

April 7, 2023

MIDWEST

disaster relief • education



MISSION

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER



Easter Blessings

This Easter, we reflect on the sacrifice Christ made for us all, and the joy we receive from sharing His love. Midwest Mission would like to thank you for the sacrifices you make to bring hope to people in the Lord's name.

- Midwest Mission Staff

Disaster Relief Distributed

Tornadoes Leave Paths of Destruction in Midwest

The last week of March, deadly tornadoes ripped through most parts of the Midwestern United States, leaving paths of destruction, and tattered evidence of a life before the storms.

If you live in the Midwest, tornadoes are one of the things you know is a possibility, but never want to believe will upend your life.



Photo from New York Times

Many of us have lived through tornadoes, and have seen the effects of the dangerous winds, but pray it will not be something we have to know the effects of personally.

But, that last week of March, many Midwesterners faced the grave reality of what that deadly twister of storms can do to a community.

On March 24, more than 20 tornadoes swept through parts of Mississippi, including an EF-4 tornado, that has sadly taken the lives of at least 26 people.

On March 31, more storms rolled into the Midwest, with tornadoes touching down in Iowa, Arkansas, Illinois, Wisconsin, Tennessee, and Indiana.

On April 4 and 5, another line of severe weather barreled in, affecting several of the areas that had previously been hit by the March 31 tornadoes.

So many people have lost homes, vehicles, and cherished items that carry sweet memories. Most heart breaking, they have lost loved ones.

We mourn with those who are mourning, and lift up prayers of comfort, peace, and protection.

Midwest Mission has the opportunity to assist in the relief process — YOU have the opportunity to partner with us in those efforts.

As we learn about the level of damage, we are preparing to respond. We anticipate sending Midwest Mission Tornado Kits, shovels, rakes, and tools. When called upon, we will work with local partners to distribute requested supplies.

In fact, we have already responded to multiple requests for relief.



On Sunday, April 2, Brad Walton, Operations Manager, drove a box truck filled with bottled water, UMCOR Hygiene Kits, and storage totes to Robinson, IL. The Robinson area was hit with an EF-3 tornado that left many families without basic resources. Robinson FUMC received the disaster relief supplies and served as a distribution center for their community.

On Monday, April 10, we will be sending a semi-truck full of disaster relief supplies to Mississippi and Louisiana.

We anticipate more shipments to come as we continue supplying disaster relief items.

You can play a vital role in disaster relief — assisting in getting items to people in need.

1. Pray

Your prayer is needed. Pray for those affected by the tornadoes, for those responding to the disasters, and for the relief process. Pray that the right people will receive the resources they need.

2. Donate Monetary Gifts

Your monetary donations allow us to promptly respond with requested supplies. We anticipate totes being the number one request, and we will purchase in bulk to maximize shipping and storage.

Donating through Midwest Mission is a way for you to help in the *right* way. After a disaster, two-thirds of the items donated are not useful - that's why we only send items that are specifically requested and only distribute relief when called upon for supplies.

Donate to Midwest Mission's Tornado fund to help us prepare to respond with requested supplies. When you choose the "Tornado" Fund, your monetary gifts will solely fund disaster relief efforts for the recent tornadoes. Donate online at <https://www.midwestmission.org/donate>. Donate by sending a check to 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558 with "Tornado Relief" in the memo.

Thank YOU for making an impact in the lives of those who are in crisis. Your prayers and donations send hope to those in need.

As we continue to mourn with, pray for, and send relief to those who have been affected, we are reminded of our mission - to show God's love in a practical way - and we invite you to join us in our mission, so that more may know God's love, even within a devastating situation.



RICE MEAL PACK

 **Midwest Mission**



April 15 | 8:30am-11:30am

April 17-20 | 8:30am-4pm

April 21 | 8:30am-11:30am

 **Sign up for 1.5 hour shifts at**
midwestmission.org/SpringRicePack

We are continuously sending Rice Meals on shipments to Ukraine and Turkey. When Rice Meals enter our warehouse, it is only a few weeks before they are sent off to a location in need.

This means, means we need more Rice Meals!

