



As the impact of Hurricane Melissa becomes known, it is very clear that Jamaica will need help for months and years to come.

Our partner, Food For The Poor, is the backbone of Jamaica's disaster relief and distribution network. The ministry started in Jamaica over 40 years ago, and since then, they have been the number one trusted humanitarian organization to assist the people of Jamaica. Their partnerships and relationships are more important than ever as they quickly disburse supplies and work hand-in-hand with the government and other non-governmental agencies who are serving people affected by Hurricane Melissa.

In a recent meeting with the team in Jamaica, they told us that in Jamaica alone, over 1.1 million people were affected, with 173 communities impacted and more than 150 roads blocked by flooding and landslides. At least 28 deaths have been reported, and over 30,000 people have been displaced. The situation is bleak. But hope and help are on the way!

Food For The Poor told us 39 containers of emergency goods are on the way to Jamaica, including the supplies we sent out last Friday.

In our meeting, we discussed what the next steps are – what the biggest needs are that Midwest Mission can meet.

The need was obvious: food.

Because of this, Midwest Mission will be sending an entire 40' container full of Rice and Soy Blessing Bags – that's 48,000 bags that will feed 248,000 people.

Thanks to partnering churches and organizations hosting Blessing Bag Packs at their locations in November, we will have about 23,000 bags coming into the building in the next month. But, to complete the requested shipment of 48,000 bags, we still need 25,000 bags.

So, Midwest Mission will be hosting Blessing Bag Packs at both locations (Pawnee, IL, and Jefferson, IA) to assemble all of the meals!

You can help meet this need in three ways:

1. Donate to Provide Meals

We need to raise \$50,000 to cover the cost of the 25,000 Blessing Bags.

- \$24 = feeds 72 people
- \$50 = feeds 150 people
- \$150 = feeds 450 people
- \$500 = feeds 900 people

You can [donate online](#) or send a check to 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558.

2. Volunteer to Pack Blessing Bags

Join us at Midwest Mission for a 2-hour shift and help assemble meals for Jamaica. There are volunteer shifts at our main location in Pawnee, IL, and our second location in Jefferson, IA. These shifts take place on Thursday, November 20 - Sunday, November 23.

[Sign up to pack meals in Illinois](#)

[Sign up to pack meals in Iowa](#)

3. Spread the Word!

You can also help get the word out about this great way to serve the people of Jamaica and show God's love practically. When disasters happen, many people want to help, but they don't know how. There are so many practical, hands-on ways that people can get involved. From serving at the Blessing Bag Pack, to collecting and donating needed items, to praying, there are so many things anyone can do!

Learn more about all the ways you can get involved at [midwestmission.org/hurricane-relief](#).

We are thankful for the opportunity to spread hope in the midst of this disaster. By meeting people's physical needs, you are showing them God's love in a very practical way.

No one should go hungry. We are in the position to make sure they don't.

Will you help?

Shipments #60 & #61 Went Out This Week!



God continues to pour out His blessings upon this organization, and we are just overwhelmed with gratitude. This week, another two shipments went out, bringing our total of international shipments to 61 for the year!

To put this in perspective, before this year, the most international shipments we had sent out were 48, and that was in 2022.

With natural and manmade disasters bringing chaos and crisis, the need continues to grow. And you are responding. In BIG ways. 61 shipments wouldn't be possible if you didn't provide the items to send.

Both shipments this week went out on Thursday, November 6.

The first was an **Angels of Hope** shipment that will bless children's homes in **Honduras**. This 20' container was filled with:

- 540 Home Care Kits
- 280 Personal Dignity Kits
- 6 Twin Hospital Be Mattresses
- 42 Cover Them With Love Quilts
- 72 cases of Scrubber Sponges
- Puzzles and Games

Its value was \$35,260.00.



The second was a general-in-kind shipment with all types of items that will be distributed by organizations in **Guatemala**. The 40' container was filled with:

- 15 Bikes
- 6 Treadle Sewing Machines
- 25 Electric Sewing Machines
- 15,600 Rice and Soy Blessing Bags
- 280 Birthing Kits
- 154 Feminine Hygiene Kits
- 156 Layette Kits
- 90 Sleeping Mats made from Plam
- Medical Supplies
- Tarps

The value of this shipment was \$157,440.80.

Whether you give monetarily, donate items, share about the ministry, or pray for Midwest Mission and the people we serve — you are the reason these shipments are happening. Thank you!

