

Turning Leftover School Supplies into Lasting Impact!



While visiting Honduras last year, we saw firsthand the significant need for school supplies across public schools.

The Problem:

Teachers often lack even basic materials to distribute to their students, and many families cannot afford to provide the proper tools for learning. As a result, students begin the school year without the notebooks, pencils, and supplies they need to succeed.

The Other Problem:

At the very same time, as the school year ends in the United States, countless usable supplies are discarded. Students clean out desks and lockers, and notebooks with empty pages, gently used pencils, rulers, and crayons are thrown away – or sent home only to become clutter and eventually trash.

Many of these items are in excellent, usable condition – some are even brand new – yet they are treated as waste.

The Solution:

What if these two problems could solve each other?

By collecting gently used school supplies at the end of the school year, we can redirect valuable resources and send them in bulk to Honduras, where teachers can distribute them directly to students who need them most.

An Even Better Solution

What if your church could help bridge the gap while making connections with local schools?

Midwest Mission is inviting congregations to serve as **local drop-off sites** for our upcoming Used & New School Supply Drive. This simple partnership connects churches and schools in a meaningful way, transforming items that might otherwise be discarded into valuable learning tools.

How It Works

Participating churches:

- Sign up to serve as an official drop-off site
- Share ready-made promotional materials with nearby schools
- Receive collected supplies from schools at the end of the year
- Deliver the donations to a [Midwest Mission location](#), [Permanent Collection Site](#), or [Annual Conference Collection](#)



There is **no cost to participate**, and all promotional materials are provided.

When the supplies arrive at Midwest Mission, volunteers will carefully sort every donation to ensure only quality items are sent. We believe that if we would not give something to a loved one, we should not send it to someone we are called to serve. Dignity matters.

These supplies will not be going into Midwest Mission Kits, but will be sent in bulk so teachers can distribute them to students as needed!

Midwest Mission will only put *new* items in any Kit that is sent. Used supplies are for this specific request from Honduras.

Why Participate?

Serving as a drop-off site gives your church the opportunity to:

- Build meaningful relationships with local schools
- Practice faithful stewardship by keeping usable supplies out of landfills
- Engage your congregation in hands-on mission (many churches choose to sort boxes together as a service project)
- Equip children in Honduras with the tools they need to learn and thrive

It is a simple way to show God's love in a practical, tangible way – connecting generosity here with real need there.

If your church would like to participate or learn more, visit midwestmission.org/churchdropoff. We ask that you [register](#) your church as an official Drop-Off Site so area schools know it is available.

You can download a flyer to share with your church leaders [here](#).

We would be honored to partner with you in turning leftover supplies into lasting impact!

CURRENT *Needs*

Please consider collecting and donating:

- Bed Packs (Twin flat sheet, twin fitted sheet, pillowcase, pillow)
- Feminine Hygiene Kit Items:
 - Day and Night Pads
 - Waterproof Bags
- Layette Kit Gowns & Sleepers (Size 0-6 months)

[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
 - Offsite pack prep
-
- 330 Bed Packs
 - 160 Blessing Bags
 - 136 Layette Kits
 - 450 Student Kits

Offsite:

- 1,200 Blessing Bags - Southeastern High School FFA - Augusta, IL
- 250 Personal Dignity Kits - ACF Conference - Chicago, IL

Disbursements:

- Washington Street Mission - Cleaning Supplies - Value: \$320.00

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Cleaning
- Items counted into inventory
- Cut fabric for sewing projects

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.

Volunteers

March 2nd-6th, 2026

Volunteer Leaders



Brett & Kristi Ahrens



Howard and Debbie Orndorff

Illinois Teams



Meridian Street UMC
Indianapolis, IN



Carmel UMC
Carmel, IN



United Protestant Church
Grayslake, IL



SASED AM
Springfield, IL



Jill Meseke



SASED PM
Springfield, IL





SHARE & *connect*

Share the Newsletter

Bibles Needed for Jamaican Prison Ministry



Recently, we received a very specific and meaningful request – and we need your help to meet it.

