

December 1, 2023

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disaster relief • education



MISSION

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Holiday Season Draws Near — Final International Shipment of 2023 Leaves Midwest Mission



It's that time of year when the holidays are in full swing, the winter weather is creeping in (or bursting in depending on where you live), hot chocolate replaces apple cider, and the rush of the day-to-day simultaneously winds down and ramps up. Christmas is near (about a month away... but considering some decorations have been up since November 1... it's near).

For Midwest Mission, things change during the holidays. Some things slow down, others speed up in different ways. It's a time to plan for the new year, reflect on the passing year, and continue showing God's love in practical ways.

We just finished our yearly inventory, where a team of amazing volunteers count *every. single. item.* in the warehouse. *WHEW!* We are SO thankful for these volunteers, and for our Inventory Specialist, Sarah Frazee, and the rest of our Operations Team who keep our inventory neat and tidy all year round. This helps us know what we can give out when a request comes in, and it helps us know what to add to our Current Needs list.

The downside of the holiday season is that our international shipments come to an end for the year. Our international partners close down warehouses around Christmas time, which means all shipments must reach their ports before the organizations close for the season. Otherwise, the container will sit at the port until the new year, racking up port fees. They don't want that, and neither do we! So, although it's only December 1, we are finished with our international shipments for 2023.

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Our 44th and final international shipment of the year left Midwest Mission for Guatemala on Wednesday, November 29.

It contained:

- 30 Bikes
- 30 Mattresses
- Fire Equipment
- 6 Treadle Sewing Machines

- 20 Electric Sewing Machine
- 4,800 Rice Meal Bags
- 160 Layette Kits
- 48 Tarps
- Canes, crutches, walkers
- Other medical supplies

Weight: 19,044 lbs

Value: \$107,019.50

Although this was our last international shipment, we are as busy as ever! We continue to accept donations Monday-Friday 8am-4pm, and we are looking forward to welcoming our December volunteers. We will also continue to disburse relief within the United States until we close for the Christmas season.

Keep in mind (especially if you are planning to bring in donations, or you are a regular volunteer): Midwest Mission will be closed Friday, December 22 - Monday, January 1 for the holidays. We will open again on Tuesday, January 2.



As stated above, the holidays are here! 'Tis the season for lots of food, urgent shopping, lists on lists, gathering after gathering, and, oh yeah... the reason we have it all: Jesus.

In the midst of the chaos (good and bad) of the holiday season, may we not forget the reason for the season. **Center yourself on the truth of the Word, and the light of Christ we receive in even the darkest night.**

Over the next four weeks, we will focus on one of the Advent words in the newsletter, in order to draw nearer to Jesus, and bring our minds to focus on the one and only. As Advent approaches this coming Sunday, we focus on Hope.

Jesus is our HOPE!

At Midwest Mission, we are able to send hope around the world and around the corner. Although it comes in the form of tangible items (that they truly need), in reality, the hope they receive is only because of Jesus. **We send hope because Jesus is our hope.**

Without the light of eternity with God ahead of us, there would be no hope for the hopeless, no light at the end of the tunnel for the less fortunate, and no end to our earthly struggles.

We are *so blessed* to have hope to rely on, to get us through to the next day. Because of *hope* our eyes can focus on our God above, and not the worldly problems that drag us down.

In the Advent season, we prepare and anticipate the birth of Christ, the moment that brought eternal hope into the world. Much like the Israelites of the Old Testament waited in anticipation for years and years, we now prepare for and anticipate His return.

This week, focus on the Hope you have in Jesus. The world can be a dark place, so let the light of hope sink into your heart and mind, and share that hope with others.

As the rush of the holiday season flies by, keep the word of God close, as reminders of His hope:

- **Romans 15:13:** “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- **Hebrews 10:23:** “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”
- **Isaiah 40:29-31:** “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.”



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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.