CURRENT Needs

Please consider collecting and donating:

- Bed Packs (Twin flat sheet, twin fitted sheet, pillowcase, pillow)
- Home Care Kit Items
 - New Liquid Household Cleaner - 66 fl oz. total (no spray bottles)
 - Dish Soap (42-64 oz)
 - Scrub Sponges - (new or without handle)
 - 1 - 5 Gallon Round Bucket with Removable Lid
 - Liquid Laundry Detergent (max of 150 oz)
- Wheelchairs and Cane

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

- 151 Bed Packs
- 155 Blessing Bags
- 240 Home Care Kits
- 500 Student Kits

Offsite:

- 520 Blessing Bags - Cargill UMC, Janesville, WI

Disbursements:

- Food For The Poor, Windsor: 540 Home Care Kits, 280 Personal Dignity Kits, 6 Twin Hospital Bed Mattresses, 42 Cover Them With Love Quilts, and 72 Scrubber Sponges - Value: \$35,260.00
- Guatemala: 15 Bikes, 6 Treadle Sewing Machines, 25 Electric Sewing Machines, 15,600 Rice and Soy Blessing Bags, 280 Birthing Kits, 154 Feminine Hygiene Kits, 156 Layette Kits, and 90 Sleeping Mats made from Plam - Value: \$157,440.80.

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Loom weaving
- Prep for Offsite Event
- Spring and Counting Inventory
- Bike Repair Shop
- Sewing
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop

- 30 Personal Dignity Kits
- 30 Student Kits
- 90 Blessing Bags


Offsite:

- 150 Blessing Bags - Cedar Falls UMC, Ingathering

Disbursements:

- Urban Bicycle Food Ministries: 2 bikes - Value: \$180.00

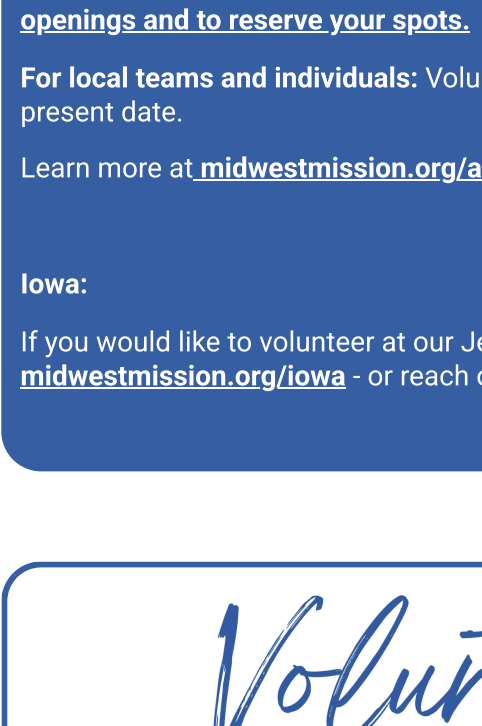
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Learn More



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Volunteer at Midwest Mission

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

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



Iowa:

