

March 3, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

*Disaster Relief*



**WE NEED  
SHAMPOO  
(12-19 OZ)**

Midwest Mission will be sending Personal Dignity Kits to  
**Turkey and Ukraine**, but **WE NEED SHAMPOO!**

We have a hard time quickly buying in bulk  
(the next shipment can't come until July).

We **desperately** need you to go out and buy shampoo at your local  
stores, then get it to Midwest Mission, so we can continue making kits.

## Your Sewing Machine Could Change a Life

Maria\* is sitting in a chair just outside of the door of her bright blue house in the Dominican Republic. A breeze sweeps by as she watches her two young children run up the street heading to school in their three-sizes-too-small school uniforms. She's in her early thirties, and has been married for a couple of years. But, her husband is away most of the time.

As her kids turn the corner up the road, she heads inside, brushes past their cinderblock wall, and goes to the kitchen. With a sigh, she looks at the empty shelves of the cupboard, and the dwindling fresh fruit on the countertop. She will have to go to the store today, meaning she will have to buy a bus ticket, figure out what she can afford at the store, and buy another bus ticket home.

She sighs again, at the seemingly impossible task for the day.

You see, their family, like many families in the Caribbean, has been affected by vast unemployment. As much as she would like to work, Maria cannot find a dignifying job, and must spend the day scraping together what they have to wash their clothes and make meals.

She has witnessed friends suffer and sacrifice in their less-than-dignifying jobs, giving up their bodies so they can have just enough to support their families. She doesn't want to do that too, but as there are more and more days where food isn't on the shelves, that reality seems closer.

Her husband spends the week away, accepting any work he can. He comes home on the weekends to share the little income he brought in so they can buy the necessities - food, water, hygiene essentials.

They live like this day-to-day, and it's getting harder.

A few weeks later, Maria is at her breaking point, thinking there is no way but down a path where she will have to sacrifice parts of herself, her dignity, and her freedom.

But, through the church she attends, she is put in contact with a local organization who teaches women life skills. The class she signs up for: sewing.

She begins taking the classes, and learns how to sew on an old treadle machine - which is perfect because electricity in the area is spotty. She is able to make new school outfits for her kiddos, and a beautiful new yellow dress ... It's been a long time since she's had something this nice and new.

She graduates from the class, and is given a sewing machine of her own. She immediately puts it to use.

Now, after Maria kisses her kids goodbye and watches them run to school in outfits that fit, she goes inside with a smile on her face. The shelves of her cupboards are empty today, so she collects the handmade items she's been working on - a few outfits for small children, a few cloth bags, and a couple of blankets. She stuffs them into her bag, and heads into town.

She is able to sell what she has made, collecting more than enough money for the groceries she needs *and* her bus rides.

Maria gets home, unloads her bag, now filled with fresh fruit, rice, and vegetables, and begins cooking dinner for her family.

Although it's a Tuesday, her husband will join them tonight. With Maria's income, he has been able to cut down working to 10 hours a day, allowing him to be home to spend precious time with his family in the evenings.

**This sewing machine - an everyday item for us in the United States - *has transformed this family's life.***



In the United States, most households have one (or two, or three) sewing machines. Many have been passed down from generation to generation, until they become antiques on a shelf or clutter filling a box in a dusty basement.

Sewing machines and the ability to sew are privileges we don't realize we take for granted. For many of us, sewing is a fun hobby, a useful tool we learned early on from our mothers, or a means to create a gift to share.

For many in developing countries, they don't have access to sewing machines, and if they do, it's their means for making a living. The story above is fictional, but is a depiction of the reality many live, and how receiving a sewing machine can change their life.

At Midwest Mission, we collect and refurbish sewing machines that have found their way to be antiques on shelves or evidence of old hobbies. Sewing machines that might not be useful to you can change someone's life.

Through our partner Food For The Poor, we send electric and treadle sewing machines, so they can distribute them to partners who teach women how to sew.

In a recent partner report from the Dominican Republic, Food For The Poor's In-Country Partner Representative shared this:

**"The sewing machines and fabric were provided to women whose lives have been transformed with the means to earn a living. They were ecstatic to see that they now owned their own machine."**

Your old sewing machine can make an impact like this.