Day Pads

[Patterns](#)

Go to Feminine Hygiene Kit

[Purchase](#)

Select the first ones listed

Receiving Blankets

28"x28" - 32"x32" — can be store-bought or handmade — purchase [here](#)

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.

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

Prayers to Lift Up

Pray with us for people around the world who are desperate for hope, that they will receive all that Christ has for them. We pray that you also may have hope in Christ.

"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."
Hebrews 10:23

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

- Counting, counting, and more counting for inventory!

Disbursements

- Guatemala, Food For The Poor: See story above
- CICIM, Decatur, IL: Two wheelchairs Value: \$200.00

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Thank you!

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

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 or 217-697-4063

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

[Volunteer Reservation Calendar](#)

2025 Volunteer Calendar is 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. For example, December 1, 2023 you will be able to reserve Volunteer Shifts for March 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
November 27 - December 1, 2023



Volunteer Leaders



Chuck & Karen Porter
Brighton, IL

Volunteer Teams



Camp Clear Lake District
Iowa



Lloyd and Renae Peterson
Iowa



Grace UMC
Story City, IA

Thank you again to our great inventory team for all of your hard work this week!

We are so grateful for all our local and regular volunteers, and the time they give towards volunteering at Midwest Mission. We appreciate their passion and dedication to the ministry!

Click Here for the UMVIM
NCJ Newsletter



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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Mission in Motion — We're Growing Again! Transitions in Iowa and Illinois

Several years ago, Danille Curtis started at Midwest Mission as our first ever Conference Public Relations Coordinator. Her vision for the Central Iowa area brought great success. She began hosting Midwest Mission volunteer days in Jefferson, Iowa at First UMC. This venture turned into the Midwest Mission Iowa location. Danille's husband Kent was brought on to assist with off-site packs and collections and they began running a permanent collection site. To get Midwest Mission Iowa started, they used their free time (and vacation time from their full time jobs!) to get Midwest Mission Iowa up and running, focusing all of their efforts on the location.

With Midwest Mission Iowa on its feet, Danille and Kent are transitioning back to their original roles. Danille will be on the road, speaking to congregations and organizations as our Iowa Public Relations Specialist. Both Danille and Kent will be leading Mission in Motion events from the Iowa location.



"You could not ask for better representatives for Midwest Mission," Chantel Corrie, Executive Director, said. "We are so grateful they use their time and talents for Midwest Mission. We are so glad to have them take the Mission to the people."

We thank them for their vision, faith, hard work, and patience!

This transition is being made possible as Alaire Willits is answering God's call on her life once again.

Alaire is retiring as a Local Licensed Pastor, and is going back to her Deaconess roots. This decision was made with lots of prayer and coordination with the Iowa Annual Conference. Alaire has accepted the position as Midwest Mission's Iowa Volunteer Coordinator. Up until her hiring, Alaire has served on Midwest Mission's Board of Directors. She was integral in getting MM Iowa up and running, serving as a dedicated volunteer leader, leading in the loom project and kit assembly. Alaire has also served diligently for Iowa Ingathering for several years,



dedicated to her call to live out her faith through hands-on mission. She has been a great liaison between Iowa Ingathering and Midwest Mission.

“Alaire is passionate about who Midwest Mission is, what we do, and how we do it. She is committed to helping reinvigorate churches and communities through the joy of serving. She has experienced it with her own congregations, so she can give great testimony to those who will be coming to Midwest Mission Iowa,” said Chantel.

Welcome, Alaire, to the team! Be sure to say hi and congratulate her if you visit the Jefferson, Iowa location. We are excited to have her energy on our staff.

Barb Hedinger Promoted to Volunteer Manager

Over five years ago, Barb made her initial transition from MM volunteer to MM staff member. She was hired as the Volunteer Coordinator to increase kit and process consistency — and if you know Barb, she was perfect for the job. She has worked tirelessly over the last five years to perfect the systems we use, and the kits we send, all so those receiving our items would truly be getting our best.