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

Volunteers

November 3rd-7th, 2025



Volunteer Leaders



Howard & Deb Orndorff

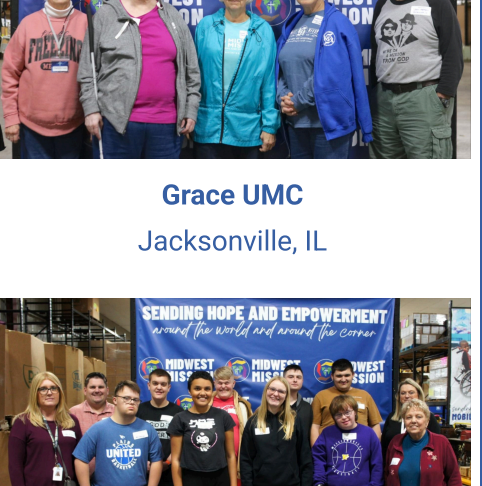

Suzanne Conger

Illinois Teams





Marshall UMC
Marshall, MI

Union Reunion
St. Louis, MO





Owen Family
Franklin, WI

GUM Group
Chatham & Springfield, IL



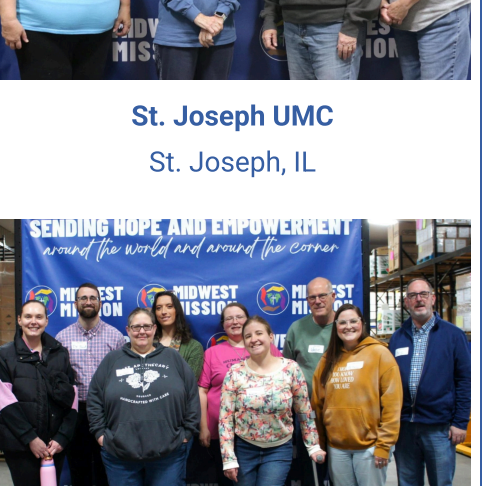
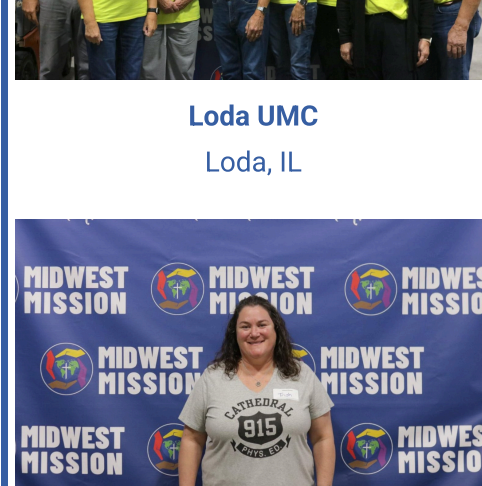
Faith UMC
Champaign, IL

Grace UMC
Jacksonville, IL





SASED (am)
Springfield, IL

SASED (gm)
Springfield, IL



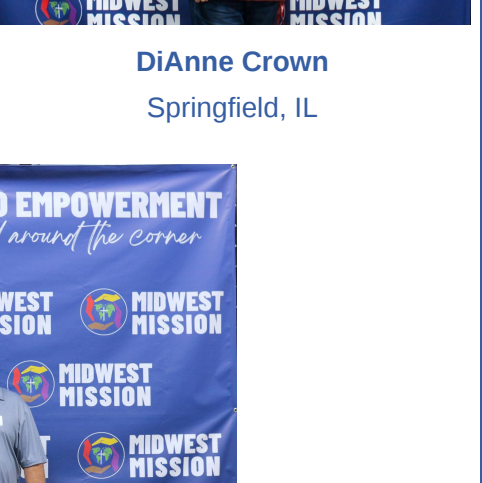
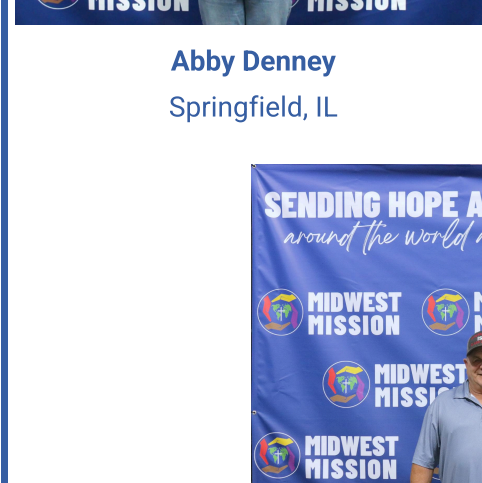
Simpson Group
Springfield, IL

Gibson City UMC
Gibson City, IL



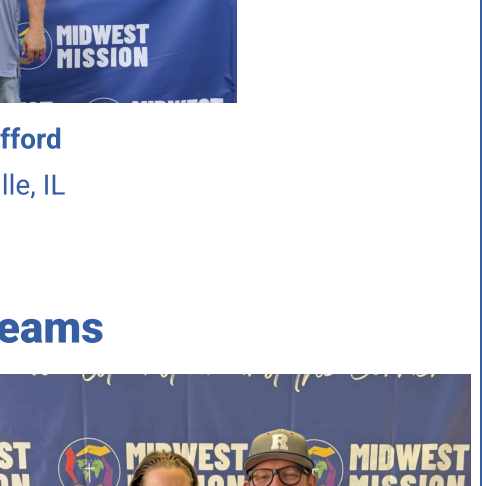
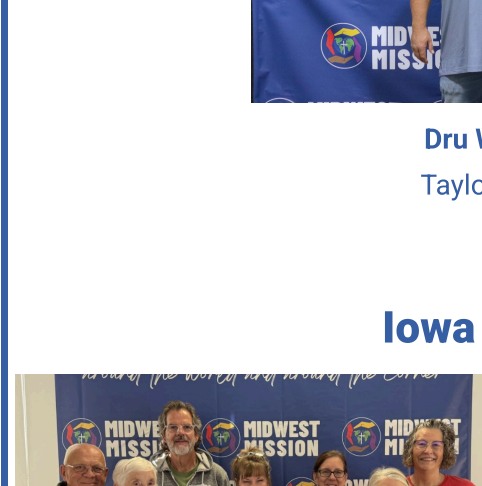
Loda UMC
Loda, IL

