

Happy New Year!



Happy New Year from all of us at Midwest Mission! We are looking forward to another exciting year, full of sending hope and empowerment.

2025 was Midwest Mission's biggest year yet! This year we:

- Celebrated 25 years of ministry
- Sent 68 International shipments to 20 different countries — the most we've ever sent!
- Responded to 7 U.S. disasters and 11 international disasters
- Purchased the Midwest Mission Iowa building in Jefferson, Iowa
- Sent a tractor to Honduras, and a fire truck and ambulance to Guatemala
- Became a fully solar-run campus

We cannot wait to see how God uses Midwest Mission and you in 2026. This amazing year would not have happened without listening to God's nudges and letting Him guide the ministry. We had the goal of sending 50 international shipments, and God blew that out of the water!

This year also wouldn't have happened without you — our volunteers, donors, and prayer supporters who are the backbone of Midwest Mission. This is YOUR ministry, and because of you, more and more people have what they need in Christ's name.

We look forward to partnering with you again this year, sending hope and empowerment around the world and around the corner.

Tornado Kits sent to Mt. Zion, IL



Photo by: Storm Chaser Jordan Hall via his [Facebook page](#)

On Sunday, December 28, severe weather struck the Midwest, bringing extreme temperature changes, rain, snow, and even tornadoes.

The town of Mt. Zion, Illinois endured an EF-1 tornado that touched down and cut across two entire neighborhoods. Many homes - especially roofs - were affected.

Midwest Mission was connected to Mt. Zion United Methodist Church by Curtis Franklin — the Illinois Great Rivers Conference's Coordinator of Mission and Outreach, and a Midwest Mission Board Member. Reverend Paige Campbell at Mt. Zion UMC coordinated with Midwest Mission's Director of Missions, Melissa Brookens, to get 24 Tornado Kits for the community.

On Wednesday, December 31, the church distributed the Tornado Kits to affected families.

Please be praying for those who were affected by the tornado. They are dealing with cold temperatures, figuring out their next steps, and the grief of the event happening, especially during the holiday season.

We are thankful for churches that step up and be a light in their community in the midst of disaster.

We are also thankful to be called on to help respond in crisis — and we are ready because people like you donate time and treasures to transform resources into humanitarian and disaster relief.

Join us for the Bike Blitz!



In 2026, Midwest Mission is launching Weekend Workshops — dedicated time for volunteers to use their specific skills to help with tasks such as bike repair, sewing machine repair, sewing, and more! These hands-on workshops will be led by volunteer shop leaders who will guide participants through the different tasks. Why? Midwest Mission receives more items than our local key volunteers can repair! These workshops will ensure more items will be available to send out, and we hope more people might be interested in becoming local key volunteers (volunteers who regularly come to Midwest Mission and volunteer in a specific area).

Join us for the Bike Blitz!

The first Weekend Workshop is on **Saturday, January 17th from 8:30am-3:00pm at Midwest Mission in Pawnee, IL.**

This hands-on workshop brings volunteers together to inspect, repair, and restore unverified donated bikes. Participants will work through basic assessments, cleaning, adjustments, and necessary repairs to help make each bike safe, functional, and ready for use. The goal of the workshop is to efficiently evaluate donated bikes, determine needed fixes, and transform as many as possible into fully operational bicycles that can be put back into service for the community.

There are 15 volunteer spots available. If you are interested, please sign up [here](#).

We do ask that participants bring their own lunch, or plan to eat out for lunch.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jeremiah Miller, Reservations Coordinator, at jeremiah@midwestmission.org.

CURRENT Needs

Please consider collecting and donating:

- Feminine Hygiene Kit Items:
 - Day and Night Pads
 - Waterproof Bags
- Dish Soap (42-64 oz)
- Bed Packs (Twin flat sheet, twin fitted sheet, pillowcase, pillow)
- Layette Kit Gowns & Sleepers (Size 0-6 months)
- Liquid Laundry Detergent (max of 150 oz)
- 5-Gallon Buckets with Lids

[Purchase on Amazon](#)

[Sewing Patterns & Instructions](#)

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.