In November, Barb was promoted to Volunteer Manager, overseeing all volunteer activities in Illinois and Iowa. After MM Iowa opened, and as we continue to grow, we realized consistency and processes are more important than ever. Barb will ensure that wherever Midwest Mission is, we will be a conduit of love and peace to those in need, through the proper items that have been requested and fulfilled in the right way. Congratulations, Barb! And thank you for your years of dedication to this ministry!



Jeff Whitehouse hired as MM Driver. We need more drivers!

Earlier this year, Jeff Whitehouse, husband to our Project Manager, Teresa Whitehouse, was hired to assist in driving part time for MM.

It’s crazy how many places our drivers are traveling in one week. From donation pick-ups, to drop offs, to Mission in Motion events, our two drivers could be in as many as four states in one week! That’s why we hired Jeff, and that’s why we are still on the lookout for more drivers.

If you’re interested in driving for Midwest Mission - either on a part-time or volunteer basis, please reach out! You can email chantel@midwestmission.org, and we will follow up with you.

Remember Your Required Minimum Distribution!

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

During the second week of Advent, we light the candle of Peace. We are able to have peace in this anything-but-peaceful world because of Jesus. This child, the Prince of Peace, has been born for us.



“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6

During the second week of Advent, we light the candle of Peace. We are able to have peace in this anything-but-peaceful world because of Jesus. This child, the Prince of Peace, has been born for us.

It was a confusing thing to the Jews receiving the baby. Their Savior, this Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, was supposed to take over the world as a warrior (at least in their mind). Yet, he came as a child, in the pains of child-birth, in the chaos of Mary’s story, in the fear of King Herod.

But there was *peace*.

Their Savior - our Savior - came as a child, thrown into the same broken world that we grew up in, and breathed as we do.

What he brought was more valuable than any human idea of victory, or any great warrior that would take down earthly kingdoms.

His victory was *eternal*. His later sacrifice would bring *everlasting peace* in the world of brokenness.

The holidays can bring a lot of different emotions — joy, laughter, and love, but also grief, sadness, and brokenness. Many times, the holidays feel anything-but-peaceful.

But thankfully, we don’t have to rely on ourselves to feel peace in our lives. Instead, we look up to the one who brings ultimate peace.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” John 14:27

We have this supernatural peace that truly doesn’t make sense to those who don’t have it. It’s our job to share the Peace of God, that the Prince of Peace brought for us.

At Midwest Mission, we get to give pieces of tangible peace to people in desperate, chaotic situations. As we pray over the items, our hope is that the resources bring a sense of calm in their crisis, so they may receive the peace that only God can bring.

This week, reflect on the pieces of your life that might not feel so peaceful. Can you give them to God? This supernatural peace is not reliant on mended situations, but shines in the midst of the darkest day, as the light of the Prince of Peace shines through.



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GOD IS ON THE MOVE

MIDWEST MISSION
Sending Hope & Empowerment

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Work Done

- 820 Student Kits
- 425 Rice Meal Bags
- 130 Personal Dignity Kits
- Cleaning
- Desks
- Sewing Machines
- Trace Patterns
- Counting into inventory

Disbursements

- Rotary of Lincoln, Nebraska: 150 Menstrual Hygiene Kits Value: \$2,100.00
- St. Martin de Porres, Springfield, IL: Cleaning, hygiene, and school supplies, body wipes Value: \$11,336.00

Midwest Mission is able to do this work because of your generous donations and willingness to volunteer.
Thank you!

Volunteers | December 4-8

Volunteer Leaders



Chuck and Karen Porter
Brighton, IL



Ron and Sharon Monroe
Fairbury, IL

Volunteers



Athens UMC
Athens, IL



Channahon UMC
Channahon, IL



IGRC Staff
Springfield, IL





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December 15, 2023

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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Disaster Relief Supplies Heading to Tennessee after Tornadoes



In the Midwest, disasters can come out of nowhere, with little to no warning. A peaceful day can quickly turn into a devastating series of events.