St. Joseph UMC
St. Joseph, IL




Patricia King
Glenmarr, IL

Wesley UMC Staff
Bloomington, IL



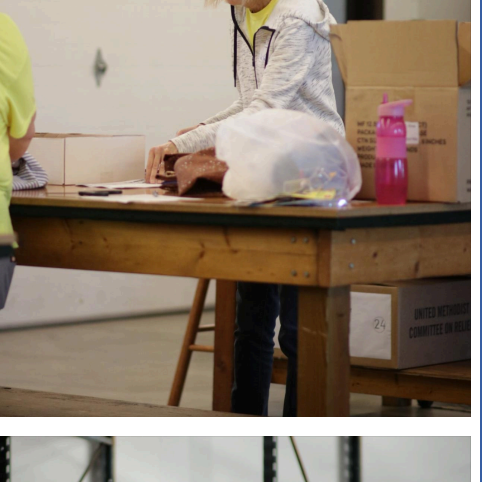
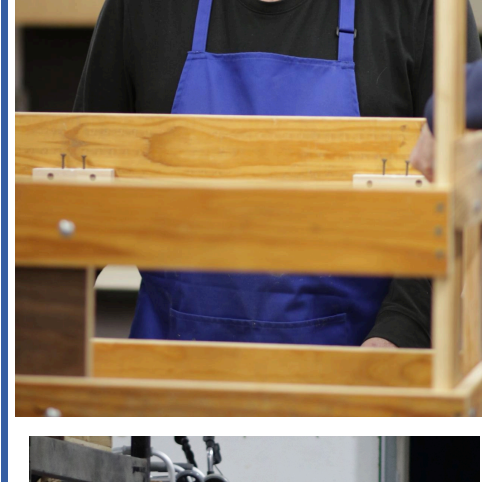
Abby Denney
Springfield, IL

DiAnne Crown
Springfield, IL



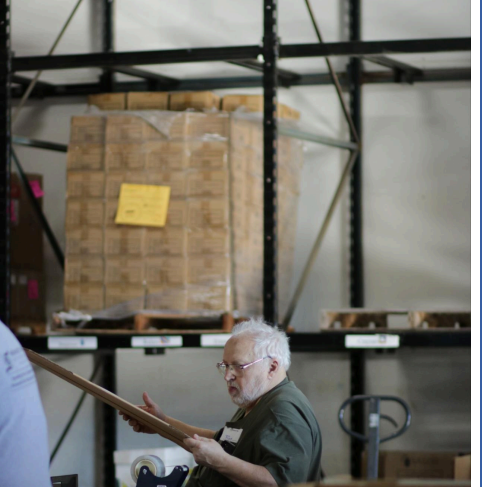

Dru Wofford
Taylortown, IL

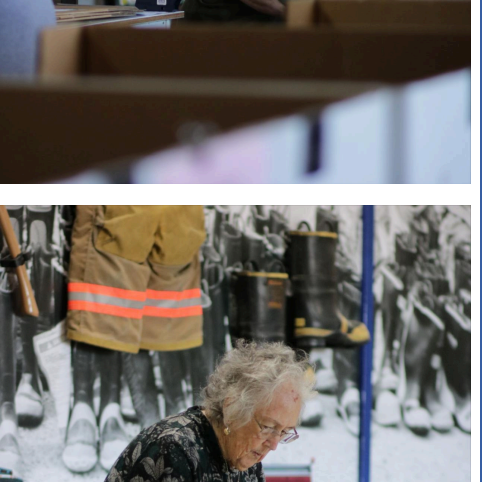
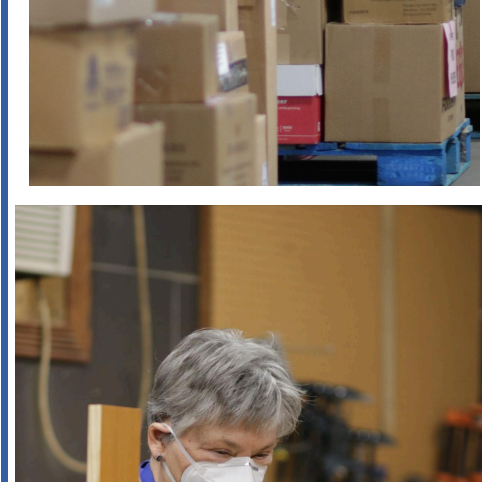
Iowa Teams

