMMVIM newsletter](#)



Midwest Mission | 1001 Mission Drive | Pawnee, IL 62558 US

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September 19th, 2025



## Spreading Joy Through Service During Serving September

Joy is overflowing this month as so many of you are stepping up to serve with your churches, families, businesses, clubs, and more — and we love hearing your stories!

This month, we're celebrating *Serving September* — a special time dedicated to uniting people through acts of service. There's nothing quite like the joy that comes from being the hands and feet of Jesus.

We're excited to share two incredible stories from churches that have taken Serving September to heart:

[Emmanuel UMC — Noblesville, Indiana](#)



When Emmanuel UMC heard about the goal of collecting 2,500 Student Kits, they knew they wanted to help.

Their church family came together to donate all the needed supplies, and two women from the congregation sewed every one-handed bag!

On Thursday, September 11th, 31 volunteers gathered to assemble an impressive 120 Student Kits.

But they didn't stop there. A member of their missions team who works at a local assisted living facility invited the residents to join in — and they lovingly packed an additional 25 Kits, bringing Emmanuel UMC's total to 145 Student Kits!



### St. Joseph UMC — St. Joseph, Illinois

St. Joseph UMC also embraced the challenge of 2,500 Kits and got creative with their approach.

Their team sewed one-handed bags and tucked a Student Kit shopping list in each. On Sunday morning, they hung the bags on the pews and encouraged members to take and fill as many as they could throughout July and August.



Then, after a Sunday service, they hosted a joy-filled packing event, followed by a pizza lunch! Together, they assembled 109 Student Kits.

On September 12, they delivered the completed Kits and additional supplies to Midwest Mission.



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These Kits will bless children around the world, and we are so grateful to Emmanuel UMC and St. Joseph UMC for their generosity and joyful service.

It's not too late to get involved with Serving September! Help us reach our goal of 2,500 Student Kits by visiting: [midwestmission.org/servingseptember](https://midwestmission.org/servingseptember)

**Let's keep spreading joy through service!**

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## 49th International Shipment of the Year!



On Thursday, September 18, we sent out our 49th international shipment of the year. This leaves us one shipment away from hitting our goal of 50 international shipments this year!

The supplies are headed toward San Pedro Sula, Honduras through our partner Food For The Poor. Once supplies are in-country, our partner CEPUDO will distribute the requested items to organizations around the country.

This shipment included:

- 560 Personal Dignity Kits
- 6 Treadle Sewing Machines
- 7 Electric Sewing Machines
- 2 Sergers
- 50 Sleeping Mats
- 140 Little Girls' Outfits
- 91 Cover Them With Love Quilts
- 41 Mattresses
- Tarps
- Canes, crutches, and walkers
- Cleaning Supplies
- Medical Supplies

**The value of this shipment was \$166,812.50.**

At this time, available shipping containers are few and far between. Please be praying that more containers become available so we can continue shipping out needed resources to people around the world.



You are invited to join us at Midwest Mission's Annual Rice and Soy Blessing Bag Pack on September 25 and 26, 2025! We hope to pack **10,000 meals** that will feed **60,000 people** in Haiti!

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[mission.vomo.org/opportunity/iowa-serving-september-blessing-bag-event](https://midwest-mission.vomo.org/opportunity/iowa-serving-september-blessing-bag-event)

## Prayers to Lift Up

Jesus, we praise you and thank you for the blessings that you lavish upon us. Help us to remember what you've done for us, daily. Let the truth of your sacrifice ring clear in our hearts so that our lives are changed for the better.

**"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."**

**-Ephesians 1:3**





Our 2025 Summer Update is available for download! Using the button below, you can download the report and share with someone you know!

Download

# CURRENT *Needs*

Please consider collecting and donating:

- **Feminine Hygiene Kit Items:**
  - Day and Night Pads
  - Waterproof Bags
- **Dish Soap** (42-64 oz)
- **Bed Packs**
- **Layette Kit Gowns & Sleepers** (Size 0-6 months)
- **Liquid Laundry Detergent** (max of 150 oz)

You can purchase our current needs on Amazon [here](#).  
Sewing Patterns and instructions [here](#).