Our goal is to make 48,000 Rice Meals in ONE WEEK!

In order to accomplish this, we are hosting a week-long Rice Meal Pack at Midwest Mission!

This is a great opportunity to make a global impact from right in the Midwest.

Bring a friend or family member!

See more info and sign up at midwestmission.org/SpringRicePack



EARLY RESPONSE TEAM

BASIC ERT TRAINING

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

8AM-5PM

REGISTER ONLINE AT
[MIDWESTMISSION.ORG/
ERT-TRAINING](http://MIDWESTMISSION.ORG/ERT-TRAINING)

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Wishlist Wednesday

SHAMPOO (12-19 OZ)

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Helpful Links

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- to see more info on collecting and donating: [click here](#)

APRIL IOWA VOLUNTEER DAYS



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

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

Danille Curtis at
515-351-1166



Prayers to Lift Up

A prayer for Good Friday from Christianity.com:

Jesus, our Lord and our God, you gave your cheek to those who struck you and for our sake you endured much mockery. Grant that following the example of your sufferings, we may be courageous in bearing our own, and learn from you, for you are meek and lowly in heart; you now reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. "

John 3:16-17

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 1,500 Personal Dignity Kits
- 1,802 Rice Meals - Holy Spokes Cluster, Jacksonville, IL

Other work done

- Bikes repaired
- Sewing machines repaired
- Desks built, polyurethaned
- Truck decal removal
- Laundry Soap
- Counting into inventory

Disbursements

- First UMC , Robinson, IL: 2,304 water bottles, 672 UMCOR Hygiene Kits, 384 18-gallon totes
Value: \$13,918.00
- Sherman UMC, Sherman, IL: 144 UMCOR Hygiene Kits, 96 18-gallon totes
Value: \$2,579.00
- Food For The Poor, Dominican Republic: Birthing Kits, Medical Supplies
Value: \$134,431.20

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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
or 217-697-4063

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

[Volunteer Reservation Calendar](#)

Volunteers at Work

April 3 - April 7, 2023







Volunteer Leaders



Jeff and Jane Johnson
Glen Carbon, IL

Volunteer Teams



Fairview Center UMC
Monmouth, IL



Athens UMC
Athens, IL



Union Reunion
St. Louis, MO



Merlin and Edith Ray
Seaton, IL



First UMC
Rushville, IL



Centenary UMC
Jacksonville, IL



Calvary UMC
Normal, IL



Greenville First Christian Church
Greenville, 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](#)

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April 14, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Sign up for a Rice Meal Pack shift at Midwest Mission

Sign up

Disaster Relief is a sprint *and* a marathon.

The war in Ukraine might be out of the news cycle, but it's not out of our hearts.

After a disaster hits, the news is full of pictures and stories, pleading for the audience to help and empathize for those affected. Hearts are touched and emotions are stirred, leading people to give, volunteer, and pray for the devastated areas. There is a sprint to get needed items to those who have lost everything - water, food, clothing, tools, etc. Midwest Mission rushes to ask donors and volunteers to help supply items that have been specifically requested by partner organizations.

But three days later, the next disaster is on the news. And the cycle has moved onto the next round — news, emotion, prayer, help, repeat.

But, three days later, those impacted by the first disaster have *not* moved on. Their lives are still in chaos. Their immediate needs might have been met, but they don't yet know the long-term needs. They are simply surviving.

Three months later, those impacted have still not recovered, and they are thrown into the depths of long-term planning and recovery.

Three years later, five years later, 10 years later ... they have not moved on. Many outsiders have forgotten — the disaster is brushed aside like every other news cycle. But those in the heat of it haven't forgotten. The effects of the disaster are still felt physically, mentally, emotionally. They still need relief.

Disaster relief is not just a sprint, it's also a marathon.

That's why Midwest Mission doesn't respond only to immediate needs when a disaster hits. Years later, we are still

prepared to provide what is needed to affected areas.

In late **July of 2022**, torrential rains flooded large areas throughout southeastern Kentucky, washing away items, homes, and bridges. Midwest Mission immediately responded with shovels, hammers, trash bags, totes, bed sheet sets, Tornado Kits, and other requested relief supplies.