Our partner, Food For The Poor, has **asked us to provide 6,000 Bibles for a prison ministry in Jamaica**. When the need came in, Chantel Corrie, Executive Director, immediately reached out to our long-time partner, [Love Packages](#). Love Packages is a ministry that equips pastors, missionaries, and teachers all over the world with free Bibles and Christian literature. For years, we have partnered with them, collecting gently used Bibles and Christian literature, and sending them the items.

But this time, we needed their help. After hearing our request, they generously offered an *entire* pallet – 4,420 Bibles – that we can include in this shipment!

That means we are still in need of 1,580 Bibles in good condition to complete the request.

We know many individuals and churches have Bibles sitting on shelves that are no longer used but are still in great shape. If you are willing to donate a Bible you no longer use, you can help place God's Word directly into the hands of someone who deeply needs it.

In 2023, while visiting Food For The Poor in Jamaica, we had the opportunity to visit a prison that receives Midwest Mission supplies through their ministry efforts. They care deeply about the men and women they serve – recognizing that while physical needs matter, spiritual needs matter even more.

These Bibles will offer prisoners the opportunity to encounter the Savior who sees them, loves them, and redeems every story — no matter their past. **Your donation of a Bible brings them one step closer to true freedom** — not freedom from prison walls, but freedom from the chains that bind their hearts.

These Bibles will ship alongside disaster relief supplies as Jamaica continues rebuilding after the devastation of Hurricane Melissa. Rice and Soy Blessing Bags, Home Care Kits, and other essential items will help families still recovering from loss.

We are grateful for this opportunity to share hope in a very practical and tangible way. Bibles can be donated at any [Midwest Mission location](#) or [Permanent Collection Site](#) near you.

Please join us in praying for the people of Jamaica — for those behind prison bars, and for families continuing to rebuild their lives.

Start Collecting and Assembling — Annual Conference Collections are Almost Here!



Each year, Midwest Mission sets up temporary collection sites at United Methodist Annual Conferences throughout the Midwest. For two days during each conference, churches from across the state can drop off supplies at a designated donation location — making it far easier than traveling all the way to Midwest Mission.

Annual Conference season begins at the end of May, which means now is the perfect time to start collecting donations, assembling Kits, and spreading the word in your church and community!

Here are a few items we especially need this year:

- [Personal Dignity Kits](#)
- [Home Care Kits](#)
- Wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and crutches in good condition
- [Day and Night Pads for the Feminine Hygiene Kit](#)

We will gladly accept anything that is in our [Kits and Projects Brochure](#)

What Can You Do?

- Organize a supply drive at your church or with friends.
- Host a Kit assembly event for Personal Dignity Kits or Home Care Kits. (Find shopping lists and assembly instructions at www.midwestmission.org/kits.)
- Share this opportunity with others who may want to get involved.

You can find specific dates and locations for Annual Conference Collections at midwestmission.org/annual-conferences. And remember — you do *not* have to attend the conference to drop off supplies at a collection site!

Together, we can transform resources into humanitarian relief that transforms lives!

Updates and Info:

1. Churches Needed as Drop-Off Sites for School Supply Drive

Midwest Mission is seeking churches to serve as Drop-Off Sites for our 2026 Used & New School Supply Drive. At the end of the school year, usable supplies are often discarded in the U.S., while students in Honduras lack basic tools for learning.

As a Drop-Off Site, your church would:

- [Register](#) as an official collection location
- Share ready-made promotional materials with nearby schools
- Receive collected supplies at the end of the school year
- Deliver donations to a [Midwest Mission location](#), [Permanent Collection Site](#), or [Annual Conference Collection](#)

Learn more, and register your church to help bridge this gap and turn leftover supplies into lasting impact at midwestmission.org/churchdropoff.

2. Midwest Mission VBS Curriculum Available for Download!

Take advantage of our five-session VBS curriculum, *The Helpful Hive!* Designed to connect kids to real-world mission work, this curriculum is packed with a wide range of activities and resources that point children toward the heart of mission and help them grow closer to Jesus. It's flexible, easy to use, and comes with supplemental resources to support your

planning. Head to www.midwestmission.org/vbs to download everything we've prepared for you!

