

July 7, 2023

**MIDWEST**

disaster relief • education



**MISSION**

health • micro business

**SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER**

## Shipment to Poland will Meet Needs of Ukrainian Refugees



498 days ago. That's how long it's been since Ukrainians were living a "normal" life.

498 days ago Russia invaded Ukraine, launching the country and its citizens into an indefinite time of loss, mourning, and moving.

At the time of the invasion, many

Ukrainians had to leave their homes to find safety. Some stayed, wanting to hold onto the comfort of their home and life as they knew it, but as the war progressed, more and more people found themselves fleeing for safety. Bombs dropped near fields that once held children's soccer games. Easily accessible food and medical care became a privilege. Hours and hours of sitting in bomb shelters became the norm.

Air Raid sirens, taking cover, then going about the day as if nothing happened ... That is what life in Ukraine is like.

That's why *so many* have fled to neighboring countries.

Over 8 million Ukrainians have become refugees in Europe.

Over 1.5 million Ukrainian refugees are currently living in Poland — and they are in need of resources.

So far, Midwest Mission has responded to requests for needed disaster relief supplies that would mostly go to Ukraine.

The most recent request from North Star Foundation is for disaster relief supplies that will be solely distributed to refugees in Poland.

The refugees are living in a foreign country, speaking a foreign language, in need of basic necessities, with the weight of the last 498 days of trauma on their shoulders.

We are grateful to provide a *sliver* of relief and hope in their time of crisis.

On Thursday, July 6, a 40-foot container was loaded with requested supplies that will be sent to North Star Foundation in Poland.

This shipment included:

- 26,400 Rice Meals
- 410 Cover Them With Love Quilts
- 237 Little Boy Outfits
- 361 Little Girl Outfits
- 250 Pillowcase Dresses
- 96 Walkers
- 24 Canes
- 46 Crutches
- 4 Mobility Carts
- Other medical supplies and equipment

Value: \$113,988.00

The war is far from over, and these refugees are far from home. Our prayer is that the supplies they receive will meet their needs, give them hope for the future, and show them that they are loved by God and His children.

Thank YOU for being a part of this mission. Together we can show God's love in a practical way to people in their time of crisis.



## Current Needs

You can purchase these items at your local store, or make them, 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.

**\*\*These items must be new\*\***

**[Click here to learn more!](#)**

## Diaper Ointment

1oz - 2oz

## Women's Underwear

for the Feminine Hygiene Kit  
women's size 5-8, child's size 10-14

## Mission in Motion Calendar

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## Prayers to Lift Up

Pray for Ukrainian refugees in Poland and other surrounding countries who have been displaced from their homes. Pray for peace and comfort, and that the resources they need will be given to them. Pray they will know the love of God through the items they receive.

*"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."  
Psalm 31:24*

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

### Work Done

- 144 Home Care Kits
- 130 Student Kits — Trinity Lutheran, Springfield, IL
- 432 UMCOR Hygiene Kits
- 36 UMCOR Cleaning Kits
- 4 Bed Packs
- 14 Electric Sewing Machines
- Bikes - repaired
- Rolled Trash Bags
- Desks - parts prepared, built, polyurethaned
- Sewing Machines - repaired
- Cleaning
- Counting items into inventory

### Disbursements

- **Come Unto Me Ministries**, Decatur, IL: Stacking chairs Value: \$1,550.00
- **Christ UMC**, Lincoln, NE: Sleeping Mat Value: \$25.00

- Prepare the Way Ministry, Grand Junction, IA: Redirect hygiene items Value: \$50.00
- Urban Bicycle Food Ministries, Des Moines, IA: 20 sleeping mats Value: \$500.00
- Bidwell Food Pantry, Des Moines, IA: Redirect hygiene items Value: \$50.00
- North Star Foundation, Poland: See story above
- CICIM, Decatur, IL: 1 mattress, 1 wheelchair, furniture Value: \$1,672.00

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## Share some GOD news with those you love!