RESOURCES & DOWNLOADS



[Download Church Bulletin](#)



[Download Summer Update](#)

Volunteer Update:

There were no volunteers in the building this week as Midwest Mission was closed for the holidays! We are so grateful for the many volunteers who regularly give their time and talents to serve alongside us. Your dedication makes this work possible, and we look forward to welcoming you back soon in 2026!

Disbursements:

- Mt. Zion UMC, Mt. Zion, IL - 24 Tornado Kits - Value: \$840.00

GET *involved*



Host a Mission Event

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

[Learn More](#)

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 More](#)

Volunteer at Midwest Mission

Illinois:

We have dates available in 2026 and 2027! [Click here to check calendar openings and to reserve your spots.](#)

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

Learn more at midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission.

Iowa:

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

SHARE & *connect*

[Share the Newsletter](#)



100th Mat Completed by Bardoles



This fall, Midwest Mission celebrated a remarkable milestone thanks to the dedication of Dick and Jo Bardole of Rippey, Iowa. The couple recently completed their 100th woven sleeping mat — a labor of love that has blessed people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. and families in crisis around the world.

The Bardoles weave on a Midwest Mission loom at their home, and are known for their exceptionally tight weave, careful craftsmanship, and the vibrant colors and patterns that make each mat both durable and beautiful. Their work offers comfort, warmth, and dignity to those who receive them, often in some of life's most difficult moments.

We are deeply grateful for their commitment and the countless hours they have invested in this ministry. Their 100th mat is not just a number — it's a testament to compassion in action.

What an incredible way to serve.

If you're interested in weaving Sleeping Mats using plastic grocery bags, visit www.midwestmission.org/loom.

Stitching Hope: Midwest Mission Iowa Hosts Its First Sewing Retreat



In November, something special happened at Midwest Mission Iowa. Thirteen talented sewists — along with one treadle machine repairman — gathered for our first-ever Sewing Retreat, and together they turned fabric, thread, and fellowship into life-changing impact.

Over the three-day retreat, participants learned new techniques, sharpened old skills, and poured their hearts into projects that will bless people across the globe. The group created Cover Them with Love Quilts, feminine hygiene pads, cloth diapers, layette gowns, and cozy fleece baby jackets. They also practiced using a serger and explored the best methods for making receiving blankets and infant washcloths. Every stitch reflected compassion, care, and a desire to serve others.

The retreat wasn't just about sewing — it was about community. Laughter came easily, new friendships formed quickly, and, as always, there was plenty of good food to enjoy together. On the first morning, the group gathered for worship and communion at First United Methodist Church in Jefferson. The next day began with a devotional, grounding everyone in the shared purpose behind their work.

Meanwhile, our treadle machine repairman kept busy restoring sewing machines that will soon find new life in the hands of people who need them most. These repaired machines, along with all the beautiful handmade items created during the retreat, will soon travel to communities around the world — offering dignity, comfort, and hope.

By the end of the weekend, everyone agreed: this was a retreat worth repeating. Plans are already in motion for a spring gathering, and enthusiasm is high.

What a joy it is to see gifts and talents used in such meaningful ways. Through fellowship, learning, and service, this group has touched countless lives, making a difference — one stitch at a time.

Join us for the Bike Blitz in Illinois!



Do you have an interest in bikes and/or bike repair? Then this workshop is for you! On **Saturday, January 17th from 8:30am-3:00pm** we are hosting our first Bike Blitz Workshop at **Midwest Mission in Pawnee, IL**. There are more bikes than our key volunteers are able to fix, so we are dedicating a Saturday to fixing as many bikes as possible!

You don't have to know how to fix bikes — **just have a willingness to learn and serve!** Brad Boucher, Bike Shop Volunteer Leader, will guide participants through basic assessments, cleaning, adjustments, and necessary repairs to help make each bike safe, functional, and ready for use.