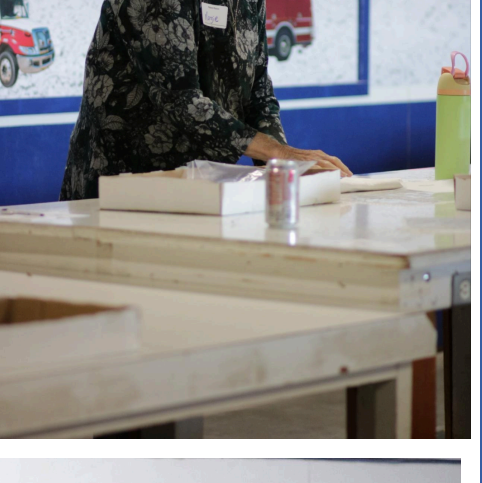





St. Mark's UMC
Cedar Rapids, IA



Brian Kitzke & Ginny Ray
Iowa


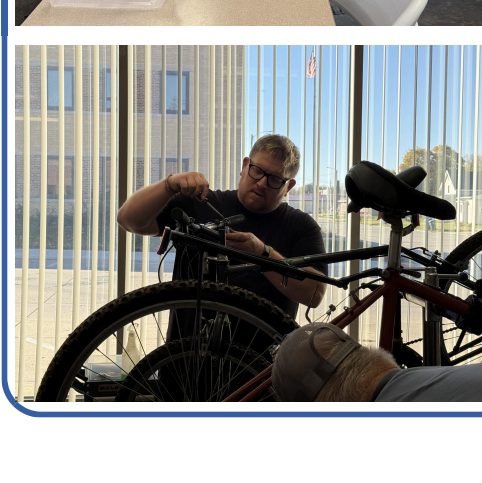














SHARE Connect

Share the Newsletter



Two Shipments of Disaster Relief Sent to Jamaica



On Friday, November 21, not just one—but **two**—shipments of relief supplies rolled out of our warehouse and began their journey to Jamaica. These shipments were only possible because of **you**. When we shared the urgent need, you showed up with generous hearts. Bed Packs, Home Care Kits, garbage bags, cleaning supplies, and so much more poured into Midwest Mission. You gave financially so we could purchase thousands of additional items to meet the growing need.

As the trucks were being loaded, more than 65 volunteers were inside the warehouse packing Rice and Soy Blessing Bags for Jamaica. In the middle of the bustling activity, everyone paused. Volunteers circled up, and prayed for the families who would receive these supplies. It was a holy moment—one we will never forget. You can join us in that prayer by [watching here](#).

The best part? The first shipment included Blessing Bags that were packed just **YESTERDAY!!!**

- **Shipment One Included:**
 - 16,600 Blessing Bags
 - 212 Storm Cleanup Kits
 - New Clothing donated by North Star Foundation

Value: \$213,951.00

- **Shipment Two Included:**
 - 100 Bed Packs
 - 100 Mattresses
 - 1,660 Student Kits
 - 78 Pairs of crutches
 - 118 Walkers
 - 5 Wheelchairs
 - 50 Canes
 - 120 Home Care Kits

Value: \$62,645.60

So far, between **Midwest Mission Iowa** and **Midwest Mission in Illinois**, volunteers have packed **18,200** Blessing Bags—enough to feed **109,200** people in Jamaica with a nutritious, flavorful meal.

And we're not done yet. We still have two more days of packing, and we can't wait to see how close we get to our goal of **25,000 meals**. Every single bag matters. Each one represents **six more people fed**, more neighbors given the strength to keep going through unimaginable circumstances.

You can help by donating towards the meals! Each bag costs \$2 and feeds 6 people.

[Donate Meals](#)

We mourn with the people of Jamaica. We continue to pray for them as they navigate life after disaster—knowing the road to recovery will take years, and the need for relief supplies will continue long after the headlines fade.