CURRENT *Needs*

Please consider collecting and donating:

- Tornado Kits
- Feminine Hygiene Kit Items:
 - Day and Night Pads
 - Waterproof Bags
- Layette Kit Gowns & Sleepers (Size 0-6 months)

[Purchase on Amazon](#)

[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
- Items counted into inventory
- Offsite pack prep
- Unload trailers

- 10 Birthing Kits
- 240 Layette Kits
- 540 Student Kits

Offsite:

- 640 Blessing Bags - Athens UMC - Athens, IL

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Cleaning
- Items counted into inventory
- Offsite pack prep
- Sorting fire gear

- Blessing Bags
- Personal Dignity Kits
- 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.

Volunteers

March 16th-20th, 2026

Volunteer Leaders



Sharon & Ron Monroe

Illinois Teams



Taylorville UMC
Taylorville, IL



Simpson Group
Springfield, IL



Monticello UMC
Monticello, IL

SHARE & *connect*

Share the Newsletter



New Life, New Hope: Haitian Maternity Clinic Receives Life-Saving Supplies



For the past few years, we have shared about the reality of sending relief to Haiti. Closed borders and deep uncertainty for future peace made it nearly impossible.

The heavy fog of turmoil hasn't really lifted, but we're beginning to see the light through it.

Despite the brokenness, we can see the beauty of people coming together to care for people they will never meet. On March 10th, we partnered with Love a Child - a Christian, humanitarian organization based in Haiti - to send life-saving medical supplies to a clinic called Higgins Brothers Surgicenter.

The Surgicenter is remarkable. Founded after the 2010 earthquake to train Haitian surgical residents, it has grown into the *only surgical center in the entire region* to remain open 24/7 through years of ongoing unrest. Today the clinic sees roughly 1,900 patients monthly and performed nearly 600 surgeries in 2025 – all with an entirely Haitian staff. Many of these patients travel over rugged terrain or through gang-controlled roads to get there, because so many other facilities in Haiti are closed or under-resourced.

Getting supplies in is no small feat, and Love A Child has been essential to making this shipment possible, not just as a partner in care, but as a lifeline for logistics. They have helped transport relief through the Dominican Republic – one of the only safe entry points – to both organizations, which sit just miles from the border.

This shipment will help furnish the new maternity clinic at the Higgins Brothers Surgicenter, ensuring that women bringing new life into the world are met with dignity and care.

The shipment included:

- 18 Hospital Beds
- 2 Exam Tables
- 12 Overbed Tables
- 12 IV Poles
- 37 Shower Chairs
- 144 Cases of Scrubber Sponges
- 7 Home Care Beds
- Hospital Bedding
- Adult Scales
- Baby Scales
- Lab Supplies
- A Sonogram

That's \$104,250.00 worth of supplies that will bring hope to the families served by this clinic and empower the staff caring for them.

Haiti is still in crisis, but this shipment is a reminder that borders don't stop the practical love of Jesus. Because we come together, lives are transformed and hope is brought to even the most unlikely places.

Caleigh Schoonover Joins Staff as Communications Specialist



We are excited to announce a new addition to the Midwest Mission family! Welcome Caleigh Schoonover, the new Communications Specialist as of March 16th. She will work alongside the Communications Manager, Mallory Webster to create social media, newsletter, and website content that shares our mission of bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.

Caleigh has a passion for storytelling through graphic design and is excited to use her skills to support the work being done through Midwest Mission.

Caleigh graduated from Greenville University in 2025 with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing. She is passionate about using creativity to communicate meaningful messages and help connect others to opportunities to serve. Her prayer for Midwest Mission is that all who serve are continually guided by compassion and hope to every life they touch.

To say 'hey!' and give Caleigh a warm welcome, email her at: caleigh@midwestmission.org.

You might be wondering, 'What happened to Emma, the last Communications Specialist?' It is bittersweet that we announce she is leaving Midwest Mission to answer the call for full-time missions in the Dominican Republic. Emma will work with GO Ministries in the D.R. to empower local leaders to make disciples.