The goal of the workshop is to efficiently evaluate donated bikes, determine needed fixes, and transform as many as possible into fully operational bicycles that can be put back into service for the community.

There are 10 volunteer spots left! If you are interested, please sign up [here](#).

We do ask that participants bring their own lunch, or plan to eat out for lunch.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jeremiah Miller, Reservations Coordinator, at jeremiah@midwestmission.org.

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- 5-Gallon Buckets with Lids

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[Sewing Patterns & Instructions](#)

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RESOURCES & DOWNLOADS



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[Download Summer Update](#)

Volunteer WORK & PROJECTS

Work Done in Illinois

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Desk Shop
- Poly Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop
- Cleaning
- Campus Improvements
- Items counted into inventory
- Offsite pack prep

- 190 Personal Dignity Kits
- 60 Storm Cleanup Kits
- 320 Blessing Bags

Offsite:

- 50 Personal Dignity Kits - Stonybrook UWF - Gahana, OH

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Sewing
- Building Repairs
- Sorting and cleaning medical equipment
- 30 Weaving looms
- 5 Bikes repaired
- 4 Treadle sewing machines repaired
- 50 Personal Dignity Kits
- 50 Student Kits
- 40 Feminine Hygiene Kits
- 160 Blessing Bags

Disbursements:

- Heartland House - Springfield, IL: 72 UMCOR Hygiene Kits and 20 UMCOR Menstrual Kits - Value: \$1,344.00
- First UMC — Jefferson, IA: 1 Wheelchair
- The Community Fridge — Jefferson, IA: 30 lbs of hygiene supplies
- New Opportunities — Jefferson, IA: 8 bikes, 10 lbs of hygiene supplies, toys

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Learn more at midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission.

Iowa:

You can reserve your volunteer shift at our Jefferson, Iowa location by [clicking here](#).

Learn more at midwestmission.org/iowa.

Volunteers

January 5th-9th, 2026

Volunteer Leaders



Joanne & Dennis Spiro

Illinois Teams



Taylorville UMC
Taylorville, IL



IGRCY Clergy – AM
Illinois



IGRCY Clergy – PM
Illinois

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Mattresses & Bed Packs Bring Hope to Families in Honduras



Take a moment and think about what a good night's sleep means to you.

Consider the difference in your mood, attitude, and ability to function when you get a solid eight hours of sleep in your comfortable bed, complete with soft sheets and a pillow to rest your head.

Now think about your mood, attitude, and inability to function well when you've only had a couple of hours of sleep. What about when you've had to sleep on less-than-comfortable mattresses, maybe at a camp, cheap hotel, college dorm, or mission trip? The springs feel like they are stuck in your back, you wake up with a kink in your neck, and you can't help but tell people all day what a terrible night's rest you've had.

Most of us have been there at one time or another.

We recognize the importance of a comfortable and safe space to sleep at night. We function better, love better, and work better when we are rested.

Many people around the world and around the corner do not have this luxury.



Pictured is the living situation of one who received Midwest Mission Bed Packs in Honduras

Their bed might be a thin piece of wood with a mattress you can squeeze together with one hand. Sheets are hand-me-downs, tattered and ripped — definitely not the cozy blanket we think of when we think of bed. Others share one single bed with their whole family.

The need is evident: people need a good night's rest and a proper sleeping situation to help them get there.

Midwest Mission is blessed to receive mattresses from Illinois State University, Wooster College (Ohio), and other universities around the Midwest. These mattress donations have blessed hundreds of families in need.

When possible (and requested), each mattress is sent with a Bed Pack — a twin sheet set, pillow, and pillowcase.

The Bed Pack has quickly become a highly-requested Kit. After disasters, both state-side and internationally, communities and homes, like Angels of Hope Children's Homes, request these needed packs. Our Bed Packs are crucial as they help people get one step closer to a comfortable night's sleep.

Late last year, Bed Packs and mattresses were distributed to families in Honduras.