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

## Ready to Get Involved?



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

Contact Pat Wright at [pat@midwestmission.org](mailto:pat@midwestmission.org) or 217-697-4063

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

[Volunteer Reservation Calendar](#)

### 2025 Volunteer Calendar is now open for dorm reservations!

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

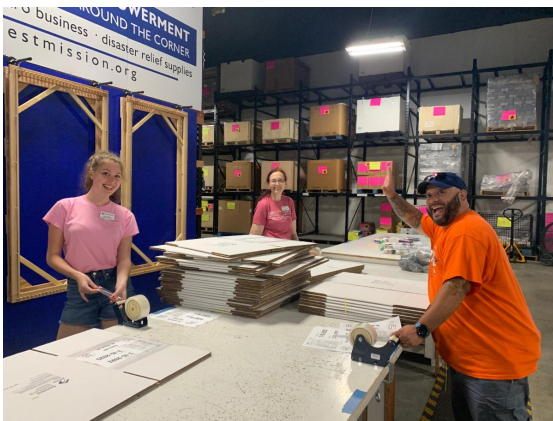
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Thank you for your patience as we try to improve the reservation experience for both local teams and those staying in the dorm.

## Volunteers at Work



# July 5 - July 7, 2023







## Volunteer Leaders



Chuck and Karen Porter  
Brighton, Illinois



Susan Ryon  
Des Moines, Iowa

## Volunteer Teams at Illinois Site







**First UMC  
Bedford, IN**

**Coal City UMC  
Coal City, IL**



**First UMC  
Flora, IL**



**Trinity UMC  
Granite City, IL**

## Volunteer Teams at Iowa Site



**Carroll UMC  
Carroll, IA**



**Robbin Gallegos  
Des Moines, IA**



Algona UMC  
Algona, IA

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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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July 14, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

## Terry House Finishes 1,000th Refurbished Sewing Machine

On June 20th, regular volunteer, Terry House, refurbished his 1,000th Sewing Machine at Midwest Mission.

Terry has volunteered at Midwest Mission since 2011, working wherever was needed. Shortly after Terry started volunteering, long-time volunteer Jack Bell, who has since passed, asked him to help in the sewing shop. Since he always liked fixing things, Terry agreed, and hasn't left the shop since.



His service at Midwest Mission has been such a blessing to the organization and the people we serve. Every time Terry finishes a machine, he tapes the needles onto the side with a colored piece of tape. One year, we received a story and pictures from a few women who received sewing machines in Ethiopia. One woman stood beside a sewing machine with her hand on top, and on the side was that colored piece of tape. Since then, Terry felt a connection to her, knowing he could play a small part in providing what was needed.

We asked Terry a few questions about his time at Midwest Mission:

**Do you like working on electric or treadle sewing machines more?**

*I like them both, but most of the time, I work on electric machines.*

**What is your favorite part about volunteering at Midwest Mission?**

My favorite part is seeing new faces, meeting new people, and learning about them — why they came, where they're from, etc.

**What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering at Midwest Mission?**

The whole process is so rewarding. You get more from Midwest than you give — you get the feeling of accomplishment of helping others. We aren't doing it for ourselves, but doing it for God and His people.

At the end of the conversation, Terry shared this sentiment to his time with Midwest Mission: "This place is kind of addictive. Once you come, you have to go back — you *want* to go back."

## Feminine Hygiene Kits Give Girls a Chance to Stay in School



While we were in Jamaica, we were able to give Feminine Hygiene Kits to a homeless shelter, and to an all-girls children's home.

Having access to feminine hygiene products is one key to giving girls around the world the chance to receive an education. Without feminine hygiene products, many girls have to stay home from school for three to eight days each month. This time off of school quickly adds up. They fall behind in their studies, begin to do worse on exams, and eventually have to make the difficult decision to stop going to school altogether.

Without continuing their education, these girls won't have the opportunity to get good jobs, go on to



college, or travel to other countries for business opportunities. From an early age, their dreams and aspirations have been limited to what can be done without an education, simply because they are female and don't have the resources they need.

Having access to feminine hygiene products could change a young girl's life.

That's why Midwest Mission sends Feminine Hygiene Kits. This kit contains a hand towel and washcloth, a bar of soap, three pairs of underwear, six reusable day pads, three reusable night pads, a drawstring carrying bag, a waterproof bag, and a one-handed cloth bag to carry everything in.

The Feminine Hygiene Kit provides everything a girl would need to sanitarily be able to go to school while menstruating. The items in the kit are reusable, so they can be washed, dried, and ready to use again.

These kits have been sent all over the world, changing lives by giving girls the chance to receive a *complete* education.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Several of the items in the kit must be handmade by volunteers. In order to make more kits, we are in *desperate* need of Day Pads!