If you have one to donate, you can bring it to Midwest Mission, or a Permanent Collection Site near you. For more information on donating items, [click here](#).

*\*Maria is a fictional character in this story. This story is not based on one true story, but is a depiction of what receiving a sewing machine can do, based on reports and information we have received from our partners.*

## New Partnership with Midwest Food Bank



Recently, Chantel Corrie (Executive Director) and Brad Walton (Operations Manager) traveled to Bloomington-Normal, IL to tour **Midwest Food Bank**, learn about what they do, and see how we could partner together.

Through conversation, Chantel and Brad learned that Midwest Food Bank had a few items in their warehouses that they didn't have a need for, but would be of great use to Midwest Mission.

On Monday, February 27, Midwest Food Bank's semi-truck rolled onto the Midwest Mission Campus, and our operations team unloaded the container.

We received:

- About 1,000 gallons of laundry detergent that we can put in smaller bottles
- 3,450 buckets with lids that we can send through Food For The Poor's Angels of Hope program and use for our Home Care Kits
- 20 empty galbords

Thank you, Midwest Food Bank, for the generous donations.

We are excited to see how this partnership develops, and how our two nonprofits can help one another fulfill their missions.

## Midwest Mission 2022 Impact Video



**MIDWEST MISSION**

**2022 IMPACT**





# Current Needs



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### Helpful Links

- to donate: [midwestmission.org/donate](https://midwestmission.org/donate)
- to see Personal Dignity Kit list: [click here](#)
- to buy items and have them sent to Midwest Mission: [click here](#)

## Prayers to Lift Up

This week, join us in praying for our partner North Star Foundation. As they work with those in Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria, pray that the right doors will continue opening, that they can quickly get supplies to those who need it, and that Midwest Mission will be able to provide what they need.

*"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."*

1 Timothy 6:18

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

### Work of the Mission Volunteers

#### Projects completed

- 170 Student Kits
- 1,040 Personal Dignity Kits
- 96 Birthing Kits
- 18 Desks
- 5,300 Rice Meals - 4,800 at New Concord UMC, New Concord, OH - 500 at Aledo UMC, Aledo, IL

#### Other work done

- Bikes repaired
- Sewing machines repaired
- Desks built, polyurethaned
- Sewing one-handled bags

#### Disbursements

- St. Martin de Porres, Springfield, IL: Redirect cleaning supplies, hygiene supplies, linens, and food **Value: \$4,476.00**
- Salvation Army, Springfield, IL: Redirect food (MREs) **Value: \$3,835.00**

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?



### Schedule Your Mission Journey

Dates are available in 2023 and 2024

Need a Saturday option for team volunteering or assistance in booking?

Contact Pat Wright at [pat@midwestmission.org](mailto:pat@midwestmission.org) or 217-697-4063

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

[Volunteer Reservation Calendar](#)

## Volunteers at Work

February 27 - March 3, 2023











## Volunteer Leaders



Chuck & Karen Porter  
Brighton, IL



Brett and Kristi Ahrens  
Stratford, IA

## Volunteer Teams



Bloomfield UMC  
Bloomfield, IA



Sew Much Joy  
Glen Carbon, 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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March 10, 2023

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First Shipment of Relief Heads to Turkey



"Coincidences" seem to be a common occurrence around Midwest Mission, where the right items seem to show up at the right time in the right way. We call these "coincidences", "God Moments." Moments where it seems God has perfectly orchestrated materials or situations or people in His perfect timing.

We recently experienced a "God Moment" at Midwest Mission within the devastation in Turkey and Syria.



We watched as the earthquakes devastated the two countries, and waited to see if we would be called on to send disaster relief.

When a disaster strikes, we do not automatically begin sending items... we wait for a call from a partner. This is because we never want to cause more chaos in their crisis, and we never want to assume what they need.

After the earthquake, David Fowler, a Springfield Rotarian and Executive Director of Computer Banc, brought to our attention a donation they had received and they wanted to get to Turkey. Baja Bridges, an organization out of California, donated roughly \$500,000 worth of Meals, Ready to Eat (MREs), a totally self-contained complete meal designed for Military use. Rotary knew these meals would be a great solution for those who were in desperate need of food and nutrients, and they knew Midwest Mission would be a great avenue for these meals to go through.