You can bring items to a Midwest Mission location or a [Permanent Collection Site](#) near you — or send them through the mail to 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558.

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**Download the September Church Bulletin!**

## Serving September

Midwest Mission Serving September is a month dedicated to service! You and your church are relevant to God's Great Commission. Midwest Mission helps people in their times of crisis, but we also use our mission to revitalize congregations through service. We have easy and accessible opportunities to show God's love in a practical way and get people involved who may or may not know Jesus personally.

This is a great opportunity for you and your congregation to learn about our hands-on activities and how to implement them right where you are. You can reinvigorate your community by getting them excited about serving and making a difference around the world and around the corner. Join people around the Midwest for a month of serving! To join us for a month of service, visit: [midwestmission.org/servingseptember](http://midwestmission.org/servingseptember).



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- ☐ Day and Night Pads
  - ☐ Waterproof Bags
  - ☐ Dish Soap
  - ☐ Bed Packs
  - ☐ Layette Kit Gowns & Sleepers (0-6 months)
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# Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

## Work of the Mission Volunteers

### Work Done in Illinois

#### Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Desk Shop
- Poly Shop
- Cleaning
- Groundskeeping
- Campus Improvements
- Items counted into inventory
- Offsite Pack Prep

- 4 Bed Packs
- 30 Birthing Kits
- 284 Blessing Bags Packed
- 480 Home Care Kits
- 60 Layette Kits
- 1,430 Student Kits
- 96 UMCOR Hygiene Kits

#### Offsite:

- 320 Blessing Bags, NIC UMM, Williams Bay, WI
- 2,520 Blessing Bags, Grace UMC, Wautoma, WI
- 1,200 Blessing Bags, First Methodist, Flora, IL

#### Disbursements:

- **Food For The Poor**, San Pedro de Sula, Honduras - 560 Personal Dignity Kits, 40 Canes, 35 Pairs of Crutches, 43 Walkers, 6 Treadle Machines, 7 Electric Sewing Machines, 50 Woven Sleeping Mats + more - Value: **\$166,812.50**

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

## Work Done in Iowa

### Disbursements:

- Urban Bicycle Food Ministries, Des Moines, IA - One Wheelchair and Assorted Linens - Value: \$172.00
- UMC, Panora, IA - Bikes - Value: \$90.00

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!

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?



Here are three ways you can get involved at Midwest Mission:

### 1. Host a Mission Event

We have several hands-on mission opportunities you can host at your location! Visit [midwestmission.org/missionevents](http://midwestmission.org/missionevents) to learn more. Contact Melissa Brookens at 217-483-7911 or [melissa@midwestmission.org](mailto:melissa@midwestmission.org) to book your event or for questions.

### 2. Serve From Home

You can serve people around the world from right at home! From sewing, to assembling kits, there's something for everyone. Learn how at [midwestmission.org/at-home](http://midwestmission.org/at-home).

### 3. Volunteer at Midwest Mission

We have dates available in 2025 and 2026! [Click here](#) to check calendar openings and to reserve your spots.

**2025 and 2026 Volunteer Calendar is open for Lodge 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 open 3 months from the present date.

Learn more at [midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission](http://midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission).



## Volunteers at Work

September 15th-19th, 2025

### Volunteer Leaders



**Mike & Jane Strayer**  
Valparaiso, IN



**Pat & Sharon Baumer**  
Noblesville, IN

### Illinois Teams



**First UMC**  
Columbus, NE



**Area Regional Ministries**  
Whitewater, WI



Steve Schroll  
Chatham, IL



Eck, Schafer & Punke LLP  
Springfield, IL

## Iowa Volunteers



Sewers  
Jefferson, IA



Brewer's Team  
Iowa











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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[Click here for the UMVIM newsletter](#)



Midwest Mission | 1001 Mission Drive | Pawnee, IL 62558 US

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September 26th, 2025



## The Mission Around the Corner: Meeting Local Needs in Indianapolis



Oftentimes, when we think of missions, we picture children and families in foreign countries with hungry stomachs and a lack of resources. Sadly, this is a reality in many places, but we often forget that there are also people in need of basic resources right here in the United States.