Emma would like to thank all at Midwest Mission who have empowered her in her journey to full-time missions. She shares:

It was because of Midwest Mission's culture of empowerment that I am able to go. When I was considering this big decision to move to the island and work for a different organization than Midwest Mission, I was met with so much support and love. Because of what I've learned by working here, I am equipped to do what God is calling me to in the Dominican. It's truly been a sending ground for me!

We are thankful for the time we've had Emma on staff and look forward to hearing all about her journey in the Dominican Republic. If you'd also like to follow along, email her at egibbs@gomin.org to sign up for her personal newsletter!

Updates and Info

1. Midwest Mission VBS Curriculum Now Available

Take advantage of our five-session VBS curriculum, *The Helpful Hive!* Designed to connect kids to real-world mission work, this curriculum is packed with a wide range of activities and resources that point children toward the heart of mission and help them grow closer to Jesus. It's flexible, easy to use, and comes with supplemental resources to support your planning. Head to www.midwestmission.org/vbs to download everything we've prepared for you!

2. Annual Conference Collections Are Almost Here!

Annual Conference season begins at the end of May, and Midwest Mission will once again host temporary collection sites at United Methodist Conferences across the Midwest. At each location, churches and people can conveniently drop off donated supplies closer to home.

We especially need [Personal Dignity Kits](#), [Home Care Kits](#), wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and crutches in good condition, [Day and Night Pads for the Feminine Hygiene Kit](#) – but all items from our [Kits and Projects Brochure](#) are welcome.

Start a supply drive, host a Kit assembly event, and help spread the word! Find dates and locations at midwestmission.org/annual-conferences. You do not need to attend the conference to donate.

Together, we can turn simple supplies into lasting impact.

CURRENT *Needs*

Please consider collecting and donating:

- URGENT: One handled bags
- Bibles (English, Complete or New Testament accepted)
- Tornado Kits
- Feminine Hygiene Kit Items:
 - Day and Night Pads
 - Waterproof Bags
- Layette Kit Gowns & Sleepers (Size 0-6 months)

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Volunteer WORK & PROJECTS

Work Done in Illinois

Onsite:

- Desk Shop
- Poly Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop
- Cleaning
- Campus Improvements
- Items counted into inventory
- Unload trailers

- 240 Bed Packs
- 372 Blessing Bags
- 610 Personal Dignity Kits
- 180 Student Kits
- 400 Tornado Kits
- 108 UMCOR Cleaning Kit
- 280 UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kit

Offsite:

- 2,400 Blessing Bags - Heritage District 3 - Howell, MI
- 7,028 Blessing Bags - Troy Methodist - Troy, IL
- 1,200 Blessing Bags - Asbury UMC - Kankakee, IL
- 1,723 Blessing Bags - Grace UMC - Lansing, MI
- 1,120 Blessing Bags - Coal City UMC - Coal City, IL
- 1,000 Personal Dignity Kits - Southside Christian - Springfield, IL
- 50 Personal Dignity Kits - Prairie Central District - Naperville, IL

Disbursements:

- Love a Child - Haiti - 18 Hospital Electric Beds, Sonogram, 2 Electric Exam Tables, 12 Medical Overbed Tables, 13 IV Poles, Lab supplies, Adult and baby scales, 37 Shower Chair, Hospital bedding, Disposable gowns, 144 cases of Scrubber Sponges, and 7 Home Care Beds - Value: \$104,250.00
- CICIM - Decatur, IL - 1 Home Care Bed - Value: \$400.00
- The Giving Place - Tolono, IL - 2 Pack n Plays - Value: \$380.00

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
 - Sewing Shop
 - Cleaning
 - Offsite pack prep
 - Sorting fire gear
 - Sorting/cleaning medical
-
- 40 Feminine Hygiene Kit
 - 50 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.