But, at that moment, we didn't have a route to get the meals into Turkey.

About an hour later, Brad Walton, Midwest Mission Operations Manager, called Inna Razmady, North Star Foundation Executive Director, to coordinate the details of

their March 16 Ukraine shipment. While talking, she mentioned her and her sister were out in Boston collecting supplies for Turkey. She said her sister Dina married a man from Turkey and they had a contact through the Turkish consulate to get supplies into the country.

Within an hour, Midwest Mission and Springfield Rotary had a way to get the meals into Turkey. Plans were quickly made to get pallets of MREs from Arizona to Midwest Mission.

### **What. A. God. Moment.**

We had the supplies, and we knew where they needed to go, *but only God knew how they were going to get there.*

Originally, the supplies were going to be flown to Turkey from the O'Hare airport, but as plans continued to develop, there was an even better solution.

We have been working with North Star Foundation to get supplies into Ukraine for about a year. We have sent eight shipments so far. The supplies reach a port in Poland, where they are split up among different humanitarian aid organizations, and distributed to different people - some to Ukrainian refugees in Poland, others to Ukrainians on the front lines of the war. They have a well-functioning distribution center right there in Poland.

So, it was decided that the supplies for Turkey would take a similar route. The container would arrive in Poland, and supplies would be driven from there to Turkey.

This opened up a lot of opportunities - one shipment from Midwest Mission could impact people in Poland, Ukraine, Turkey, *and* Syria. Instead of just helping one group of people, supplies could be driven to all sorts of people based on the need.

The organizations receiving the shipments are able to distribute supplies as they know is best. We are thankful to be able to contribute.

The first shipment of disaster relief left Midwest Mission on Friday, March 10.

The shipment contained **24,027 MREs**  
**Value: \$40,845.90**

—



Inna later mentioned to Brad that one of the top needs was basic hygiene items. They had collected supplies, but they had requested sizes to be more uniform and the different items be put in one bag to pass out to individuals.

Brad laughed at her comment, because that is exactly what the Midwest Mission Personal Dignity Kit is, and why the kits are always ready for when a disaster hits.

Although the first shipment will contain solely MREs, Midwest Mission will fill future containers with Personal Dignity Kits. Each kit contains shampoo, a toothbrush,



toothpaste, a bar of soap, a hand towel, a washcloth, deodorant, and a razor.

Your donations, volunteer hours, and prayer have allowed us to quickly respond to the call.

Through all of the destruction and chaos, we look for how God is working, and rely on the Spirit to guide us into action.

**What “God moments” have you witnessed recently?**

## Fighting Hunger in Haiti - From Farms in Illinois

Recently, Midwest Mission was connected with a group of farmers out of Greenville, IL whose mission is to use their resources to give to people in need.

All together, there are 20 acres of non-GMO corn that they farm specifically to give to organizations. What they don't give away, they sell to cover the cost of seeds for next year's crops.

Initially when we heard about the project, we were intrigued and amazed by the mission, but didn't know how exactly we could use corn...we have never received a corn donation before.

But, about a week before, **Food For The Poor**, our international partner who serves Latin American and Caribbean countries, told us their countries really need more food. So, Brad Walton, Midwest Mission Operations Manager, reached out to them about the corn.

Food For The Poor's partners in **Haiti** welcomed the donation. They would be able to mill it there, and feed a lot of people.

So, Ramon Ortiz, Operations Specialist, drove down to **Greenville, IL** to meet with the farmers and load the **33,600 lbs of corn**.

God had His hand in this (as He always does). For months, Food For The Poor has been unable to ship into the ports in Haiti because of the civil unrest. This has prevented them from getting necessary supplies to people who need it - and people are going hungry.

This shipment will be the first shipment Food For The Poor has sent to Haiti since the ports have opened back up. We are elated to be a part of getting food to people who need it - now more than ever.

On **Thursday, March 9**, the shipment of corn was loaded at Midwest Mission, and the container headed off to Port au Prince, Haiti.