Volunteers can make these wherever they are using our pattern and instructions, and then send them to Midwest Mission or bring them by the campus — 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558.

You can find the pattern at [midwestmission.org/patterns](http://midwestmission.org/patterns)

Thank you for being a part of sending hope and empowerment to young girls around the world.



## Current Needs

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**\*\*These items must be new\*\***

**Click here to learn more!**

## Onesies

0-6 months

## Reusable Day Pads

for the Feminine Hygiene Kit

Pattern: [midwestmission.org/patterns](http://midwestmission.org/patterns)

Click [here](#) to see pattern for Reusable Day Pads



# Mission in Motion Calendar

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## Prayers to Lift Up

This week, we reflect on all that God has done for us, for Midwest Mission, and for our brothers and sisters around the world and around the corner. We pray for eyes to see the goodness of God, and the blessings He pours out on us.

**"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."**

*Jeremiah 32:17*

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

### Work Done

- 36 desks built
- 37 electric sewing machines repaired
- 17 bikes repaired
  
- 310 Birthing Kits
- 70 Layette Kits
- 1790 Personal Dignity Kits
- 569 Rice Meals
  
- Counting into inventory
- Sorting outfits
- Sewing
- Making plarn
- Stuffing Impact Reports
- Cleaning
- Groundskeeping

### Disbursements

- ShareFest Will County, Wilmington, IL: 22 Bikes Value: **\$1,980.00**
- Hope Church — White Earth Reservation, Pine Point, MN: 216 UMCOR Hygiene Kits Value: **\$2,808.00**

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## Volunteers at Work

July 10 - July 14, 2023











## Volunteer Leaders



Chuck and Karen Porter  
Brighton, Illinois



Susan Ryon  
Des Moines, Iowa



# Volunteer Teams at Illinois Site



Schultz-Price Family  
Shawnee, KS



Don and Jean Sanders  
Plainfield, IN



Petersburg UMC Youth Mission Camp Group 1  
Petersburg, IL



Petersburg UMC Youth Mission Camp Group 2  
Petersburg, IL



Waverly FUMC  
Waverly, IL



Beth and Michael Bienenfeld  
Manson, IA



Trevor Oetting and Melissa Taylor  
Oakwood, IL



FUMC  
Waukesha, WI



Ortiz Crew  
Springfield, IL



Darlene Powell  
Springfield, IL

Not Pictured:  
Springfield FUMC Sewing Group  
Grace UMC, Jacksonville, 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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July 21, 2023

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**SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER**

## Hope in the Midst of Crisis — Haiti Receives Angels of Hope Shipment

Haiti is experiencing crisis after crisis, with natural disasters and man-made disasters alike wreaking havoc on the country. Almost 60% of the population lives below the poverty line, and many face food shortages, malnutrition, and waterborne diseases.

Our partner, Food For The Poor, shared with us about the current state of Haiti: “Haiti is a bleak place for children. According to UNICEF, 20% of children under the age of 5 suffer from either severe or moderate malnutrition. Life expectancy is a mere 63.6 years for men and 69 years for women.”

Many children are turned over to orphanages because their parents are unable to provide for them, and they hope their children can receive what they need in these homes.

In the midst of the crisis, there is hope.

Food For The Poor is working hard to provide for the people of Haiti, including emergency relief and sustainable development projects.

Midwest Mission partners with Food For The Poor’s Angels of Hope program to bring needed items to the most vulnerable populations in children’s homes and orphanages. The program “provides their basic needs, as well as a loving, nurturing faith-based environment for them to grow and prosper in.”





Recently, Haiti received an Angels of Hope shipment from Midwest Mission. The container included Home Care Kits with basic cleaning supplies, Personal Dignity Kits with hygiene items, and disinfectant wipes.

These items are especially helpful after the recent flooding in Haiti.

“We received detergents, cleansing brushes, and multipurpose cleansers,” read one testimonial we received. “We find these products to be very useful for removing residue from the recent floods. The timing could not have been better, so we are grateful to God and for the rapid response to our cry for help. These cleaning products help us maintain sanitary living conditions in the home.”

Midwest Mission is able to provide these items because of you — our donors, volunteers, and prayer warriors. You help bring hope to a country where hope can be hard to find.

The people who receive these gifts know they are loved by God and His people.



## Kids Attending VBS Make a Plarn Sleeping Mat



Whether you are 6, 56, or 96, you can show God's love in a practical way through simple mission moments.

