

May 5, 2023

MIDWEST

disaster relief • education



MISSION

health • micro business

SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Shipment to Jamaica meets needs witnessed by Midwest Mission staff members



At the end of March 2023, three Midwest Mission staff members — Chantel Corrie (Executive Director), Barb Hedinger (Volunteer Coordinator), and Mallory Webster (Communications Manager) — traveled to Kingston, Jamaica to visit places that receive Midwest

Mission items, and to witness the need first-hand. The trip was through Food For The Poor, Midwest Mission's biggest international partner. Jamaica was the first country Food For The Poor served, so this was the perfect country to visit for the first trip.

As they walked the halls of an old hospital, ventured down the road of a campus for disabled children and adults, looked into the eyes of prisoners ready to turn their lives around, and walked hand-in-hand with children who have been given hope through a new family at a children's home ... the needs were evident. But so was God.



God was near to those going through pain and heartache in the hospital. He could be felt in the chapel of the home for the disabled. You could see him in the eye of the prisoner who would receive a sewing machine upon being released. God was at the forefront of the minds of the directors of the homeless shelter, the "aunties" at the children's homes, and the staff of Food For The Poor itself. These servants of God not only take care of the physical needs of those they encounter, but pay careful attention to their spiritual needs.

Whether at the hospital, care center for the homeless, or an infirmary for those "homeless, familyless, and friendless," the need was evident — mattresses.

Many times, one of the organizations might receive a bed and a mattress, but the mattress is used so much, and often soiled, that the mattress wears out, leaving nothing but a bed frame. Midwest Mission staff members witnessed people sleeping on cardboard laid on top of a hard bed frame, injured patients sitting in a crowded waiting room because of a lack of beds and mattresses, and desperate caretakers asking for mattresses because of what they see on a daily basis.



The good news is, our God is a God who perfectly orchestrates His plan.

The three staff members returned to Midwest Mission with hearts broken for what breaks God's heart, and a list of needs that they had witnessed, one of the top priorities being mattresses and medical supplies.

On the first Monday back at Midwest Mission, Chantel and Mallory walked to the third warehouse for break time. As they turned the corner, they could see piles stacked 10 feet in the air. They peered around the pallet racking to get a better look. There, in the middle of the third warehouse, were stacks and stacks of *mattresses*.

Little did they know, while they were in Jamaica seeing the vast need for mattresses, Ramon Ortiz, Operations Specialist, was traveling to Southern Illinois to pick up a

load of donated mattresses.

Our God works in mysteriously perfect ways.

It was quickly decided that these mattresses would go to Jamaica to be distributed to some of the same organizations where they had seen the desperate need for mattresses.

On Wednesday, May 3, that shipment came to life. The container backed into the loading dock, the fork lifts revved, and supplies were moved into the container.

We always send what is asked for, but how much greater is it when we can hear the ask in-person, and make it happen just one month later. We were able to send exactly what they needed because God knew those needs.

This shipment contained 34 mattresses. It also included 25 bikes, 334 little girl outfits, 304 Cover Them With Love Quilts, 83 tarps from Lamar Advertising, medical supplies such as gauze, syringes, bandages, sanitary wipes, linens, gloves, masks, a phlebotomy chair, walkers, crutches, canes, wheelchairs, and so much more.

Total weight: 19,165 lbs
Total value: \$97,267.20

We are able to show God's love in a practical way in Jamaica because YOU listen to the nudge to pray, donate, and serve. You are part of God's plan at Midwest Mission.

It is an honor and a blessing to be a part of this ministry, and to see God at work.

During the prayer circle for the shipment, Chantel shared a little more about the trip. You can watch her story [here](#).



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.

You can also buy items online and have them shipped right to Midwest Mission.

Helpful Links

- to donate: midwestmission.org/donate
- to see more info on collecting and donating: [click here](#)

Prayers to Lift Up

This week, we thank God for all of the blessings we receive. We are thankful for the opportunity we have to share our blessings with others.