**The mission is right around the corner—we just have to open our eyes to it.**

Recently, Midwest Mission was able to send kits and items to a ministry in Indianapolis, Indiana, that addresses the needs they see right in their community. The ministry is called Soup's On. It

was founded out of Roberts Park UMC twenty-six years ago when a member of the church took notice of a need right in the church's vicinity: all of the nearby shelters were closed on Sundays, meaning homeless individuals in their community were going without food for a whole day, if not longer. This realization drove Soup's On to become a ministry dedicated to feeding those in need every Sunday at noon.

Still today, it is a refuge where people can receive a warm, nourishing meal. However, it's much more than just a place where the unhoused and unemployed can get a bite to eat.



Soup's On strives to meet guests' spiritual, emotional, and practical needs. Which is where Midwest Mission was able to enter the story, thanks to Mary Marty!

Mary, who is a volunteer at Midwest Mission and Soup's On, arranged for Midwest Mission Kits and items to be delivered to the pantry, where they would be distributed to those in need of hygiene items like deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and more. Now, guests who visit Soup's On for a filling meal, get to leave with arms full of items that will bring dignity and empowerment.

Because someone saw a need in their community and took steps to address it, lives are being transformed. **This is possible no matter where you are.** The need isn't always an ocean away; it just might be around your corner.

## 50th International Shipment of the Year!





**We have officially met our goal for 2025, and it's only September** On Thursday, September 25th, we sent out our 50th international shipment of the year!

The supplies are headed to Guatemala through our partner Food For The Poor.

This shipment included:

- 20 Bikes
- 50 Folding Chairs
- 6 Treadle Sewing Machines
- 13 Electric Sewing Machines
- 312 Layette Kits
- 1,680 Personal Dignity Kits
- 40 Twin Hospital Bed Mattresses
- 314 Scrubber Sponges
- Clothing
- Sewing Items
- Fabric

**The value of this shipment was \$191,921.10.**

We are beyond excited to reach our goal of 50 international shipments! We recognize that accomplishments such as this wouldn't be possible without dedicated volunteers, partners, and givers. So, we just want to thank everyone who made these shipments possible!

As we look to the future, we grow even more excited knowing that more international shipments are possible. With this in mind, we ask for persistent prayers for more containers to be available so that we can continue to send hope and empowerment around the world and around the corner!

# Teaching Beyond the Classroom - Roger's Story of Service

If you've volunteered at Midwest Mission or, more specifically, worked in the wood shop, you've most likely met Roger McClintock.

Roger taught math at Jacksonville High School for 39 years before retiring. It was then that he realized he didn't want to spend his retirement doing trivial activities. Instead, **he wanted to use his skills and talents for the good of others** no matter what that looked like. When he started volunteering at Midwest Mission, Roger found a place where his main passions of teaching and helping others intersect: in the woodshop. He now spends about 3 days a week teaching volunteers how to build the school desks.

Both Roger and his wife, Ruth, have been serving at Midwest Mission for about 22 years now. Talk about long-term service and dedication! With such longevity in service comes many stories and much impact. So, watch Roger's interview as he shares about his life of teaching, in and outside of the classroom!



# IOWA SEWING RETREAT

NOVEMBER 6TH-8TH



Join us this fall for the **Midwest Mission Sewing Retreat in Iowa, November 6–8, 2025!** This special event brings together mission-minded sewers to create some of the most needed hand-sewn items that go directly into Midwest Mission Kits, including baby diapers, feminine hygiene pads, fleece baby jackets, layette gowns, and Cover Them with Love Quilts. Each participant will receive one pre-cut kit for every sewing session and instructions from our experts. Whether you're an experienced sewer or simply love to sew with a purpose, this retreat is the perfect opportunity to sew together in fellowship with others.