But because of you, hope is already on the way.

You make it possible for us to respond quickly, compassionately, and generously.

Thank you for being part of this mission.

[Learn how you can help the people of Jamaica](#)

Awaiting the Arrival: A Meaningful Advent Study



**An Advent Bible Study
To be Used with Assembling
Midwest Mission Birthing Kits**

by Angela Canigan

This Advent season, Midwest Mission is excited to share a brand-new resource written by Angela Canigan: **"Awaiting the Arrival."** This free Advent Study invites anyone—whether you're journeying through Advent on your own, gathering with a small group, or leading a congregation—to pause, prepare, and reflect on the coming of Jesus Christ.

"Awaiting the Arrival" walks participants through scripture passages that highlight the themes of anticipation, preparation, and hope woven throughout the Advent season.

But this study is more than devotional reading—it's also a **hands-on opportunity to serve**.

As we reflect on the humble circumstances of Christ's birth, participants will assemble **Birthing Kits** for mothers around the world who are giving birth in similar conditions. Each week, participants bring one item for the Birthing Kit, and the devotional lesson uses that item as a meaningful illustration connected to the scripture.

Every session begins with a story—personal reflections shared by Angela that you are welcome to read as written or replace with your own. These stories serve as an invitation into the week's theme and help ground the lesson in everyday life. Participants will then explore the biblical passage and engage with thoughtful discussion questions, whether in a group setting or through personal journaling.

The first four lessons are designed for weekly study during Advent, and the final lesson encourages personal reflection during the week of Christmas.

No matter how you practice Advent—on your own, with family, with friends, or as a church community—**this study offers a meaningful way to deepen your faith while making a tangible difference.**

Download "Awaiting the Arrival" today and join us in preparing our hearts and serving others this Christmas season.

[Download Advent Study](#)

CURRENT Needs

Please consider collecting and donating:

- Bed Packs (Twin flat sheet, twin fitted sheet, pillowcase, pillow)
- Home Care Kits/Items:
 - New Liquid Household Cleaner - 56-80 oz. total - (no spray bottles)
 - Dish Soap (42-64 oz.)
 - Scrub Brushes - (with or without handles)
 - 3 - 5-Gallon Round Bucket with Resealable Lid
 - Liquid Laundry Detergent (max of 150 oz.)
- Wheelchairs and Canes

[Purchase on Amazon](#)[Sewing Patterns & Instructions](#)

RESOURCES & DOWNLOADS



[Download Church Bulletin](#)[Download Summer Update](#)

Volunteer WORK & PROJECTS

Work Done in Illinois

Onsite:

- 14,600 Blessing Bags that will feed 87,600 people in Jamaica
- 49 Bed Packs
- 240 Home Care Kits
- 180 Personal Dignity Kits
- 420 Student Kits
- 107 Cleaning Kits
- Bike Shop
- Desk Shop
- Poly Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Cleaning
- Campus Improvements
- Items Counted Into Inventory
- Offsite Pack Prep

Offsite:

- 2,400 Blessing Bags – Grosse Pointe UMC, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI
- 1,000 Blessing Bags – Macomb Wesley UMC, Macomb, IL
- 2,360 Blessing Bags – St. Paul's UMC, Rochester, MI
- 100 Personal Dignity Kits – Watseka Methodist, Watseka, IL

Disbursements:


- Furniture to Central Illinois Christians In Mission, Decatur, IL — Value: \$4,043.00
- Cleaning Supplies to St. Martin de Porres, Springfield, IL — Value: \$3,840.00

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- 3,600 Blessing Bags that will feed 21,600 people in Jamaica

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.

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Illinois:

We have dates available in 2025 and 2026! [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.

Volunteers

November 21, 2025

Volunteer Leaders



Mary Marty
Brownsburg, IN



Jeff & Jane Johnson
Glen Carbon, IL

Illinois Teams



First UMC
Algona, IA



First UMC
Mt. Vernon, IN



Patsy Fleenor
Brownsburg, IN



Charlene Myers
Springfield, IL



Richard and Cynthia Dixon
Springfield, IL



Collin and Kristian Smith
Rochester, IL

Iowa Teams



DAR
Carroll, IA



65th International Shipment of the Year!



We hope you had a great Thanksgiving, filled with lots of **joy**, good food, and **thankfulness**! As we reflect on what we are grateful for this year, we are extremely thankful for all who have made 65 international shipments possible.