**The shipment of 33,600 lbs of non-GMO corn was valued at \$57,120.00.**



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- to buy items and have them sent to Midwest Mission: [click here](#)

## Prayers to Lift Up

This week, please pray for the shipment that left Midwest Mission and is heading to Turkey. Pray that it will arrive on time, and that the materials inside will bless those who receive them. Pray that God will work in the lives of every person our items reach.

*"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always"*

1 Chronicles 16:11

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

### Projects completed

- 1050 Personal Dignity Kits
- 22 Bed Packs
- 20 Layette Kits
- 30 Student Kits

### Other work done

- Bikes repaired
- 19 Electric sewing machines repaired
- Desks built, polyurethaned
- Cleaning
- Counting into inventory

### Disbursements

- Home Sweet Home Sober, Springfield, IL: 1 bike **Value: \$90.00**
- CICIM, Decatur, IL: Redirect cleaning supplies, furniture, coffee filters, and stacking chairs **Value:**

\$4,206.00

- Baja Bridges, Mexico: Redirect fire equipment Value: \$1,064.00
- North Star Foundation, Turkey: See story above
- Food For The Poor, Haiti: See story above

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## Volunteers at Work

March 6 - March 10, 2023









## Volunteer Leaders



Chuck & Karen Porter  
Brighton, IL



Connie and Bill Ridgley  
Panora, IA

## Volunteer Teams





**Chapel Hill UMC  
Indianapolis, IN**

**Athens UMC Morning Group  
Athens, IL**



**New Lenox UMC  
New Lenox, IL**



**Athens UMC Afternoon Group  
Athens, IL**



**Jim and Joyce Nelson  
Melrose, IA**



**Don and Diana Harness  
Eldon, IA**





Douglas Avenue UMC  
Springfield, IL



Peggy Ramsey  
Tremont, IL



Wesley and Garver Brick  
Decatur, IL

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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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March 17, 2023

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12th International Shipment of the Year - Jamaica



On Wednesday, March 15, Midwest Mission sent the 12th international shipment of the year. Its final destination: Kingston, Jamaica.

This shipment was sent through Midwest Mission partner, Food For The Poor (FFTP). Jamaica was the first country to receive assistance from FFTP. Poverty, unemployment, and lingering effects from COVID-19 on their economy are just a few of the factors that lead to instability in Jamaica. Children face malnutrition and adults struggle to find jobs.

### But, there is hope.

Food For The Poor's in-country partners work hard to fight to end poverty in Jamaica. We are grateful for the part we play in that fight.



This specific shipment is unique because once it reaches Jamaica, three Midwest Mission staff members will be there to witness the distribution. At the end of March, Barb Hedinger (Volunteer Coordinator), Chantel Corrie (Executive Director), and Mallory Webster (Communications Manager), will spend several days in Kingston, Jamaica seeing the impact of Midwest Mission kits and items on the communities who receive them.

This shipment included:

- 1,120 Student Kits
- 560 Personal Dignity Kits
- 560 Layette Kits
- 448 Birthing Kits
- 10 Feminine Hygiene Kits
- 48 Home Care Kits
- 216 Student Desks
- 6 Treadle sewing machines
- 20 Electric sewing machines
- 209 Cover Them With Love Quilts
- 218 Little Girl Outfits
- 777 Pillow Case Dresses
- Tarps donated by **Lamar Advertising**
- Redirect body wipes, cleaning supplies, antibacterial hand cleaner, and face masks

Weight: 28,533 lbs

Value: \$230,279.50

### Food For The Poor Mourns Loss of Founder

“Ferdinand “Ferdy” Mahfood heard God’s call when he witnessed extreme poverty in his native homeland of Jamaica. His religious conversion in 1976 was the inspiration behind the founding of Food For The Poor, planting the seeds of love and devotion 41 years ago that will know no end. Mr. Mahfood died peacefully on Sunday, surrounded by his family in prayer. He was 85.”

Michael Turnbull, Food For The Poor

Read more about Ferdinand’s life and work with Food For The Poor [here](#).

## Hands-On Mission Events in Iowa

This past week, Danille Curtis, Midwest Mission Iowa Coordinator, held two mission events in Jefferson, Iowa.