First United Methodist Church in Ames, Iowa demonstrated just that as their VBS kids participated in several different mission opportunities.

With cheerful smiles and lots of excitement, these kids weaved an entire sleeping mat made out of plarn (yarn made from plastic grocery bags) using a loom.

They were also able to assemble Personal Dignity Kits and Student Kits from supplies that other people had collected and brought in.

What a simple, yet incredibly impactful way to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Thank you, Ames FUMC for sharing!

You can also serve wherever you are. Visit [midwestmission.org/get-involved](http://midwestmission.org/get-involved) to see how you can get involved in our mission.

If you are interested in a Loom for your church, visit [midwestmission.org/loom](http://midwestmission.org/loom)

## Current Needs

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**\*\*These items must be new\*\***

**[Click here to learn more!](#)**

## Onesies

0-6 months

## Work Gloves

2 pairs go in each Tornado Kit

## Mission in Motion Calendar

Every week, staff members are on the road, speaking at churches, picking up from collection sites, and facilitating off-site events. We want to see you when we are in your area! Whether you have donations, or you want to hear us speak, this Mission in Motion Calendar will help you know when we are in your area.

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## Prayers to Lift Up

We pray for people around the world who do not have the resources they need, that they will be blessed with the love of God and . We pray they will be blessed, and that we can be a part of sending hope and empowerment so their circumstances will be improved.

**"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."**

***Philippians 2:9-11***

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

Work of the Mission Volunteers

### Work Done

- 540 Personal Dignity Kits
- 336 Home Care Kits
- 10 Feminine Hygiene Kits
- 600 Rice Meals - Mahomet UMC, Mahomet, IL
- 1255 Rice Meals - Mt. Gilead UMC, Mt. Gilead, OH
- 1645 Rice Meals - Midwest Mission
  
- Desks built and polyurethaned
- Bikes repaired
- Sewing Machines repaired



- Items counted into inventory
- Sorted linens
- Traced patterns
- Grounds keeping
- Painting
- Cleaning

#### Disbursements

- Broadway UMC, Council Bluffs, IA - Loom \$100.00

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2024.

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## **Volunteers at Work**

### **July 17 - July 21, 2023**



## **Volunteer Leaders**



**Chuck and Karen Porter**  
Brighton, Illinois



**Jeff and Jane Johnson**  
Glen Carbon, Illinois

## **Volunteer Teams at Illinois Site**

**Erie UMC**  
Erie, MI

**Sandy Mack + Family**  
St. Joseph, IL

**Taylorville UMC**  
Taylorville, IL

**Petersburg UMC**  
Petersburg, IL

**Wesley UMC**  
Bloomington, IL

**Monticello UMC**  
Monticello, IL

**Deborah Doud**  
Prairie Village, KS

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July 28, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

## God Provides — Recent God Moments at Midwest Mission

We have talked about it before (and we will surely talk about it again): one of the biggest blessings of being around Midwest Mission is the God Moments that continually occur. It is so evident that God sees and hears our needs, and provides in His time.

Some people call these moments coincidences, but we know God is behind it all, for *“we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”* (Romans 8:28) And isn't that so true in the things we see Him doing at Midwest Mission. Together, we work to show God's love in a practical way, and He provides so we can accomplish this.

Back in June, we traveled to Rochester, MN to pick up a load of donated medical supplies and equipment from a medical warehouse. The generous folks there donate supplies to Midwest Mission multiple times a year. This year, they donated a whole semi-truck load of supplies. Interestingly, we never know what we are going to get until we start unloading the truck.

Although we didn't know when we picked up the supplies, this truck held several items that would prove to be God Moments just weeks later.



## The Onesies —

If you have been paying attention to our [Current Needs List](#) the past few weeks, you've probably noticed that *onesies* have been on that list consistently.

We need onesies to make Layette Kits. Layette Kits are gifted to new moms, so that they will have some of the basic clothing and care essentials for their newborn. Two onesies or undershirts are included in each Layette Kit.



Without these items, Layette Kit assembly was stalled, and couldn't continue until more supplies arrived. Several people responded, and onesies began to trickle in, but it still wasn't enough to complete a substantial amount of kits to fulfill requests.

On Wednesday of this week, Barb Hedinger, Volunteer Coordinator, mentioned that *onesies* needed to be on the Current Needs List again this week.

But then, we began to unload the medical supplies.

