

On the Move: International Shipment #8 Heads to Honduras!



This Wednesday, we sent out our eighth international shipment of 2026 to Honduras!

This shipment was made possible by our partner Food For The Poor and will be received by our trusted on-the-ground partner, CEPUDO. From there, the supplies will be distributed throughout San Pedro Sula, as well as surrounding areas. CEPUDO works closely within a variety of communities to ensure that essential resources reach the individuals and families who need them most.

Through partnerships like this, we're able to connect critical resources with real needs, helping support health, micro-business, sustainability, and everyday life for families across the region. Each item included in this shipment serves a purpose, whether meeting immediate needs or contributing to longer-term sustainability and care.

Here's a look at what was inside the container:

- Head and footer boards
- 72 Twin Bed Mattresses
- 72 Bed Packs
- School Supplies
- 10,800 Blessing Bags
- 3,638 Disposable Diapers
- Sporting Goods
- 20 Refurbished Portable Electric Sewing Machines
- 4 IBC Tanks
- 1 Dental Chair Equipped with Light and Water

- 62 Tarps

The total value of this shipment is \$74,556.68.

Because of you, we're able to send hope and empowerment to communities around the world. Whether you packed supplies, donated resources, or helped make this shipment possible, you are part of this impact.

Every item in this shipment represents care, dignity, and opportunity for someone in need.

Thank you for being part of the mission and helping make this work possible!

From Iowa to Honduras: Witnessing Impact Firsthand



The impact doesn't end when a shipment leaves our dock.

Every shipment tells a story—not just of what was sent, but of lives being changed. Recently, Iowa Director Danille Curtis had the opportunity to witness that story unfolding firsthand in Honduras. She shared the following:

I had the opportunity to travel to Honduras with Food For The Poor as part of a partner visit—my second trip to this beautiful and complex country. While the landscapes and some communities were familiar, the experience was just as powerful as the first. Each visit is a reminder of both the immense need in our world and the meaningful difference we are making together.

This trip didn't begin easily. A major snowstorm in Iowa delayed our departure by two days, a frustrating start that made finally arriving in Honduras feel even more significant. Once there, we traveled throughout the country, witnessing both the challenges families face and the resilience they carry each day.

One of the most meaningful moments of the trip came during our visit to the warehouse of CEPUDO in San Pedro Sula, a partner organization of Food For The Poor. Walking into the warehouse felt surprisingly familiar. Much like

Midwest Mission, the space was well-organized and filled with a wide variety of supplies—sewing machines, food, disaster relief items, medical equipment, and more.

And yet, there was something else that felt familiar too: empty shelves.

Those empty spaces told an important story. The supplies were not sitting idle—they were moving. They were being distributed. They were making their way into the hands of people who needed them most.

Then, I looked up.

There, on the pallet racks, were pallets of Personal Dignity Kits and Student Kits—packed at Midwest Mission Iowa.

I was overwhelmed. Surprised. Grateful. I'll admit—I cried.

I immediately called over the other volunteers from Iowa who were with me, and together we stood there taking pictures with those Kits, thousands of miles from where they were packed. As I looked closer, I recognized names—groups who had spent time serving in our location. I thought of the Iowa Annual Conference, where clergy and lay leaders came together to pack Personal Dignity Kits. I remembered the energy of the Story City youth and the Lamoni Kid's Table group. Seeing those youth-packed Kits sitting in Honduras, ready to be distributed, was incredibly meaningful.

Each box represented more than supplies—it held prayers, intention, and love.

In another part of the warehouse, I saw something else that stopped me in my tracks: student chairs from the elementary school in Jefferson. They were stacked just as they had been in the school gym the day we picked them up—but now, each one bore a Midwest Mission sticker.

Back in Iowa, they looked like used chairs, replaced and ready to be discarded. But here, in Honduras, they looked entirely different.

They looked like hope.

They were an opportunity for students to learn in a classroom furnished with dignity—something that might not otherwise be possible.

We often say that Midwest Mission is making a difference—one Kit, one meal, one wheelchair at a time. We believe it. We see it in numbers and stories. But there is something incredibly powerful about seeing it firsthand—about standing in a warehouse in Honduras and recognizing the direct connection between hands in Iowa and lives across the globe.

To our volunteers: your time matters. The few hours you spend packing kits, organizing supplies, or collecting donations are part of something so much bigger than it may feel in the moment. Your work is traveling across borders, reaching communities, and changing lives.

From small-town Iowa to Honduras and beyond—you are making a global impact.

CURRENT Needs

Please consider collecting and donating:

- One-handed bags
- 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



MIDWEST MISSION
disaster relief • education health • micro-business

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?