"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

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 15 Sewing Machines repaired
- 300 Student Kits

Other work done

- Desks - build, polyurethane
- Bike repair
- Cleaning
- Mowing and Groundskeeping
- Sewing
- Counting into inventory
- Rice Meal Prep
- Bottled Laundry Soap

Disbursements

- Iowa Annual Conference, Disaster Relief: 144 UMCOR Cleaning Kits Value: \$10,800.00
- Chatham Micro Pantry, Chatham, IL: Redirect cleaning and hygiene supplies Value: \$132.00

- Kingston, Jamaica, Food For The Poor: See above story

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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[Link to Share the Midwest Mission Newsletter](#)

Ready to Get Involved?



Volunteer at Midwest Mission

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

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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!

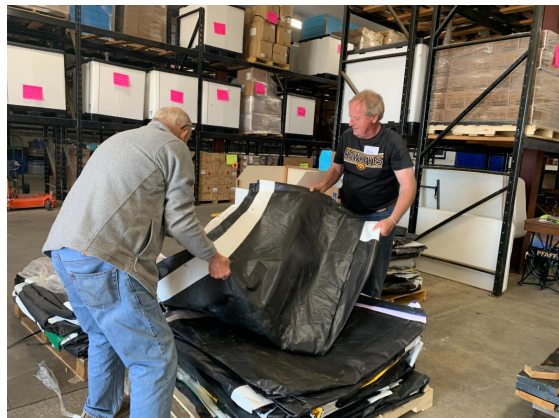
Go to our [Reservation Calendar](#), log in, reserve your rooms, and submit payment for your Non-refundable Reservation Fee via credit card or electronic check. We will email you the Access Code to reserve Volunteer Shifts for your team. You must complete this step for your team to volunteer at Midwest Mission.

For local teams and individuals: Volunteer Shifts will only be available 3 months ahead of time. Beginning October 1, 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

May 1 - May 5, 2023



Volunteer Leaders



Connie and Bill Ridgley
Panora, IA

Volunteer Teams



Webster UMC
Webster Groves, MO



Alaire Willits
Stratford, IA



Jean Schneider and Carol Shipp
Springfield, IL



First UMC
Cedar Falls, IA

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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May 12, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Children receive Student Kits in Honduras



Notebooks, pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener, crayons, colored pencils, ruler, and scissors — typical school supplies you'd find in most students' backpacks or desks during the school year in the United States.

But for many families in Honduras, they don't have the financial means to purchase these educational tools. Honduras is very impoverished, "with the highest level of income inequality in all of Latin America" (Food For the Poor). Over 65 percent of the population lives in poverty, with circumstances worsening for those in rural areas and indigenous people.

The country itself is vulnerable to devastating natural disasters, and Hondurans are vulnerable to other disasters: crime, malnutrition, and unemployment.

Sometimes, in the face of all the disasters, it is easy to lose hope. That's why we send the things we do — so that people can have what they need to thrive and gain back some of the hope and independence that was lost through their crisis.

Midwest Mission was recently able to bless Honduras with two shipments, including many needed Student Kits that contain the typical school supplies listed above. Midwest Mission, Food For The Poor, and their in-country partners all understand the necessity of education, and how fundamental it is in a country's development.



We received feedback from two different communities in Honduras.

The first community distributed **280 Student Kits** to children at the local school.

“The Student Kits were most popular among the children since they look forward to

getting new school supplies for the new school year,” Heydy Bu, Food For The Poor’s in-country partner representative said. “With the items contained in the kits, I can tell you that their wish list was fulfilled. Thank you for these wonderful kits for our students!”

The second community was a rural area called La Esperanza Intibucá.

“When we receive donations that contain school supplies, we try to reach children from families with limited financial resources, especially those who live in remote, rural areas,” Heydy said.

“La Esperanza Intibucá is one such area. It is comprised of twin cities, and it is home to the indigenous Lenca community. Many people living there have makeshift homes with dirt floors and roofs made of sheet metal.”

They provided Student Kits to **50 children** in this community.



Thank YOU to everyone who made this happen. Your prayers, volunteer hours, and donations (both monetary and in-kind) allow children in Honduras to have the proper tools needed to excel in school.