Our partner on-the-ground, CEPUDO, connected with families in the community of Copán who were sleeping on mats or makeshift surfaces. They described the positive impact these supplies had on the people of Copán:

"The delivery of mattresses (and Bed Packs) represented a profound change in their well-being," a CEPUDO representative shared with us. "For each beneficiary household, receiving a mattress meant dignified rest, greater comfort, and an immediate improvement in their quality of life. The families expressed sincere gratitude for this help, emphasizing that they never imagined receiving such necessary and valuable support. This donation not only brought mattresses, but also relief, hope, and well-being to the homes that needed it most."



A recipient's bed before and after receiving a Midwest Mission Bed Pack and mattress.

You aren't just sending a Bed Pack or a mattress. You are sending empowerment to a family in need. Empowerment that will strengthen them to work hard, make a better life for themselves and their families, and greatly improve their circumstances.

Midwest Mission is always in need of Bed Packs. If you'd like to make Bed Packs at home or donate the individual items, you can see the shopping list [here](#).

Thank you for joining us in sending hope and empowerment — in the form of a good night's sleep — to people all over the world.

Be a Midwest Mission Ambassador!



At Midwest Mission, we believe that the work God is doing through this ministry is too good to keep quiet, and many of you feel the same way. That's why we created the Midwest Mission Ambassador Program, a simple and meaningful way for passionate supporters to help spread the word in their own communities.

Ambassadors are volunteers and donors who intentionally share the story of Midwest Mission using the resources and information we provide. They are passionate about the ministry and want to see the mission furthered, so that more people are reached in Christ's name!

Midwest Mission Ambassadors are called to share in ways that feel natural to them. For some, that means speaking to their church or small group. Others might share their experience with friends and family, help at a display table during community events, or speak at local clubs like Rotary, Lions, or Kiwanis. Who Ambassadors decide to reach out to is only limited to their comfortability. With their own voice, connections, and creativity, they help Midwest Mission reach more people in need.

Becoming an Ambassador is simple. If you have a heart for Midwest Mission, already serve or give, and are willing to learn and speak with groups or organizations, we'd love to connect with you! Just fill out the Ambassador Interest Form at midwestmission.org/ambassadors.

After you submit it, our team will schedule a short meeting, via Zoom, phone, or in person, to talk through the role, report expectations, and answer any questions.

If you're passionate about our mission and excited to help others discover how they can serve, consider becoming a Midwest Mission Ambassador! If you have any questions, contact Mallory Webster, Communications Manager, at mallory@midwestmission.org or call (217) 457-4600.

Together, we can multiply hope and share Christ's love with even more people around the world and around the corner!

CURRENT *Needs*

Please consider collecting and donating:

- Feminine Hygiene Kit Items:
 - Day and Night Pads
 - Waterproof Bags
- Dish Soap (42-64 oz)
- Bed Packs (Twin flat sheet, twin fitted sheet, pillowcase, pillow)
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Volunteer WORK & PROJECTS

Work Done in Illinois

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Desk Shop
- Poly Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop
- Cleaning
- Campus Improvements
- Items Counted into Inventory
- Offsite Pack Prep

- Unloaded Trailers
- 500 Personal Dignity Kits
- 120 Storm Cleanup Kits

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Sewing
- Building Updates
- Sorting Supplies
- 360 Blessing Bags
- 120 Student Kits

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Learn more at midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission.

Iowa:

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

Volunteers

January 12th-16th, 2025

Volunteer Leaders



Jeff & Jane Johnson

Illinois Teams



Our Savior's UMC
Shaumburg, IL



Simpson Group
Springfield, IL



Athens UMC
Athens, IL



Loren Wobig
Springfield, IL



Saniah Murphy
Springfield, IL



Nick Marsters
Edinburg, IL

Iowa Teams



Hope UMC
Marshalltown, IA



Hardin Happy Hustlers 4-H Club

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How Many Buckets Can You Fit in a Mini Van?



At Midwest Mission, some of the most impactful tools come in the simplest forms—like a 5-gallon bucket.