Volunteers

March 23rd-27th, 2026

Volunteer Leaders



Sharon and Ron Monroe



Jane & Jeff Johnson

Illinois Teams



Sewing Group First UMC
Springfield, IL

BUMC

Brooklyn Center, MN



Centenary UMC
Jacksonville, IL



Union Reunion
St. Louis, MO



Douglas Avenue UMC
Springfield, IL



Grace UMC
Jacksonville, IL



Gibson City UMC
Gibson City, IL



Vicky and William Davenport

Iowa Teams



Bowman Chapel



Central Christian Church



Hope UMC
Blue Earth, MN



SHARE & *connect*

Share the Newsletter



Equipping the Brave: Fire Gear Sent To Guatemala



Our first shipment to Guatemala in 2026 left our warehouse this Wednesday, and we couldn't be more grateful to share this update with you! Through our trusted partner, Food For The Poor, we were able to deliver critically needed supplies to communities across Guatemala.

In Guatemala and in many countries around the world, fire departments operate under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. Limited funding leaves many stations unable to acquire the basic equipment required to fight fires and provide emergency response for their communities. Yet despite these challenges, their firefighters show up anyway.

In many cases, these courageous men and women respond to emergencies wearing nothing more than jeans and a t-shirt. For them, it's not a choice, but simply the only option they have if they want to protect the people around them. At times there are even situations when the lack of proper gear makes it impossible to help at all.

Karen from Food For The Poor shared this perspective:

"Guatemala has 274 fire stations across the country, and the majority have a constant need for equipment, fire-protective clothing, gloves, hydraulics, oxygen tanks, and more. One captain shared that his department receives just enough funding to cover basic maintenance, utilities, and station essentials, but consistently falls short. Because of the help that comes from

donations from organizations like Food For The Poor and Midwest Mission, they are able to do their job."

This shipment is a direct response to that need, putting real resources into the hands of those who need them most. The shipment contained:

- Fire Equipment
 - Air Tanks
 - Boots
 - Breathing Apparatus
 - Gloves
 - Helmet
 - Jacket
 - Pants
 - Fire Resistant Clothing
- 25 Electric Sewing Machines
- Fabric
- 30 Bikes
- 94 Tarps
- 8 Home Care Beds
- 14 Shower Chairs
- 660 Used Hospital Blankets
- 80,000 Food Handling Gloves
- 2,400 Rice Meal Blessing Bags

Valuing in at: \$136,791.00.

These supplies will protect the lives of first responders rushing toward danger and the lives of the people they are trying to save. None of it would be possible without you! Your investment in this ministry and your willingness to share it with others creates a ripple of impact that reaches farther than you may ever know and transforms lives everyday.

The Midwest Mission VBS Curriculum Now Available For Churches!



If you or your church is looking for a VBS resource that is crafted to complement Midwest Mission's work in a meaningful way and connects kids to real-world mission work, we have something worth checking out! We've recently released a five-session VBS curriculum called *The Helpful Hive*, created in partnership with pastors Angela Cunigan, Heather Dorr, and Kasey Vogel to equip churches in inviting kids to discover their God-given role in bringing hope and healing to a broken world.

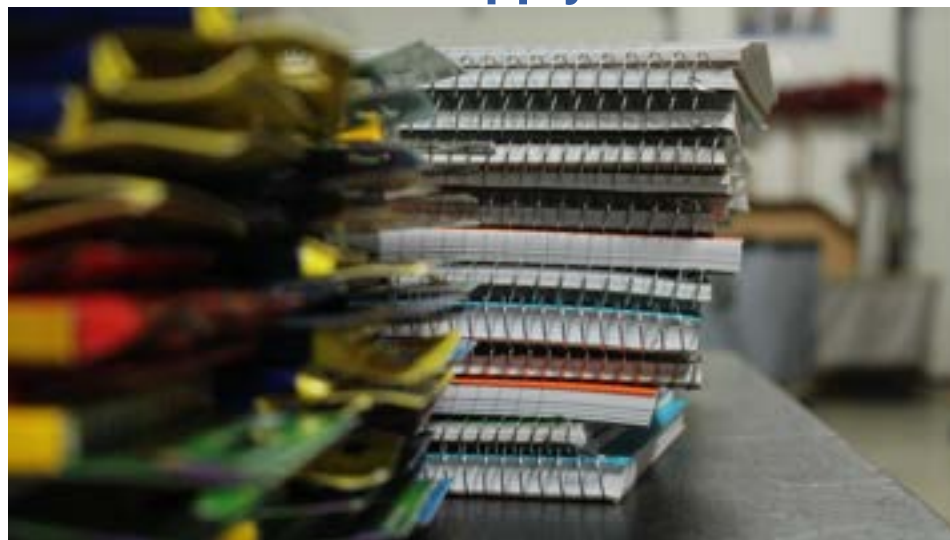
Rooted in the belief that God loves and cares for all people, this curriculum empowers children to act on that love through kind words, generous giving, and a heart for service. It's a natural extension of our efforts at Midwest Mission in sending tangible resources to people in need both around the world and around the corner.