Send a Gift in Honor of Your Mom

Mother's Day is a wonderful day to celebrate all of the mother figures in our lives. Mothers around the world work hard to provide for their children, and love them endlessly.

We know how hard it can be to be a mother. That's why Midwest Mission has two kits that are gifted to expecting mothers to make this new season of their life easier.

The **Birthing Kit** includes items to assist in a healthy birth for mom and baby.

The **Layette Kit** includes a sweater, sleepers, onesies, infant washcloths, cloth diapers, diaper cream, diaper pins, and receiving blankets.

This **Mother's Day**, you can make a donation in honor of your mother, that could give a new mother around the world hope for the life she is bringing into the world through needed resources she might not have had otherwise.

A **\$15** donation will give a Birthing Kit to an expecting mom, so she can safely have her baby.

A **\$45** donation will give a Layette Kit to a new mom, so she may have some of the items necessary to care for her new baby.

To make a donation in someone's honor, go to midwestmission.org/donate. Be sure to click on "I would like to dedicate this donation" and fill out the fields. In the "My gift is for" field, click on "general support." You can also send a check to 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558. If you are dedicating your donation, please include their name within the envelope.

For all the mothers and the mothers-at-heart, thank you for your care and kindness. Happy Mother's Day!

Current Needs

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

Twin Sheet Sets
twin flat sheet, twin fitted
sheet, and pillowcase

Mission in Motion Calendar

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Click here to see the Mission in Motion Calendar to know where we will be in the next few weeks!

Prayers to Lift Up

This week, we pray for all of our volunteers. For those who travel to Midwest Mission, for those who are serving at off-site events, and for those who serve at home. We pray for continual blessings and joy as they serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 18 Desks built and polyurethaned
- 1680 Student Kits

Other work done

- Bike repair
- Cleaning
- Sewing machines repaired
- Counting into inventory

Disbursements

- Cultivators, Rantoul, IL: 312 UMCOR Hygiene Kits and 300 Student Kits Value: \$8,856.00

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Share some **GOD** news with those you love!

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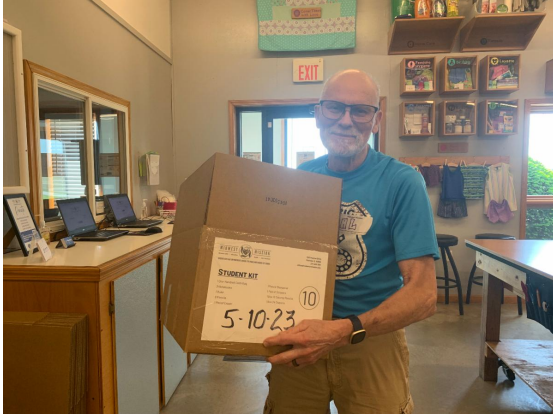
Thank you for your patience as we try to improve the reservation experience for both local teams and those staying in the dorm.

Volunteers at Work

May 8 - May 12, 2023



Redirect tarps, food, blankets,
 fire equipment, MRI's, and a van.
 27 Domestic Shipments: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27
 8 International Shipments:
 - Mexico - \$106.00
 - Haiti - \$5,712.00
 - Turkey - \$40,845.90
 - Jamaica - \$230,291.50
 - Ukraine - \$17,640.00
 - Mexico - \$4,828.00
 - Ukraine - \$20,036.70
 - Ukraine - \$110,252.00
 Redirect Cleaning Supplies, com and fi
 - Mexico - Bus
 1 Bike
 27 Sewing Machines
 10 Dining
 48 HomeLa
 20 Female
 Redirect Cleaning
 Supplies, com and fi
 - Mexico - Bus
 1 Bike
 27 Sewing Machines
 SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND THE CO



Volunteer Leaders



Sue Loeffler
Mercer, WI



Ron and Sharon Monroe
Fairbury, IL

Volunteer Teams



University UMC
East Lansing, MI



Union Reunion
St. Louis, MO



Douglas Avenue UMC
Springfield, 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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May 19, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Solar Panel Installation Begins



In 2020, Midwest Mission’s board of directors and staff began to dream and plan what it would look like for Midwest Mission to have solar panels. With a desire to steward resources well, and go more “green,” the Solar Project began.