Buckets and lids are an ongoing and critical need. They are used to assemble Cleaning Kits for hurricane and flood relief, Home Care Kits for Angels of Hope Children's Homes, and are also frequently requested as standalone items by our partners. Because demand is constant, Midwest Mission often has to purchase buckets to keep up. Every now and then, though, something special happens.

Recently, we were blessed with an incredible donation of buckets all the way from Nebraska!

A member of Nebraska City First United Methodist Church has a connection with a local business that regularly ends up with unused buckets and lids. Instead of letting them go to waste, the church stepped in. Volunteers collect the buckets, and the men's group washes, stores, and prepares them for delivery to Midwest Mission locations in Jefferson, Iowa, and Pawnee, Illinois.

Enter Howard and Deb Orndorff.

Howard and Deb are Volunteer Leaders at Midwest Mission and members of Nebraska City First UMC—and frequent bucket couriers. On their most recent trip to Midwest Mission, they decided to make *full* use of every inch of space in the minivan they were driving. The result? **A jaw-dropping 231 buckets and lids were packed into the vehicle.** No suitcases. No extra bags. Just buckets.



When they arrived and popped the trunk, staff and volunteers couldn't help but laugh—and marvel—at the impressive display. It was a joyful reminder of the creativity, generosity, and dedication of our volunteers, donors, and supporters, and the lengths they will go to meet needs both around the world and around the corner.

So far, this partnership has resulted in 1,740 buckets being delivered to Midwest Mission—each one ready to carry hope where it's needed most.

Thank you to Howard and Deb Orndorff for delivering and expertly packing the buckets, and a heartfelt thank you to the members of Nebraska City First UMC for coordinating collections and washing each bucket with care. Your efforts are making a real, tangible difference!

Check with your local businesses to see if they might have 5-gallon buckets they'd like to donate! As long as the buckets are clean (and don't have a residual smell), we can use these for our Kits!

2025 Numbers That Represent HOPE!

2025 was a HUGE year — and the numbers are in. Each number represents a life changed, hope sent, and love felt around the world and around the corner. Thank you for the part you played in bringing tangible items to people in need, that made an intangible difference in their lives.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS



202
DOMESTIC
DISBURSEMENTS



\$7.3 MILLION
HUMANITARIAN AID SENT



3,737 DONORS



69
INTERNATIONAL
SHIPMENTS



3.7 MILLION
PEOPLE REACHED

1,883 ON-SITE
VOLUNTEERS

7,128 OFF-SITE
VOLUNTEERS

DISASTER RELIEF



192
TORNADO
KITS



5,172
HYGIENE KITS



5,977
CLEANING
KITS



1,120
MENSTRUAL
HYGIENE KITS



772
BED PACKS



963
TARPS

HEALTH



281,338
RICE AND SOY
BLESSING BAGS

1.7 MILLION
INDIVIDUALS FED



24,370
PERSONAL
DIGNITY KITS



7,116
HOME CARE KITS



3,048
LAYETTE KITS



2,204
BIRTHING KITS



1,349
FEMININE
HYGIENE KITS



19,448
HANDMADE
ITEMS



1,081
SLEEPING
MATS



\$761,336.50
WORTH OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES

EDUCATION



486
DESKS



28,482
STUDENT KITS

MICRO BUSINESS



655
BIKES



501 SEWING
MACHINES
393 ELECTRIC & 108
TREADLE

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." - 2 Corinthians 9:8

If you would like a copy of the full 2026 One-Page Impact Report, click the button below to visit our website, where you can download the pdf and share it with others!

[Click Here!](#)

Volunteers at Bike Blitz Repair 50 Bikes in One Day!



The first of our several Saturday events scheduled this year was our Bike Blitz. We were blessed to have six regular volunteers alongside five fairly new volunteers who discovered Midwest Mission by walking through our doors this year.

Together, they served with care and dedication **to restore 50 donated bikes in just one day!** Each bike was thoughtfully inspected, lovingly repaired, and returned to a safe, ride-ready condition—ready to bring joy, freedom, and hope to those who will receive them.