You have given in-kind donations, monetary gifts, and prayed fervently for this ministry. And because of that, 65 shipments have left the warehouse and gone to countries where help is desperately needed.

The 65th international shipment of the year was sent on Monday, November 24. This was an Angels of Hope shipment, containing supplies that will go to children's homes in Honduras!

This shipment included:

- 480 Home Care Kits
- 280 Personal Dignity Kits
- 6 Mattresses
- 6 Bed Packs
- 42 Cover Them With Love Quilts
- Scrubber Sponges

The value of this shipment was \$39,400.00.

Reflecting on this year, Paul's words come to mind when we think about each and every one of you and the work you've done to create a big impact in the world: *"I thank my God every time I remember you."* **Philippians 1:3**



What an incredible week of service! Over the course of four days, volunteers came together with one shared goal: to help feed our neighbors in Jamaica. Thanks to this amazing outpouring of support, **26,440 Blessing Bags** were packed—providing meals for **158,640 people**.

This effort was made possible by **496 unique volunteers in Illinois and Iowa**, who collectively gave **1,326 hours** of their time. Whether you packed meals, donated toward supplies, or prayed for the events, your contribution made a real impact.

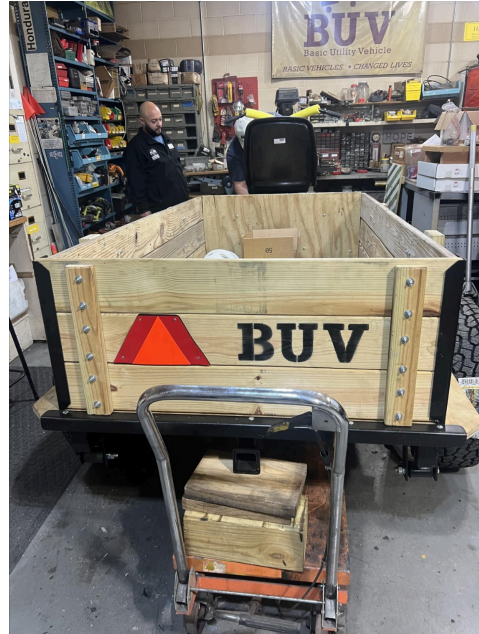
A shipment containing many of these meals left our warehouse last Friday (November 21) and another shipment will be scheduled soon. We are grateful for every person who helped bring hope and nourishment to communities in need. Thank you for being a vital part of this mission!

This Giving Tuesday, You Can Send Empowerment to Peru!

Giving Tuesday is almost here—and with it comes a powerful opportunity to uplift a hardworking community in Peru.

Midwest Mission is partnering with [DriveBUV](#) (Indianapolis, IN) to send **Basic Utility Vehicles (BUVs)** to under-resourced farming communities. According to DriveBUV, a BUV is *“a simple, rugged, low-cost, low-weight vehicle that is easy to operate, maintain, and repair.”*

Think of it as a cross between a 4x4 pickup truck and a tractor.



It is built to navigate rough rural terrain, haul goods, pull a planter, and operate directly in the field. It's exactly the kind of reliable, affordable equipment small farmers need to grow and thrive.

Right now, a BUV has been requested for a cacao farm in Peru.

Our partner, **Food For The Poor**, has been walking alongside this farm for more than a year, helping strengthen productivity and long-term sustainability through technical support, logistics, and essential supplies. They're nearing the end of the project, and one of the final needs is dependable farm equipment.

And that's where you can make a life-changing difference.

Keep an eye on your inbox this Tuesday for more information!

[Learn More](#)



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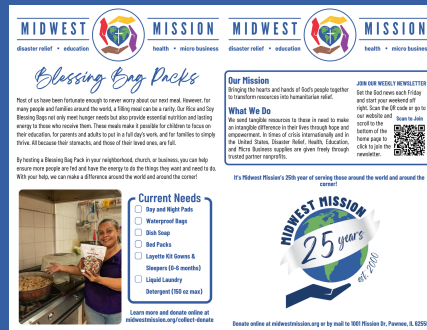
- Bed Packs (Twin flat sheet, twin fitted sheet, pillowcase, pillow)
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 - Dish Soap (42-64 oz)
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- Items Counted Into Inventory

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volunteers who give of their time to make a BIG
impact in the world!**

SHARE & *connect*

Share the Newsletter