Nine months later, another shipment was sent to continue aiding in clean-up efforts. On **April 13, 2023** a semi-truck left Midwest Mission full of 324 UMCOR Cleaning Kits and 312 UMCOR Hygiene Kits.

This isn't the end of the help they will need — the marathon continues.



One year ago, in **April of 2022**, Midwest Mission sent its first shipment to Ukraine. This shipment brought food to those who were in need, to provide energy and sustenance to continue fighting. From then on, you have continuously answered Midwest Mission's call to provide Rice Meals, socks and underwear, Personal Dignity Kits, and monetary donations.

One year and 11 shipments later, the needs are the same. The disaster, albeit man-made, is still in full force. People are still being displaced, many now living as refugees in foreign countries. The need is still great, and the response must still be great.

The war in Ukraine might be out of the news cycle, but it's not out of our hearts.

Ukrainians need food, and we are called on to provide it. Almost every shipment we have sent has included at least 12,000 Rice Meals. Churches around the Midwest have responded to Midwest Mission's call to host Rice Meal packs.

But, Ukraine still needs more food.

That's why Midwest Mission is hosting another Rice Meal Pack for Ukraine. Next week, April 15 and 17-21, we welcome you to join us and pack meals.

Our goal is to pack 48,000 meals to feed 288,000 people in and around Ukraine.

We have shifts open 8:30am-11:30am Saturday (April 15) and Friday (April 21) and shifts open 8:30am-3:30pm Monday-Thursday (April 17-20).

For more info and to sign up for your shift, go to midwestmission.org/springricepack

You graciously helped us with the initial sprint.
We are dedicated to the marathon. Are you?



RICE MEAL PACK



Midwest Mission



April 15 | 8:30am-11:30am

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Sign up for 1.5 hour shifts at

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In order to accomplish this, we are hosting a week-long Rice Meal Pack at Midwest Mission!

This is a great opportunity to make a global impact from right in the Midwest.

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- to buy items and have them sent to Midwest Mission: [click here](#) for shampoo and [here](#) for liquid dish soap
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APRIL IOWA VOLUNTEER DAYS



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

See more information at 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 week, we pray for those in Ukraine who are still in crisis - for those displaced from their homes, for those who have lost family, and for those who don't know the love of God.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. "
Psalm 46:1

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 150 Birthing Kits
- 48 Home Care Kits
- 10 Feminine Hygiene Kits
- 1,340 Personal Dignity Kits
- 432 UMCOR Cleaning Kits

Other work done

- Bike repair
- Cleaning
- Groundskeeping
- Sewing machines repaired
- Desks - make parts, polyurethane
- Truck decal removal
- Trace patterns

Disbursements

- **United Way, Amory, MS:** 864 UMCOR Cleaning Kits **Value: \$64,800.00**
- **UMCOR Sager Brown, Baldwin, LA:** 1,008 UMCOR Cleaning Kits **Value: \$75,600.00**
- **No Mountain too High Christian Ministries, Athens, IL:** 20 Bicycles **Value: \$1,800.00**
- **Maryville Food Pantry, Maryville, IL:** Redirect hygiene supplies **Value: \$72.00**
- **Red Bird Mission, Beverly, KY:** 312 UMCOR Hygiene Kits, 324 UMCOR Cleaning Kits **Value: \$28,256.00**

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

Share some GOD news with those you love!

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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, 2024 you will be able to reserve Volunteer Shifts for January of 2025.

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

April 10 - April 14, 2023







Volunteer Leaders



Jeff and Jane Johnson
Glen Carbon, IL

Volunteer Teams



Ruth and Bob Brown
New Haven, OH



Grace UMC
Lansing, MI

Mary Marty
Brownsburg, IN



Waverly First UMC
Waverly, IL



First UMC
Lincoln, IL



Douglas Avenue UMC
Springfield, IL



Monticello UMC
Monticello, 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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April 21, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

24,880 Rice Meals Packed and ready to go to Ukraine

24,880 Rice Meals Packed and ready to go to Ukraine

This week, **April 15-21**, we held a **Rice Meal Pack** at Midwest Mission in order to meet the need for Rice Meals in **Ukraine**.