Keep an eye out for sign-up information about our next Bike Blitz happening on July 18th!

Our next weekend workshop is on February 14th, and it is a Sewing Machine Repair Workshop. Find out more at midwestmission.org/weekendworkshops.





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Work Done in Illinois

Onsite:

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- Sewing Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop
- Campus Improvements
- Items counted into inventory
- Offsite pack prep
- Unload trailers

- 99 Bed Packs
- 1,250 Student Kits

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
 - Sewing Shop
 - Items counted into inventory
 - Sorting fire gear
 - Sorting medical equipment
-
- 60 Feminine Hygiene Kits

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Volunteers

January 19-23, 2026

Volunteer Leaders



Jane & Jeff Johnson



Sarah Parsons

Illinois Teams



Troy MC Youth
Troy, IL



Wellspring UMC
Oswego, IL



Douglas Avenue UMC
Springfield, IL



Monticello UMC
Monticello, IL



Grace UMC
Jacksonville, IL



Darlene Powell





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The Tractor is Empowering Students in Honduras



In the spring of 2025, Midwest Mission sent a tractor to the Agricultural School of Valle de Sula in Honduras—a gift that is now transforming lives, restoring hope, and strengthening a community's future.

After visiting the school twice, we knew this place was something special. Students were learning far more than traditional classroom lessons. They gained practical, hands-on skills that will support them and their communities for years to come—learning to care for livestock like cows and chickens, grow and harvest plantains and fruit trees, turn their crops into products like jams, and develop skills in sewing, baking, and cooking, all while building a strong foundation in reading, math, and science. There was even dancing.

The dedication of the students and faculty was inspiring. But what moved us most was learning what they had endured.

In 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, two hurricanes struck Honduras just two weeks apart. Massive flooding devastated San Pedro Sula and surrounding villages, including the area where the Agricultural School is located.

The school lost everything—livestock, fields of fruit trees and plantains, infrastructure, and, most painfully, hope. Floodwaters rose 10–12 meters, completely submerging the land.

While in Honduras, we heard the story of René, who works with the Agricultural School. During the flooding, René clung to a tall tree for two days

and one night, holding onto his children until rescuers finally brought them to safety. His testimony, shared last year by Food For the Poor, is a powerful reminder of both loss and resilience.



In the aftermath of the devastation, hope slowly began to rise. Through a partnership with CEPUDO, the community committed to rebuilding—stronger and better than before.

What amazed us most was how they did it.

With no tractor or heavy machinery, the school replanted every field and rebuilt cattle spaces entirely by hand. For nearly 30 years, they had dreamed of having a tractor to support their agricultural work, but it had never been possible. Their vision and need were clear. *(You can hear them share this dream here: <https://youtu.be/NaktUYTf1SU?si=hjAiGGpyzCVTBG2N>)*

Midwest Mission knew this was a need we could help meet, and after months of fundraising, finding the right tractor, sending it, and waiting for it to clear customs, in the summer of 2025, the tractor finally arrived at the Agriculture school.

This winter, Food For the Poor shared a beautiful video capturing the moment the tractor arrived—and the powerful difference it is now making as students and staff put it to work.

This impact belongs to you.

Our donors, volunteers, and prayer supporters played a vital role in making this possible. Because of your generosity, students are learning, fields are thriving, and a community once devastated by disaster is moving forward with renewed hope and empowerment.

Sustainability at Midwest Mission



Stewardship is an important part of what we do here at Midwest Mission. We believe that as stewards of God's creation we are called to protect and make the most of the resources we are given. As an organization, we embody this calling by being as conscientious as we can be with the resources we use to operate and send relief. We intentionally find clean ways to both provide humanitarian aid and a sustainable future.

Here are a few ways we put that into action:

Bleacher wood - Midwest Mission transforms reclaimed bleacher wood from high schools across the United States into durable Student Desks. These strong, reliable desks can seat up to four young students and have been sent to classrooms around the world, providing children with a comfortable, dependable place to learn. If you know of a school removing their wooden bleachers, please connect them with Midwest Mission!