The plans were made, and God continually showed up, orchestrating the work and connections in his perfect timing. This has been a long process as we fundraised, prayed, and waited for the construction to start, but we are excited for the end-result and the good it will do for the ministry.

This week, after a year of anticipation, the Solar Panels were installed on the warehouses.

The total project cost was \$154,986, but with \$66,632 of incentives, the net cost was \$88,354.

The best part? The estimated 25-year electric bill savings is \$308,494. Meaning, every \$1 that was donated to the campaign will save us a minimum of \$3.50 in electric costs.

Thank you for continuing to prioritize the stewardship of the resources God gives us. God continues to bless Midwest Mission in unthinkable ways!

If you would like to donate towards the Solar Project, go to midwestmission.org/donate and select “Endowment/Solar Project” under the “My gift is for” tab. You can also send a check to 1001 Mission Dr, Pawnee, IL 62558 with

Come See Us at Annual Conferences!

Annual Conferences are less than a month away!

Each year in June, Midwest Mission staff members travel around the Midwest to visit United Methodist Annual Conferences. Staff members will collect donations, set up exhibit spaces, and catch up with volunteers.

We want to see you!

If you are at an Annual Conference we are at, stop by our booth or the collection truck and say hi.

Leading up to the Annual Conference season is a great time to collect needed items to donate to Midwest Mission. You could assemble Personal Dignity Kits or Student Kits, collect shampoo or dish soap, or make handmade items. This is a great opportunity for your small group, coworkers, or neighbors to get together and make a global impact right from your town.

[Click here](#) to see what our current needs are.

[Click here](#) to download our kits and projects brochure.

[Click here](#) to see our patterns for handmade items.

We will be at:

- Minnesota Annual Conference (Collection and Exhibit)
- West Ohio Annual Conference (Collection and Exhibit)
- Michigan Annual Conference (Exhibit, small items can be donated)
- Iowa Annual Conference (Collection and Exhibit)
- Northern Illinois Annual Conference (Collection and Exhibit)
- Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference (Collection and Exhibit)
- Indiana Annual Conference (Exhibit Only)
- East Ohio Annual Conference (Collection and Exhibit)
- Wisconsin Annual Conference (Collection and Exhibit)
- Missouri Annual Conference (Exhibit Only)

[Click here](#) for more information.



Current Needs

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You can also buy items online and have them shipped right to Midwest Mission.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

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

Twin Sheet Sets
twin flat sheet, twin fitted
sheet, and pillowcase

Mission in Motion Calendar

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Prayers to Lift Up

Pray that we all continue to follow God's guidance, help those who are in need, and glorify God in all we do and say.

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."
Ephesians 4:1

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 1220 Personal Dignity Kits
- 1050 UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits
- 791 Rice Meals - Sugar Grove UMC

Other work done

- Desks - build and polyurethane
- Cleaning
- Sewing machines repaired
- Counting into inventory
- Rice Meal prep

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Volunteers at Work

May 15 - May 19, 2023



Volunteer Leaders



Sue Loeffler
Mercer, WI



Chuck and Karen Porter
Brighton, IL

Volunteer Teams



**Advent UMC
Eagan, MN**



**Taylorville UMC
Taylorville, IL**



**Monticello UMC
Monticello, IL**



**River of Life UMC
Beloit, WI**



**Avon UMC
Avon, IN**

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May 26, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Angels of Hope Items Delivered to Children in Honduras



Honduras, located in Central America, is a beautiful country, but one that is full of challenges. Honduras is very impoverished, with unemployment, gang violence, malnutrition, and lack of opportunity being the main causes of suffering.

People in Honduras lack resources that are common for many of us — food, hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies, etc.

We have the opportunity to bless those who are in need with the resources that can propel them into a better life. We work with Food For The Poor to serve communities of Honduras.

One of the ways we partner with Food For The Poor is through their Angels of Hope Program. The program's goal is to "improve the lives of vulnerable children who come from poverty and/or have been abandoned or removed from their homes due to a dangerous or at-risk situation." They work with children's homes across the Caribbean and Latin America to meet basic needs that the homes have trouble providing.