On Saturday, December 9, residents of Tennessee experienced this sad reality. Seven tornadoes tore through Middle Tennessee from the early afternoon to the evening.

Several communities have been changed forever. Families of six loved ones have had to say goodbye, dozens more are recovering from injuries, and thousands are sifting through what remains of their belongings.

It's truly terrible, and we continue to pray over those who are grieving.



When disaster strikes, Midwest Mission is ready to help when called upon. We work with a group called VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster). These organizations work together in times of crisis to coordinate relief in an effective and efficient way, all organizations doing what they do best so that the most people possible receive help.

Through the Tennessee VOAD, we were told what their needs were, and we quickly prepared supplies to be sent to Middle Tennessee.

Midwest Mission volunteers, Dave and Deb Gowdy, recently moved to Tennessee.

Thankfully, they were safe during the storm, and their house was not impacted, but there have been widespread power outages throughout the state.

The Gowdy's graciously volunteered to drive to Midwest Mission, pick up supplies, and take the loaded trailer back to Tennessee.



They arrived at Midwest Mission on Thursday, December 14, and will be back in Tennessee by this evening.

Brad Walton, Operations Manager, loaded rubbermaid totes, disinfecting wipes, body wipes, UMCOR Hygiene Kits, UMCOR Menstrual Hygiene Kits, and tools like shovels, rakes, and brooms, onto the trailer.

The supplies will be delivered to VOAD Collection Sites in connection with Middle Tennessee Tornado Support. There are four locations: Clarksville, Madison, Hendersonville, and Springfield, Tennessee.

Thank you, Gowdy's, for volunteering to bring needed supplies to people in crisis. And, a big thank you to everyone who has donated time, funds, and supplies — because of you, we are able to quickly respond to requests that come in after a disaster.

A Note from Lisa Rigoni, Development Manager

Happy December,

As we prepare for year-end we know that you are doing the same. With that, many people are looking at the end of the year for their charitable giving opportunities. If that is the case for you and you are considering giving to Midwest Mission, please remember to talk with your financial advisors for opportunities to give from your Donor Advised Funds and using your Required Minimum Distribution ... both are ways you can give pre-tax.

We are always grateful for your gifts, and we also want it to mean something. When you give to Midwest Mission, you are touching lives and hearts.

Merry Christmas blessings and Happy New Year to you and yours!



"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." Luke 2:10

Joy to the world, the Lord has come! The third week of Advent, we light the candle of JOY!

At Midwest Mission, we talk about JOY a lot, because we believe that the true JOY that comes from Jesus is contagious, and inspiring.

Joy is evident through all circumstances - the good, the bad, and the ugly. Because it is not reliant on human capabilities, but on God! It is the realization that in even the darkest of days, God provides, and we are eternally saved through Jesus' sacrifice.

How could we not want to experience that joy, and share it with others!

One of the ways we've seen joy is through service. The joy of serving is contagious, and can reinvigorate an entire congregation.

Serving alongside one another, for another in need, despite any differences, is what truly brings us together. It is a great representation of the gospel at work. The joy that comes from serving flows and is evident to others!

The JOY we get to experience is because our Lord has come. And, we look forward to the day He comes again, and mends the brokenness of this world, so everyone might experience eternal joy!

Spend time this week resting in the Joy we have in Jesus! Maybe work on a service project with loved ones to experience the joy that comes from serving. Thank you, Jesus, for granting us your everlasting JOY!

"My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4

PERMANENT COLLECTION SITE *News*

Midwest Mission has been blessed with volunteers across the Midwest who give of their time, energy and resources to assist us in carrying out God's mission to help those in need.

Some of these volunteers use the facilities God has blessed them with to provide a donation collection point for needed supplies. These are our Permanent Collection Sites!