Danille has hosted several volunteer days at FUMC Jefferson. The most recent events were on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 14 and 15.

- Tuesday, ladies who came to serve worked on weaving sleeping mats out of plastic bags using a loom.
- Wednesday, the Faith In Action group from Des Moines Catholic Youth Ministries verified 160 Personal Dignity Kits and worked on weaving mats.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered!





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- to see Personal Dignity Kit list: [click here](#)
- to buy items and have them sent to Midwest Mission: [click here](#)

## Prayers to Lift Up

Please pray that the Jamaica shipment will arrive in a timely manner, and for the Midwest Mission team as they prepare to see first-hand how God is blessing His people there.

*"He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones."*

Proverbs 2:7-8

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

Work of the Mission Volunteers

### Projects completed

- 2,520 Personal Dignity Kits

#### Other work done

- 15 Bikes repaired
- Sewing machines repaired
- Desks built, polyurethaned
- Sewing one-handled bags
- Cleaning
- Counting into inventory

#### Disbursements

- **Salvation Army**, Springfield, IL: Redirect hygiene supplies, antibacterial hand cleaner, coffee filters  
Value: \$9,861.00
- **Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery**, Springfield, IL: Redirect toys Value: \$250.00 \*we do not accept toy donations
- **Midland Comm. F.O.A.R.**, Midland, MI: 288 UMCOR Hygiene Kits Value: \$3,744.00
- **Food For The Poor**, Jamaica: see story above

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## Volunteers at Work



# March 13- March 17, 2023







## Volunteer Leaders



Chuck & Karen Porter  
Brighton, IL



Connie and Bill Ridgley  
Panora, IA

## Volunteer Teams



Great Lakes Team  
Michigan and Wisconsin



Waverly First UMC  
Waverly, IL



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



**Monticello UMC  
Monticello, IL**



**Gibson City, UMC  
Gibson City, IL**



**Christy Noggle  
Springfield, IL**



**Cheryl and Wilbur Austin  
Lancaster, WI**

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March 24, 2023

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## Ukraine Shipments #9 and #10 Leave Midwest Mission in Same Week



On **Monday, March 20**, a semi truck hauling an empty container backed up to the loading dock at Midwest Mission. Inside the warehouse, stacks of pallets lined the aisles and filled the loading dock, waiting to be rolled into the container. It was the day to load **Ukraine shipment #9**.

Since April 2022, Midwest Mission has shipped 10

containers full of disaster relief and health supplies to help those affected by the war.

We have seen how these donated items have been blessings for those who receive them. Rice Meals to feed a community near the front lines of the war; disposable diapers to a family who can't go to the store; rain ponchos to create some sort of comfort despite rough conditions; socks and underwear to those who never thought they would be in such dire need of these simple necessities; and the list goes on.



Our partner in Ukraine, **North Star Foundation**, told us the needs - and you have continuously responded, sending tangible items they need, but also sending the life-changing intangibles: hope and empowerment to people you may never meet.

This shipment was no different. North Star asked for Rice Meals, Personal Dignity Kits, disposable diapers, and socks and underwear, among other items, and because of you, we were able to include all of these items on the shipment, as well as cleats that Underdog Sports, located in Springfield, IL, donated so that kids can feel like kids and play soccer together.



- Inside the container was:
- 37,720 Rice Meal Bags (226,320 individual meals)
  - 560 Personal Dignity Kits
  - 140,000 Pairs of food handling gloves
  - 3,311 Pieces of clothing (requested socks, underwear)
  - Redirect sporting goods
  - Body wipes
  - 4,500 Disposable diapers
  - 43 Blankets
- The total value of this

shipment was \$122,440.00, and it weighed 43,370 lbs.

**Thursday, March 23**, the 10th shipment to Ukraine left the Midwest Mission warehouse.

Much like last week's shipment to Turkey, this one contained 5 Minute Meals - Meals, Ready to Eat - donated by **Baja Bridges** to the **Springfield Rotary Club**. We were able to connect our partner, North Star Foundation, to this donation, and get needed meals into both Turkey and Ukraine.

In about four weeks, these meals will reach Poland, and then be loaded onto trucks where our trusted nonprofit partners will drive the meals to those who need them.