AL PRAY
We are an organization grounded in faith and sustained through the power of prayer. Every day we welcome remarkable volunteers who support us like you. If you're new to the mission and the people serving our needs, we believe that you can continue to play for Midwest Mission and be a part of the impact of our mission. We need your prayers and all those who receive hope through this work.

SERVE
There is nothing like the joy of serving others with purpose and love. Whether from the comfort of your home, within your own community or amongst our team on-site, there are meaningful opportunities for you to make a difference. Discover how you can get involved and be a part of the impact of Midwest Mission.org/involved.

CONNECT
Since we don't have the privilege of seeing you in person every day, the best way to stay connected and informed is by following our social channels and keeping up with the latest updates. We invite you to remain engaged by joining our online community and continuing to follow the impact you help make possible!

Scan the QR code to view current needs and learn how you can help.

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Midwest Mission
1001 Mission Dr. Pawnee, IL 62558



[Download Church Bulletin](#)

[Download Impact Report](#)

Volunteer WORK & PROJECTS

Work Done in Illinois

Offsite:

- 1,000 Blessing Bags - Petersburg UMC - Petersburg, IL

Disbursements:

- My Brother's Keeper Street Ministry - Greenville, IL - 10 Bikes - Value: \$900.00
- Blackhawk College - Janesville, WI - 108 UMCOR Cleaning Kits - Value: \$8,100.00
- Academic and Career Education Academy - Midland, MI - Hygiene Supplies - Value: \$424.00
- Platteville UMC - Platteville, WI - Fabric - Value: \$228.00
- Food for the Poor - Coconut Creek, FL - Head and Footer boards, 72 Twin Bed Mattresses, 72 Bed Packs, School Supplies, 10,800 Blessing Bags, 3,638 Disposable Diapers, Sporting Goods, 20 Refurbished Portable Electric Sewing Machines, 4 IBC Tanks, 1 Dental Chair Equipped with Light and Water, and 62 Tarps - Value: \$74,556.68

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

Learn more at midwestmission.org/at-midwestmission.

Iowa:

If you would like to volunteer at our Jefferson, IA location, visit midwestmission.org/iowa.

Volunteers

May 1st, 2026

Volunteer Leaders



Teri & Evelyn Erbele



Joanne & Dennis Spiro

Iowa Teams



Mission Coalition

Newton, IA

Volunteer Update:

There were no volunteer teams in the building this week as Midwest Mission was closed for board meetings! We are so grateful for the many volunteers who regularly give their time and talents to serve alongside us. Your dedication makes this work possible, and we look forward to welcoming you back next week!

SHARE & *connect*

Share the Newsletter



Restoring Mobility, Renewing Hope: A Partnership that Goes the Distance



Since 1998, a dedicated group of men at the First Presbyterian Church Wheelchair Ministry in Fort Dodge, Iowa, has quietly been changing lives—one wheelchair at a time. Gathering twice a week, these volunteers repair and refurbish wheelchairs, walkers, and other mobility aids, combining skilled craftsmanship with a deep sense of purpose.

Originally partnering with Hope Haven, the group faced a challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic when access to repairable equipment became limited. The group heard about Midwest Mission after the opening of the Iowa location in 2023 and reached out. A simple question—“Could you use our help?”—sparked what has become an extraordinary partnership. Providing mobility and independence to people all over Central America, the Caribbean, and the United States.

The answer was a resounding yes.

In 2025 alone, these volunteers repaired 143 wheelchairs, 89 walkers, 50 sets of crutches, and 23 canes for Midwest Mission. They also refinished cabinets for 14 treadle and electric sewing machines. Remarkably, the group contributed nearly \$6,000 of their own donated funds to purchase parts—everything from new seats and backs to leg rests—ensuring each piece of

equipment is restored to near-new condition. Their meticulous process even includes removing, cleaning, and replacing wheel bearings to guarantee smooth operation.

“These men set the standard for excellence,” said Chantel Corrie, Executive Director of Midwest Mission. “The quality of their work is truly outstanding—every wheelchair that comes back to us is thoughtfully restored and ready to change someone’s life. 80 million people around the world are waiting for a wheelchair, which means they have no independence. This partnership reflects the very best of what mission collaboration can look like to meet the needs of the world. We are deeply grateful for their dedication, generosity, and heart for service.”

The ministry is made up of retired men from several local churches, united not only by their skills but also by their shared commitment to service. Among them is Gene Black, age 93, who has been part of the group since its founding and continues to volunteer each week—a testament to the enduring spirit of this ministry.

Each month, Midwest Mission volunteer Mark Babbitt picks up the newly restored items and delivers them to the Midwest Mission Iowa location, and returns to Fort Dodge with equipment in need of repair. Additional sewing machines occasionally make the trip as well, receiving careful refinishing before being sent to support micro business initiatives globally.