For over a year, we have had the opportunity to send meals to those affected by the war. In the midst of the chaos and destruction, there is difficulty in meeting even basic needs - food.

The need is still there, and possibly even greater, as more and more people are displaced from their homes, their country, and their families.

We are grateful for the opportunity we have to help. Together we can show God's love in a practical way by meeting nutritional needs for Ukrainians.

Through the week, we packed a total of **24,880 meals** that will feed **149,280 people** in and around Ukraine.

On Saturday, April 15, a woman from Ukraine joined us at the Rice Pack. She wanted to share a thank you with all of those who volunteered. You can watch her video [here](#).

Thank you for your donations, for your prayers, and for your volunteer hours. **YOU** made this happen.

The tentative date for the meals to be shipped is the last week of April!



Angels of Hope Shipment to Haiti



Every year, Midwest Mission partners with **Food For The Poor** for their Angels of Hope shipments. The **Angels of Hope program** provides needed resources to children's homes and orphanages in 10 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

On **April 18**, Midwest Mission sent an Angels of Hope shipment to Port Au Prince, Haiti. Because this shipment was sent during the Rice Meal Pack, we had a huge prayer circle over the shipment.



The container included:

- 432 Home Care Kits
- 560 Personal Dignity Kits
- 413 Cases of Disinfectant Wipes

Weight: 16,520 lbs

Value: \$32,055.00

The Home Care Kit includes laundry detergent, dish soap, household cleaner, and a scrub brush, all inside a five-gallon bucket. The kit is a great resource for cleaning the children's home and to help with all of the laundry they have to get done. The

bucket is also a very welcomed gift. We have seen it used for storage, for water, for gardening, and other inventive ways!

Thank you for the part you played in making this shipment happen!

HELP US MOVE INTO OUR NEW IOWA LOCATION!

Sat, April 22 | 9am | Meet at FUMC Jefferson

We have some exciting news... Midwest Mission is opening a second location in Jefferson, IA! We got the keys to the building this week, and we are excited to share more with you in the coming weeks!

Right now, we need able bodied individuals to help us move stuff from FUMC Jefferson to our NEW LOCATION! If you would like to help, meet at First UMC (307 S Wilson Avenue, Jefferson, IA) at 9 am Saturday, April 22.

There will not be any kit packing or weaving this Saturday.

If you're interested
in helping, call or
text Danille Curtis at
515-351-1166



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Current Needs

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

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Helpful Links

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Prayers to Lift Up

This week, we thank God for our dedicated volunteers and donors who are the backbone of Midwest Mission. We also thank God for the opportunity we have to help people around the world, and to share His love with others.

"Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. "
Psalm 106:1

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 24,880 Rice Meals

Other work done

- Bike repair
- Cleaning
- Groundskeeping
- Sewing machines repaired
- Desks - make parts, polyurethane

Disbursements

- **South Lansing Ministries**, Lansing, MI: Redirect cleaning and hygiene supplies **Value: \$266.00**
- **Food For The Poor**, Port Au Prince, Haiti: See above story
- **CICIM**, Decatur, IL: 49 Rubbermaid totes **Value: \$2,205**
- **Baja Bridges**, Clarksburg, CA: Redirect Fire Equipment **Value: \$28,264.00**

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Volunteers at Work

April 17 - April 21, 2023





Volunteer Leaders



Brett and Kristi Ahrens
Stratford, IA

Volunteer Teams



Brooklyn UMC
Brooklyn Center, MN



Green Trails UWF
Chesterfield, MO

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Toxic Fire in Richmond, IN displaces 2,000 residents - Midwest Mission Responds



April 11, 2023 was a typical spring day in Richmond, Indiana. The sun was out, birds were chirping, and everything seemed normal. That was until local residents began to smell a foul odor that seemed to seep into their homes. Upon looking outside, residents could see thick, black smoke billowing amongst tall flames in the distance.

A building had caught fire.