You can find their contact information at www.midwestmission.org/permanent-collection-sites.

What's Happening @ Permanent Collection Sites?

Nebraska City UMC, Nebraska City, NE: Howard & Deb Orndorff made and delivered several Looms to our warehouse in Illinois on Nov. 27th, helping us keep up with the demand. Thank you so very much!

Mequon UMC, Mequon, WI: Karen Huffman shipped several one handle cloth bags to our location. These were brought to her site and she wanted to get them to us as soon as possible. Thank you so much for going the extra mile.

Grace UMC, Carbondale, IL: Grace UMC assembled the following kits and other items through November: Layette Kits – 57, Student Kits – 4, Personal Dignity Kits – 7, plus 48 extra hand towels and 50 extra washcloths, Home Care Kit – 1, 1000 medical-exam gloves for Birthing Kits, 5 sets of sheets for Bed Packs and sent checks totaling \$122 for diaper cream and other needs. These are to be delivered to Midwest Mission by Larry Dunlap-Berg in December. Also, a special thanks to Betty Hamilton of First UMC, Carbondale, who knitted 47 of the Layette baby sweaters.

Riverside UMC Park Rapids, MN: Duane Gebhard has been making looms for their congregation to use for Sleeping Mats. Thank you Duane!

Trinity UMC, Elk Mound, WI: Joel Certa-Werner is excited about donations collected through their site for Midwest Mission. Midwest Mission was also lifted up by Trinity UMC congregants at their Church Charge Conference. We are blessed to have you all working to support God's mission.

Forrest Hill UMC, Peoria, IL: Deb Nuske reported their church has started a Cleaning Supplies and Personal Hygiene Kit pantry for their community. Midwest Mission was honored to be in a position to provide some needed supplies to help them get going. We pray this pantry will share God's love in a tangible way in your community.

If your congregation is interested in becoming a new Permanent Collection Site in 2024, please contact Teresa@midwestmission.org for more information.



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56-80 oz total (no spray bottles) - purchase [here](#)

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- Desks
- Sewing Machines
- Bikes
- StuffChristmas Mailer
- 690 Student Kits
- 96 UMCOR Hygiene Kits
- Counting into inventory

Disbursements

- **St. Martin de Porres, Springfield, IL: Cleaning, hygiene, and school supplies, coffee filters, body wipes Value: \$11,336.00**

- Toys for Tots, Springfield, IL: 240 UMCOR Hygiene Kits Value: \$3,061.44
- Biehl Bridges to Recovery, Marinette, WI: 168 UMCOR Hygiene Kits Value: \$2,016.00
- Middle Tennessee Tornado Support, Middle Tennessee: 192 18-gallon totes, disinfecting wipes, body wipes, 576 UMCOR Hygiene Kits, 320 Menstrual Hygiene Kits, tools Value: \$30,783.28

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Volunteer Leaders



Ron and Sharon Monroe
Fairbury, IL



Chuck and Karen Porter
Brighton, IL

Volunteers



Simpson Group
Springfield, IL



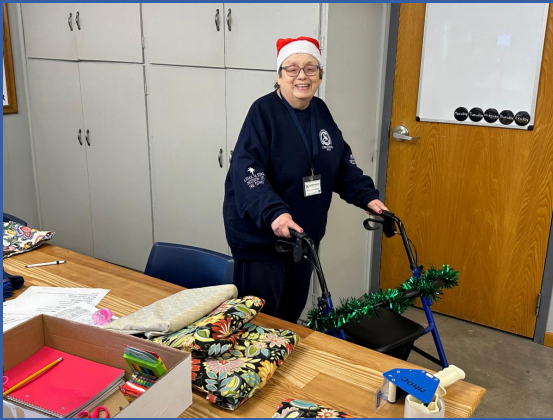
Union Reunion
St. Louis, MO



Jenny's Birthday
Springfield, IL



Douglas Avenue
Springfield, IL





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SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