The retreat kicks off Thursday afternoon with set-up, free sewing time, and a potluck meal before diving into projects. On Friday and Saturday, participants can begin the day with an optional devotion and worship at Jefferson First UMC, followed by a light breakfast and a full day of guided sewing. Lodging options are available at Jefferson First UMC or at the Cobblestone Hotel with a special Midwest Mission rate. The cost is just \$60, which covers breakfast on Friday and Saturday, dinner on Friday from the local favorite Bett & Bev's BBQ, a Midwest Mission t-shirt, and one pre-cut kit for each project.

This is more than a retreat—it's a way to make a meaningful impact for families around the world while connecting with new friends who share your heart for service. For more information or to register, contact Danille Curtis at (515) 351-1166 / [danille@midwestmission.org](mailto:danille@midwestmission.org).

## Prayers to Lift Up

Father, remind us this week that every box packed is more than a box, every shipment is more than supplies, and every task is more than work - it's worship. May our hands be



steady and hearts be joyful. Let our work carry hope to the nations and glory to your name.

Amen.

"Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord. They rejoice in your name all day long; they exalt in your righteousness."

-Psalm 89:15-16



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- ☐ Dish Soap
- ☐ Bed Packs
- ☐ Layette Kit Gowns & Sleepers (0-6 months)
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# Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

## Work Done in Illinois

### Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Desk Shop
- Sewing Shop
- 188 Layette Kits
- 1,030 Student Kits
- 432 UMCOR Cleaning Kits
- 1,959 Blessing Bags, Eck, Schafer & Punke, LLC, Springfield, IL

### Offsite:

- 2,400 Blessing Bags, Grace UMC, St. Louis, MO
- 623 Blessing Bags, Mahomet UMC, Mahomet, IL
- 640 Blessing Bags, Cisco UMC, Cisco, IL
- 100 Student Kits, Chatham UMC, Chatham, IL
- 50 Student Kits, Sullivan UMC, Sullivan, IL

### Disbursements:

- My Brother's Keeper Street Ministry, Greenville, IL - 10 Bikes and 21 Hospital Bed Mattresses - Value: \$3,000.00
- St. Martin de Porres, Springfield, IL - 12 Hospital Bed Mattresses - Value: \$1,200.00
- Food For The Poor, Guatemala - 20 Bikes, 6 Treadle Sewing Machines, 13 Electric Sewing Machines, 312 Layette Kits, 1,680 Personal Dignity Kits, and more - Value: \$191,921.10

## Work Done in Iowa

### Onsite:

- Bike Shop

- Sewing Shop
- Loom Weaving
- Sorting/Counting Donated Items
- Offsite and Onsite Pack Prep
- Cleaning

- 60 Personal Dignity Kits
- 60 Student Kits
- 40 Blessing Bags

#### Offsite:

- 1,200 Blessing Bags, **Asbury UMC**, Sioux Falls, SD
- 2,560 Blessing Bags, **Asbury UMC**, Webster City, IA
- 400 Blessing Bags, **Hope UMC**, Blue Earth, MN
- 400 Blessing Bags, **First UMC**, Nebraska City, NE

#### Disbursements:

- Overflow Thrift Store - 260 lbs of fabric - Value:\$1,040.00

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Thank you!

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For local teams and individuals: Volunteer Shifts will open 3 months from the present date.

Learn more at [midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission](http://midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission).

### Midwest Mission Iowa

If you would like to volunteer at our Jefferson, IA location, visit [midwestmission.org/iowa](http://midwestmission.org/iowa) - or reach out to [Melissa Brookens](#).

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## Volunteers at Work

### September 22th-26th, 2025

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### Volunteer Leaders



Mike & Jane Strayer



Pat & Sharon Baumer



Mary Marty

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### Illinois Teams



Emmanuel UMC  
Noblesville, IN



Bob Soltysik  
McKinney, TX



Sewing Group  
Springfield, IL



Libertyville UMC  
Libertyville, IL

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## Iowa Volunteers

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RS Youth  
Sotry City, IA

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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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