Inside, you'll find a full range of activities and resources, including opening skits, Bible story time, crafts, games, snacks, a science station, music, coloring pages, and closing conversations. All of this was designed to help VBS directors and church leadership in engaging kids and pointing them toward the heart of mission work.

We've also put together supplemental resources, including branding assets, a Sunday morning sermon, and more, to help make your VBS the best it can be. This curriculum exists to lighten the load of your planning and, most importantly, to help the children in your community grow closer to Jesus.

Best of all, it's completely free to download! Head to www.midwestmission.org/vbs to download the curriculum and explore the related resources.

Churches Needed as Drop-Off Sites for School Supply Drive



Midwest Mission is seeking churches to serve as **local Drop-Off Sites** for our 2026 Used & New School Supply Drive.

During a recent visit to Honduras, we saw firsthand the urgent need for basic school supplies in public schools. At the same time, in the United States, countless usable notebooks, pencils, and other supplies are discarded at the end of the school year.

We are inviting churches to help bridge that gap.

As a Drop-Off Site, your church would:

- [Register](#) as an official collection location

- Share ready-made promotional materials with nearby schools

- Receive collected supplies at the end of the school year

- Deliver donations to a [Midwest Mission location](#), [Permanent Collection Site](#), or [Annual Conference Collection](#)

There is no cost to participate, and all materials are provided. Supplies will be carefully sorted and sent in bulk to Honduras for teachers to distribute directly to students.

This is a simple way to build relationships with local schools, practice faithful stewardship, and show God's love in a tangible way.

You can learn more or register to serve as a Drop-Off Site at midwestmission.org/churchdropoff

We would be honored to partner with your church in turning leftover supplies into lasting impact.

CURRENT *Needs*

Please consider collecting and donating:

- Bed Packs (Twin flat sheet, twin fitted sheet, pillowcase, pillow)
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- Desk Shop
- Poly Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop
- Cleaning

- Campus Improvements
- Items counted into inventory
- Offsite pack prep
- Unload trailers

- 323 Blessing Bags
- 248 Layette Kits
- 430 Student Kits

Offsite:

- 1,200 Blessing Bags - Centenary UMC - Effingham, IL
- 1,200 Blessing Bags - Urbana FUMC - Urbana, IL

Disbursements:

- **Food For The Poor** - Guatemala: Fire Equipment, 25 Electric Sewing Machines, Fabric, 30 Bikes, 94 Tarps, 8 Home Care Beds, 14 Shower Chairs, 660 Used Hospital Blankets, 80,000 Food Handling Gloves, and 2,400 Rice Meal Blessing Bags: **Value: \$136,791.00.**

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop
- Cleaning
- Campus Improvements
- Sorting/cleaning medical equipment
- Cutting fabric for sewing projects
- Packing kits for Honduras trip

- 22 Bed Packs
- 160 Blessing Bags
- 30 Feminine Hygiene Kits
- 116 Layette Kits
- 20 Personal Dignity Kits
- 132 Student Kits

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Tim & Judy Samp

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First UMC
Valparaiso, IN



First UMC Sewing Group
Springfield, IL



Concord Trinity UMC
St. Louis, MO



First UMC
Lebanon, IL



Athens UMC

Athens, IL

Iowa Teams



Bethel Warriors



Lanesboro



Terri's Group

SHARE & connect

Share the Newsletter