This shipment contained:

- 25,920 5 Minute Meals (donated by Baja Bridges and Springfield Rotary Club)
- 1,400 Personal Dignity Kits



- 6,000 Rice Meal Bags (that will feed 36,000 individuals)

The total value of this shipment was \$74,038.70, and it weighed 33,243 lbs.

Thank you to everyone who donated in answer to our specific needs, held Rice Meal packs, and gave monetary gifts.

Without you, shipments would not happen! Please be praying for these shipments specifically, as they travel to disaster sites where people are in crisis.

# Current Needs

**SHAMPOO**  
(12-19 OZ)

**LIQUID DISH SOAP**  
(16-64 OZ BOTTLES)

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.



#### Helpful Links

- to donate: [midwestmission.org/donate](https://midwestmission.org/donate)
- to buy items and have them sent to Midwest Mission: [click here](#) for shampoo and [here](#) for liquid dish soap
- to see more info on collecting and donating: [click here](#)

## APRIL IOWA VOLUNTEER DAYS



Saturday, April 1 - 9am-12pm

Saturday, April 22 - 9am-12pm

Saturday, April 29 - 9am-12pm

Tuesday, April 4 - 11am-3pm



First UMC

307 S Wilson Ave  
Jefferson, IA 50129

Simpson College

Kent Campus Center  
701 N C Street, Indianola, IA 50125

See more information at [midwestmission.org/iowa](https://midwestmission.org/iowa)

To sign up, scan the  
QR code or call or text

Danille Curtis at  
515-351-1166



**Prayers to Lift Up**



This upcoming month, there are a lot of teams traveling to Midwest Mission, many staff members traveling to off-site events, and several shipments traveling to their final destinations. Please pray for protection for those traveling, and for the shipments to arrive safely!

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."  
Isaiah 41:10

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

### Work of the Mission Volunteers

#### Projects completed

- 1,710 Personal Dignity Kits
- 288 Home Care Kits
- 100 Birthing Kits
- 20 Feminine Hygiene Kits
- 10 Layette Kits
- 10 Student Kits
- 1,200 Rice Meals - Effingham Centenary
- 1,406 Rice Meals -Partners Serving Christ
- 2,006 Rice Meals - Edwardsville, IN
- 2,050 Rice Meals - Medina UMC

#### Other work done

- Bikes repaired
- Sewing machines repaired
- Desks built, polyurethaned
- Trace Patterns
- Counting into inventory

#### Disbursements

- **Manos Juntas, Rio Bravo, Mexico:** 17 Bed Packs, 10 blankets, redirect hygiene supplies, and a used van **Value: \$4,828.00**
- **Mowequa Food Pantry, Mowequa, IL:** Redirect food items **Value: \$833.00**
- **Academic and Career Education Academy, Midland, MI:** Redirect hygiene supplies **Value: \$122.00**
- **Volunteers in Mission, Burnett, WI:** Redirect coffee filters **Value: \$169.00**
- **North Star Foundation, Ukraine:** See stories above

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?



## Schedule Your Mission Journey

Dates are available in 2023 and 2024

Need a Saturday option for team volunteering  
or assistance in booking?

Contact Pat Wright at [pat@midwestmission.org](mailto:pat@midwestmission.org)  
or 217-697-4063

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

[Volunteer Reservation Calendar](#)

## Volunteers at Work

March 20- March 24, 2023







## Volunteer Leaders





Chuck & Karen Porter  
Brighton, IL



Connie and Bill Ridgley  
Panora, IA

## Volunteer Teams



Volunteers in Mission  
Wisconsin

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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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March 31, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

## Record Number of PDKs on Ukraine Shipment No. 11



**WOW! Thursday, March 30**, was another monumental day at Midwest Mission. Our container was filled to the brim with more Personal Dignity Kits (PDKs) than have ever been included in one shipment and all the Rice Meal bags in stock!

As the group of **Great Plains Women in Faith team** from Nebraska and Kansas, a few of our regular volunteers and staff stood in the prayer circle to pray over this **11th shipment to Ukraine, Mission in Motion Manager, Gene Turner** explained what was included. "On this container are Personal Dignity Kits (PDKs) and Rice Meal bags. As of this moment, we have zero Rice Meal bags in the warehouse. And some of those were made just last weekend. That's how fast we are turning them around."