But not just any building, it was a plastic recycling plant. This large facility held 14 acres of plastic, all of which ignited in flames.

The immediate concern was the safety of the residents near the fire, but quickly, the concern turned towards the toxicity of the smoke in the air. Plastics release a lot of toxic chemicals when they are burned — all of these chemicals were potentially carried into the homes of nearby residents.

The immense fire burned for two days, until the last hot spot was put out on the evening of April 13.

All residents within a .5-mile radius of the fire were evacuated, **displacing over 2,000 people from their homes**. Not only were they displaced, fear also settled into their hearts, causing a pit of worry over short-term and long-term medical concerns. They're lives had been interrupted in a big way.

On April 20, residents were allowed to go back to their homes, but the fear still remained. Officials had done tests on the air to ensure it was safe, but worry will last in the hearts of those local to the area.

Shortly after residents were evacuated, **Midwest Mission** was contacted by the **Dwyer Community Center** in Richmond. They explained their needs, and Brad Walton, Operations Manager, began to plan a delivery to the Center.

On Monday, April 24, Ramon Ortiz, Midwest Mission's Operations Specialist, drove a trailer of disaster relief supplies to Richmond. This included **360 UMCOR Cleaning Kits, 312 UMCOR Hygiene Kits, and 100 UMCOR Feminine Hygiene Kits**.

"I must again express my gratitude to you and UMCOR in providing assistance to the families affected by the recent industrial fire in Richmond, Indiana," our contact at the Dwyer Community Center said. "The evacuation area was .5-mile radius around the fire, affecting approximately **900 households**."

These kits will be vital in helping Richmond residents return to their everyday lives. As they clean their homes, and as the community finds some sort of normalcy within the worry and fear, these families will *not* have to worry about having what they need.



Ohio Team Shares Unique Fundraiser



Gay Street UMC traveled to Midwest Mission to serve for the **week of April 24**. Their team included passionate veteran volunteers, serving 10+ years, as well as brand new volunteers who were excited to see what Midwest Mission was all about.

Along with the enthusiasm, they also brought a check that they wanted to present to Midwest Mission.

Leading up to the trip, they spent two weeks collecting money on Sunday mornings.

The simple fundraiser? 5-gallon buckets.

Each Sunday, members from the team stood at the doors of the church holding 5-gallon buckets in their hands. These 5-gallon buckets, reminiscent of the 5-gallon buckets used for Midwest Mission Home Care Kits and UMCOR Cleaning Kits, were plastered with the Midwest Mission logo and intrigued people as they passed through the church doors.

This was a great opportunity for the Gay Street Midwest Mission Team to share about Midwest Mission and the work they would be doing during their trip. It was also a great eye-catcher, drawing people in to drop bills, coins, and checks into the colorful buckets.

While serving this week, the Gay Street UMC team presented the generous check of \$1,425.85 to Midwest Mission. Chantel Corrie, Executive Director, graciously accepted the gift for the ministry.

Thank you, Gay Street UMC. What a fun way to raise money!

What unique ways have you and your team fundraised?

Current Needs

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

You can purchase these items at your local store and take them to Midwest Mission or a Collection Site near you.

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Helpful Links

- to donate: midwestmission.org/donate
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Prayers to Lift Up

Please continue to pray for those affected by the recent tornadoes. Pray for peace in the midst of the chaos. Pray that they will receive what they need in God's time.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 18 Desks - built, polyurethane
- 4 Treadle sewing machines
- 1800 Student Kits
- 432 Home Care Kits
- 200 Personal Dignity Kits - Laurel UMC, Springfield, IL

Other work done

- Bike repair
- Cleaning
- Groundskeeping
- Sewing
- Counting into inventory
- Rice Meal Prep
- Bottled Laundry Soap

- Dwyer Community Center, Richmond, IN: See Story Above Value: \$33,456.00

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?



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

April 24 - April 28, 2023





Volunteer Leaders



Connie and Bill Ridgley
Panora, IA

Volunteer Teams



Gay Street UMC
Mt. Vernon, OH



Knoxville UMC
Knoxville, IL



Zion UMC
Batavia-Adell, WI

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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