Plarn Sleeping Mats - Plastic bags plague our ecosystems and kitchen drawers. Here at Midwest Mission, we transform donated plastic bags into "plarn," (plastic yarn). This plarn is then woven on handmade looms, crafted by our volunteers, to create sturdy, water-resistant Sleeping Mats. Learn more about this project at midwestmission.org/loom

Refurbishing Sewing Machines & Bicycles - Bikes and Sewing Machines are common household items that usually end up in storage and after years of sitting there, are forgotten. At Midwest Mission, we restore these items so they can become tools of opportunity that help recipients meet daily needs, travel safely, or even start income-building work. You can donate your used sewing machines and bicycles, and give them a second life! Learn more at midwestmission.org/micro-business

These are just a few ways we strive to care for people and the planet at the same time. **To explore more ways we serve through sustainability, visit www.midwestmission.org/sustainability.**

Sewing Machine Repair Workshop



Our next Weekend Workshop is on Saturday, February 14th, and it is Sewing Machine Repair Day!

Sewing Machine Repair Day is a focused workday where we inspect, test, and repair donated sewing machines to make sure they are safe, functional, and ready for use.

During this workshop, you'll learn how to verify sewing machines.

Verifying machines means:

- Plugging in and powering on each machine
- Checking that it runs smoothly (needle, motor, foot pedal)
- Testing basic stitches and tension
- Identifying machines that need minor repairs, major repairs, or parts
- Labeling machines as Ready, Needs Repair, or Parts Only

The goal is to ensure that every verified machine is reliable and ready to serve its intended purpose before it is distributed or used.

Volunteer Leader, Chuck Porter, will be teaching this workshop. There are two types of volunteer positions available: 1) Threading and Running Machines to test them, and 2) Tuning and Cleaning machines to make repairs.

This workshop is from 8:30 am-3:00 pm (if you can't make it for the whole day, that's okay!). Please bring lunch, or plan to eat out.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DADA922AAF8C52-61806103-sewing#/>

Help Us Celebrate Brad Walton!



After decades of faithful service, Brad Walton is closing one chapter and stepping into a well-earned retirement—and we'd love to celebrate him with you!

Join us on **Friday, March 6** for an **Open House celebration from 12–4pm** at Midwest Mission (1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558). Come and go as you're able, share your favorite Brad stories, enjoy meaningful fellowship, and help us send him off with gratitude and joy. A light lunch will be available while supplies last.

Please RSVP to **carolyn@midwestmission.org** by **Monday, February 23** if you plan to attend.

CURRENT Needs

Please consider collecting and donating:

- Feminine Hygiene Kit Items:
 - Day and Night Pads
 - Waterproof Bags
- Dish Soap (42-64 oz)
- Bed Packs (Twin flat sheet, twin fitted sheet, pillowcase, pillow)
- Layette Kit Gowns & Sleepers (Size 0-6 months)
- Liquid Laundry Detergent (max of 150 oz)
- 5-Gallon Buckets with Lids

[Purchase on Amazon](#)

[Sewing Patterns & Instructions](#)

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.

RESOURCES & DOWNLOADS



[Download Church Bulletin](#)

[Download Summer Update](#)

Volunteer WORK & PROJECTS

Work Done in Illinois

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Desk Shop
- Poly Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop
- Cleaning
- Campus Improvements

- Items counted into inventory
- 12 Bed Packs
- 216 UMCOR Hygiene Kits
- 20 UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
 - Sewing Shop
 - Sewing Machine Repair Shop
 - Cleaning
 - Items counted into inventory
 - Sorted fire gear
-
- 230 Feminine Hygiene Kits

GET *involved*



Host a Mission Event

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

[Learn More](#)

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 More](#)

Volunteer at Midwest Mission

Illinois:

We have dates available in 2026 and 2027! [Click here to check calendar openings and to reserve your spots.](#)

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

Learn more at midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission.

Iowa:

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

SHARE & *connect*

Share the Newsletter