The container was loaded with a total of **12,240 Rice Meal bags**. It's exciting to know that those meals can **provide 73,440 servings** of much-needed nutrition to families in the war-torn areas of Ukraine where recovery is ongoing.

**Personal Dignity Kits** and toothpaste also went out. **Operations Manager, Brad Walton**, said "The PDKs on this shipment are the last of the ones in stock that didn't have toothpaste in the kit. Of course, there were equal amounts of toothpaste sent. (10,360 PDKs and 10,360 tubes of toothpaste.) From this point on the toothpaste will be included in the kits, instead of separate."

Walton said the container will go from Midwest Mission to St. Louis, then to New York on the train, then loaded on a ship to go in through Lithuania. Previous shipments have gone through Poland. The port there is currently overwhelmed with containers, so this is the first time using this route."

**Total value of shipment: \$190,240.00**

**Total weight of shipment: 46,768 lbs.**

We are always appreciative of our trusted partners. **North Star Foundation** continues to keep us informed of the needs in these areas. They also work to help us find the best ways in which to get the requested supplies to the recipients who need them most.

The prayers and service of volunteers who so diligently assemble and verify PDKs and the churches who have hosted Rice Meal packs are blessings. Your willingness to care for others and show God's love is how we are able to help people around the world and around the corner in their times of crisis. May you all feel God's blessings returned to you as you continue to serve.

## Current Needs

**SHAMPOO**  
**(12-19 OZ)**

**LIQUID DISH SOAP**  
**(16-64 OZ BOTTLES)**

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.



### Helpful Links

- to donate: [midwestmission.org/donate](https://midwestmission.org/donate)

- to buy items and have them sent to Midwest Mission: [click here](#) for shampoo and [here](#) for liquid dish soap
- to see more info on collecting and donating: [click here](#)

## APRIL IOWA VOLUNTEER DAYS



Saturday, April 1 - 9am-12pm  
 Saturday, April 22 - 9am-12pm  
 Saturday, April 29 - 9am-12pm

Tuesday, April 4 - 11am-3pm



First UMC  
 307 S Wilson Ave  
 Jefferson, IA 50129

Simpson College  
 Kent Campus Center  
 701 N C Street, Indianola, IA 50125

See more information at [midwestmission.org/iowa](http://midwestmission.org/iowa)

To sign up, scan the  
 QR code or call or text

Danille Curtis at  
 515-351-1166



## Prayers to Lift Up

We are always overjoyed by the willingness of so many who give of their time, talents and resources to share gifts of encouragement, hope and unconditional love, in addition to the tangible gifts. We ask you to join us this week in prayers of thanksgiving for what has already been done and that service and resources continue to flow so we we can lift people up every day and provide for their needs ... both the tangible and intangible gifts. It all matters.

*Put on the apron of humility, to serve one another.  
 1 Peter 5:5 NIV*

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

### Projects completed

- 3,640 Personal Dignity Kits

### Other work done

- Sewing one-handed student bags
- Bikes repaired
- Desks built, polyurethaned
- Counted items into inventory

### Disbursements

- **Children's Clothes Closet**, Panora, IA, Redirect cleaning supplies **Value: \$8.00**
- **VIM (Volunteers in Mission)**, Redirect cleaning supplies + coffee filters **Value: \$226.00**
- **Missouri UMC**, Columbia, MO, Fabric and serger sewing machine **Value: \$469.00**
- **North Star Foundation, Ukraine: See stories above**

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## Volunteers at Work

March 27- March 31, 2023















## Volunteer Leaders



Chuck & Karen Porter  
Brighton, IL



Connie and Bill Ridgley  
Panora, IA

## Volunteer Teams



Great Plains Conference United Women in Faith  
Nebraska and Kansas





Grace UMC  
Jacksonville, IL



Hope Church - Simpson Group  
Springfield, IL



Hope Church - Local Serve Group  
Springfield, IL



Taylorville UMC  
Taylorville, IL



Union Reunion  
St. Louis, MO



Gordon Wurth  
Springfield, IL

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