Cherry Christmas

Volunteering Right Where They Are — Leo Methodist Church (Leo, IN)



The Mission Sewing group at Leo Methodist Church in Leo, Indiana has been busy making handmade items at church and in their homes. On Sunday, October 8th, the sanctuary exploded with color, with over 82 quilts displayed on the backs of the chairs. These quilts along with diapers, receiving blankets, baby sweaters, school bags, layette gowns, Feminine Hygiene Kits, and children's clothes were prayed over and later counted, boxed, and sent on their way to Midwest Mission in Pawnee, IL.

On October 22nd, Rachel Wahl, Ashlyn Scroggins, Breven Anderson, and Jacob Poppele packed 61 school bags with school supplies which will be sent to Midwest Mission. This was the third year these youth have packed school supplies to be sent to Midwest Mission.

On November 17th, John and Connie Bowman loaded their truck with 35 boxes of sewn items and delivered them to the [Midwest Mission trailer in Noblesville](#).

The boxes contained:

- 503 diapers
- 201 receiving blankets

- 89 Cover Them With Love Quilts
- 62 one-handed bags
- 61 filled one-handed bags
- 62 layette gowns
- 40 boys outfits
- 167 girls outfits
- 120 baby sweaters
- 60 waterproof bags, 60 carry bags, 60 one-handed bags, 189 night-time pads, and 360 day pads to make 60 Feminine Hygiene Kits



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Volunteering for Midwest Mission is not confined to the walls of our warehouses. The work churches like Leo do from home keeps Midwest Mission going. Volunteering off-site or from home is easily accessible for churches and individuals around the Midwest, allows more people to get involved in sending hope and empowerment around the world and around the corner, and keeps costs down for Midwest Mission. Keep in mind, we have [Permanent Collection Sites](#) available in nine different states to make delivering your items easy!

Thank you, Leo Methodist Church (and everyone else who serves from where you are) for your servant-like dedication to providing for the least of these. The items you make could change the life of the person on the receiving end.

Story submitted by Connie Bowman



"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another ... We love because he first loved us."

1 John 4:9-12, 19

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

Luke 2:11

The Savior is born! The greatest gift we could ever receive: the pure love of God, in the form of a baby, that will save the world.

We are so greatly loved by our Creator and our Savior. How could we keep that love to ourselves? We love others because Christ loved us first.

At Midwest Mission, we focus showing God's love in a *practical* way, through needed items, community, and the joy that comes from serving. Join us in our mission, so that more people may know the love of Christ in tangible ways.

The gift of Christ is one we do not deserve, but it *changed our lives forever*. Because of Him, we know the love of God, and we are able to share that love with others. Don't hold it back!

God is doing great things at Midwest Mission! We combined some of our most recent "God Moments" into a publication called "God is On the Move."

Using the button below, you can download the stories and

share with someone you know!



Download

GOD IS ON THE MOVE

MIDWEST MISSION
Sending Hope & Empowerment



December Church Bulletin Insert

We offer monthly church bulletin inserts that you can slide in your church's bulletin. These inserts keep your congregation up-to-date on our current needs and upcoming events!

Download December Bulletin PDF

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.

Liquid Household Cleaner

56-80 oz total (no spray bottles) - purchase [here](#)

Receiving Blankets

28"x28" - 32"x32" — can be store-bought or handmade — purchase [here](#)

Midwest Mission Weekly Projects
Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

- Cleaning
- Desks
- Bikes
- Sewing Machines
- Trace Patterns
- Counting into inventory

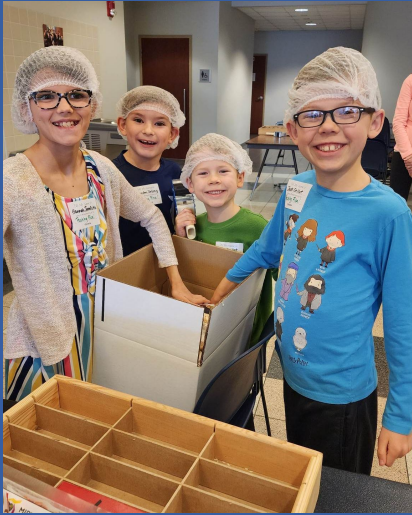
Midwest Mission is able to do this work because of your generous donations and willingness to volunteer.
Thank you!