**Sure enough, there were 1,694 onesies on that truck.**

Within an hour, Barb joyfully proclaimed that *onesies* no longer needed to be on the List!

*There was a need, and God provided, in the right time.*



## The Towels —

Similarly, we experienced a God Moment with towels!

Bath towels are not something we always have on hand. They do not go into any kits, and we don't accept them unless they are new. But occasionally we will have some from donations that have come in.

For the last several weeks, we have been planning a shipment to the American Indian Christian Mission in Show Low, Arizona. This organization ministers to Native American populations in the area. They care for and provide needed items for those they reach. The shipment will contain Rice Meals, Kits, medical supplies, and other specifically requested items.



One of their recent requests was for bath towels.

"They said they had a huge need for bath towels," Brad Walton, Midwest Mission Operations Manager explained. "So, I went and looked at our inventory, and we had 30 on hand. Not much, but we would send what we had."

So, they continued planning the shipment, and while they were doing that, they were also unloading medical supplies from the truck from Minnesota.

As they were unloading, they rolled a linen cart out. They turned it around, and it was full of *bath towels*.

Volunteers counted and folded the towels. The total? **570 towels!**

"That's how things happen around here," Brad said. "We have a need, and then it just shows up. We didn't plan for the towels to show up, but now we can send 600 towels to Arizona."

We didn't plan it, but God sure did. Now, 600 people will be blessed with needed bath towels.

**We thank God for continually showing up, opening our eyes, and blessing this ministry with God Moments.**

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**\*\*These items must be new\*\***

**[Click here to learn more!](#)**

## Work Gloves

**two pairs go in each Tornado Kit**

## Day Pads

**for the Feminine Hygiene Kit**  
**[midwestmission.org/patterns](http://midwestmission.org/patterns)**

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## Prayers to Lift Up

This week, we pray to have eyes to see the needs of those around us, and for hearts to selflessly move into action.

**"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."**

*Romans 12:12-14*

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

### Work of the Mission Volunteers

#### Work Done

- 18 Desks built
- Desk parts made
- Desks polyurethaned
- Bikes repaired
- 12 Treadle sewing machines repaired
  
- 30 Birthing Kits
- 70 Personal Dignity Kits
- 20 Student Kits
  
- 2053 Rice Meals - Central Bay Youth, MI
- 150 Rice Meals - Sheridan UMC, Sheridan, IL
- 600 Rice Meals - Mahomet UMC, Mahomet, IL
- 720 Rice Meals - Salem UMC, Evansville, IN
  
- 660 UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits
  
- Sewing

- Cleaning
- Counted items into inventory
- Sorted linens
- Taped shampoo for PDKs

#### Disbursements

- Midland Community F.O.A.R., Midland, MI: 240 UMCOR Hygiene Kits Value: \$2,880.00
- Celebration in the Park, Clearlake, Springfield, IL: 120 UMCOR Hygiene Kits Value: \$1,560

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## Ready to Get Involved?



### Volunteer at Midwest Mission Dates are available in 2023, 2024, and 2025

Need a Saturday option for team volunteering or assistance in booking? Contact **Pat Wright** at [pat@midwestmission.org](mailto:pat@midwestmission.org) or 217-697-4063

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

[Volunteer Reservation Calendar](#)

### 2025 Volunteer Calendar is now open for dorm reservations!

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

For local teams and individuals: Volunteer Shifts will only be available 3 months ahead of time. Beginning October 1, 2023 you will be able to reserve Volunteer Shifts for January of 2024.

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

## Volunteers at Work



# July 24 - 28, 2023







## Volunteer Leaders



Chuck and Karen Porter  
Brighton, Illinois



Jeff and Jane Johnson  
Glen Carbon, Illinois



# Volunteer Teams at Illinois Site



**Baker Memorial UMC**  
St. Charles, IL



**Bonfield Grand Prairie Martha Circle UWF**  
Bonfield, IL



**Murrayville UMC**  
Murrayville, IL



**Union Reunion**  
St. Louis, MO



**Christy Blickensderfer Family Group**  
Sherman, IL



**Douglas Avenue UMC**  
Springfield, IL





St. Joseph UMC  
St. Joseph, IL



Panora UMC  
Panora, IA



Savoy UMC  
Savoy, IL



Springfield FUMC Sewing Group  
Springfield, IL

Not Pictured: SPARC Summer Program, Springfield, IL

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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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NCJ Newsletter](#)



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