We received photos from a few Angels of Hope homes in Honduras who received

Home Care Kits and Personal Dignity Kits.

“Without donations such as these that encompass the spectrum of tangible needs, the standard of personal hygiene and cleanliness that we see in the homes would not be sustainable,” Food For The Poor’s in-country representative, Heydy, said.

“This type of donation is of great need. We pray that God continues to bless the donors in abundance and that we continue to receive these much-needed essentials that are truly a blessing.”

What a blessing it is to be a blessing!



22nd International Shipment of the Year Heads to Ethiopia



On Monday, May 22, we loaded the 22nd international shipment of the year. Its final destination is **Ethiopia**.

This shipment is for our partner, **North Star Foundation**, who we previously worked with for Ukraine and Turkey. North Star shared with us the vast needs they see in Ethiopia. Within weeks, we were ready to ship.

This shipment contained:

- 392,000 surgical gloves
- 48,619 hospital gowns
- 3,800 disposable shoe covers
- 3,200 hair nets
- 212,960 disposable face masks
- 240,000 bed pads
- Disinfecting wipes

This shipment weighed 31,614 lbs and was valued at \$569,446.14.

Current Needs

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You can also buy items online and have them shipped right to Midwest Mission.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

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

Bicycles
we need adult bicycles in good
condition with minimal rust

Annual Conferences

United Methodist Annual Conferences are just around the corner! Starting next week, Midwest Mission will be traveling to nine different Annual Conferences in the month of June. Stop by our exhibit booth or collection truck and say hi!

Click here to see which conferences we will be at, and which conferences we will be collecting at!

Mission in Motion Calendar

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Prayers to Lift Up

This week, we pray for the recipients of the shipments, that these items will give them hope and help them feel empowered. We pray for easy distribution, and that items will reach those who need them most.

"In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety."

Psalm 4:8

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Projects completed

- 1,510 Personal Dignity Kits
- 560 UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits
- 140 Birthing Kits
- 23 Sewing Machines repaired
- 18 Desks built and polyurethaned
- Rice Meals
 - 303 Centerville UMC - White Heath, IL
 - 2,000 Concord Trinity UMC - St. Louis, MO
 - 720 Sturgeon Bay UMC - Sturgeon Bay, WI

Other work done

- Bike repair
- Cleaning
- Sewing
- Counting into inventory
- Painting

Disbursements

- Chatham Micro Pantry, Chatham, IL: Redirect hygiene supplies Value: \$124.00

- Cheyenne River Youth Project, Eagle Butte, SD: 456 UMCOR Hygiene Kits Value: \$5,928.00
- Offender Success, Grayling, Michigan: 120 Personal Dignity Kits Value: \$1,920.00
- North Star Foundation, Central Falls, Rhode Island: See above story

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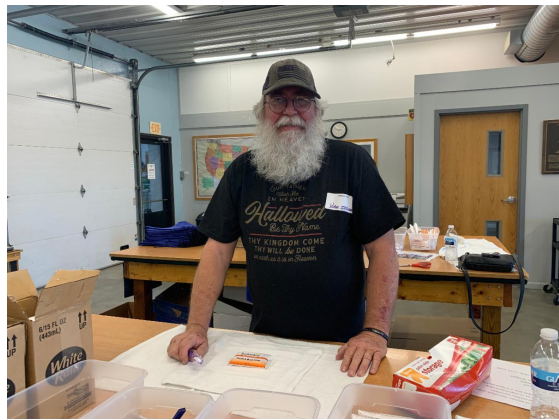
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May 22 - May 26, 2023





Volunteer Leaders



Chuck and Karen Porter
Brighton, IL

Volunteer Teams



**First UMC
Plymouth, IN**



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



**Cambridge UMC
Cambridge, IL**



**Midland First UMC
Midland, MI**



**Grace UMC
Jacksonville, IL**



**Trevor Oetting
Oakwood, IL**



Marianne Ralph
Springfield, IL



Denise Workman
Springfield, IL



Karl Luth
Carlinville, IL

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