Share some GOD news with those you love!

Do you have family or friends that need some GOOD News - GOD News - to uplift them? If so please click on the button below and share the link provided. The more we can spread the word about the work God is doing here, the more we can make the world a happier place.

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

Ready to Get Involved?



Host an Off-Site Event!

We have several easy, hands-on mission opportunities for all ages that your church can participate in. You can make an impact around the world from right where you are!

Learn more [here](#)

For more ways to get involved, including serving at Midwest Mission in Illinois or Iowa, or serving from home, go to midwestmission.org/get-involved.

[Click Here for the UMVIM
NCJ Newsletter](#)



[Visit our website](#)

Midwest Mission | 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558 | 217-483-7911

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December 29, 2023

MIDWEST

disaster relief • education



MISSION

health • micro business

SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CORNER

The Loom Group at Oak Creek Community UMC



Oak Creek Community UMC, in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, has served at Midwest Mission in Illinois for several years.

Recently, they discovered a new way to serve from right where they are: making Sleeping Mats using a Loom.

Bonnie Clement, Midwest Mission

Board Member, attends Oak Creek Community UMC, and shared with us about their Loom experience.

They have been working on Sleeping Mats for several weeks in their Loom Group. A group of women get together, cut bags, weave mats, and fellowship with one another.

"The women who have been meeting are having a great time," Bonnie said. " I thought we'd meet once a week for an hour. We are now meeting twice a week, and I have to ask them to stop after two hours! They love it!"

In late November, they completed their first mat, and showed the congregation on a Sunday morning.

This is a great project to get involved in if you are looking for ways to serve with your church community, right where you are.

Learn more at midwestmission.org/loom.

If your congregation has a loom, we'd love to hear how it is going! Email mallory@midwestmission.org with your stories!



Thank You for All You Do!



As 2023 comes to an end, we want to take a moment to pause and reflect on all of the blessings God has given us in 2023.

It was an amazing year — full of ups and downs, times of uncertainty and times of excitement. There was a lot of "new" and "different," but also many reminders of how thankful we are for the work others have done in the past.

There were no shortages of blessings (and I urge you to look at our God Moments Newsletter [here](#) to read about the many ways God has blessed Midwest Mission in the recent months).

One of the biggest blessings, by far, is YOU.

Without you (our volunteers, donors, and prayer warriors) the mission *would not* happen. People around the world would not receive the items they need, and would continue to suffer.

But YOU answer the call for help, YOU sacrifice for the sake of others, YOU bring our needs to Christ, and people around the world are deeply grateful because of it ... WE are deeply grateful because of

it.

So, thank you. Thank you for everything you've done in 2023, so that more people may know the love of Jesus in a *practical way*.

We look forward to serving alongside you in 2024.

Blessings,
Your Midwest Mission Family



Bishop Beard Receives First Midwest Mission Cheerleader of the Year Award

This year, we gave out our first Midwest Mission Cheerleader of the Year Award! This is given to someone who has been an amazing representative of Midwest Mission, and has connected others to the organization.

The award was given to Bishop Beard, of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church. Bishop Beard has been a great connector for Midwest Mission. This year alone, he gave us time to speak at the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, brought us into the North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops so we could share about our mission, and he brought his staff to Midwest Mission to experience our mission opportunities.



Thank you, Bishop Beard, for spreading the word about Midwest Mission!

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