Today, all wheelchairs received by Midwest Mission Illinois and Iowa that require repair are routed through Iowa to Fort Dodge—reflecting the trust and confidence built through this partnership. Midwest Mission staff frequently remark on the exceptional quality of the refurbished equipment and would love to expand the operation to meet the huge need.

For these volunteers, the work is about more than mechanics—it’s about connection. They value the fellowship they share and take pride in being part of a local mission with global impact.

We are deeply thankful to Rick Maehl, the program coordinator, and to every volunteer who gives their time, talent, and resources so generously. Through their hands, mobility is restored—and with it, dignity, independence, and hope for people around the world.

Thrift With A Mission!



It's officially garage sale season. Driveways are filled with items families no longer need, waiting for someone to give them a second life.

But what if that second life could help change someone else's life, too?

Many of the items commonly found at garage sales and thrift stores are exactly the kinds of supplies Midwest Mission can send to people around the world and around the corner who need them most. A wheelchair tucked in a garage, a sewing machine collecting dust, or a bike outgrown by a child can become tools of hope and empowerment.

So the next time you stop by a neighborhood sale or browse your local thrift store, shop with a mission in mind. You may find something that can make a lasting impact.

Keep an eye out for:

- Wheelchairs, canes, crutches, and foldable walkers
- Orthopedic supplies
- Bikes (no narrow tires)
- Sewing machines (treadle and electric)
- Fabric pieces larger than one yard
- Metal rakes, hoes, and garden shovels
- Hand tools
- Soccer balls and soccer cleats

[Download our flyer](#) to take with you while you shop or to display in your church or community.

Before donating, please make sure items are in good, working condition. Every item we send is a gift to someone in need. If it's not something you would give to a loved one, we ask that you do not donate it.

Donations can be dropped off at any Midwest Mission location or Collection Site near you. To see a full list of accepted items, visit midwestmission.org/collect-donate.

Donate Your Gently Used School Supplies!



At the end of the school year, so many perfectly good supplies get thrown away – barely used notebooks, pencils that still write, crayons, backpacks, and more.

But in Honduras, many students don't have access to even the basics. What we no longer need can become exactly what someone else is hoping for.

You can help by donating gently used (or new) school supplies!

Find your nearest drop-off site [here](#).

Learn more at midwestmission.org/schoolsupplies.

CURRENT *Needs*

Please consider collecting and donating:

- One-handled bags
- 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](#)

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RESOURCES & DOWNLOADS



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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
 - Load/unload trailers
 - Stuff mailer
-
- 360 Personal Dignity Kits

Offsite:

- 1,200 Blessing Bags - Rochester Christian Church - Rochester, IL
- 800 Blessing Bags - St. James UMC - Danville, IL
- 270 Personal Dignity Kits - Laurel UMC - Springfield, IL

Disbursements:

- Springfield Park District - Springfield, IL - 50 Bikes - Value: \$4,500
- Love Packages - Butler, IL - Reading material including Bibles - Value: \$984.50
- Midwest Food Bank - Hygiene Supplies - Value: 2,340

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
 - Sewing Shop
 - Sewing Machine Repair Shop
 - Cleaning
 - Groundskeeping
 - Items counted into inventory
 - Sorting/cleaning medical
 - Cutting fabric for sewing projects
-
- 100 Personal Dignity Kits
 - 100 Student Kits

GET *involved*



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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

May 8th, 2026

Volunteer Leaders



Mary & Mark Grant



Nancy Compton



Jane Wolf

Illinois Teams



First UMC
Plymouth, IN



Oakwood/Catlin UMCs
IL



Douglas Avenue UMC
Springfield, IL



River of Life UMC
Beloit, WI

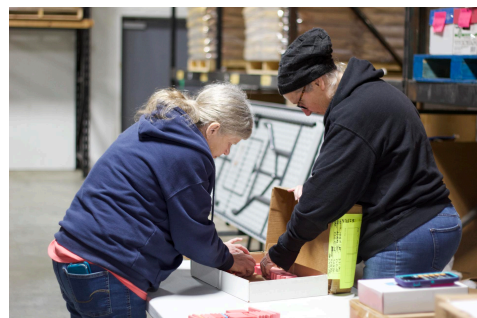
Iowa Teams



Foundry Circuit
Maquoketa, IA



Central Christian Church
Jefferson, IA





SHARE & *connect*

Share the Newsletter

Women Empowered through the Gift of Sewing Machines in the Philippines



For many people in the United States, sewing is a creative hobby – a way to make gifts, relax, or express creativity.

But in many parts of the world, sewing is much more than a pastime. It is a way to provide for a family, earn an income, and build a better future. The gift of a sewing machine can mean hope, empowerment, and opportunity.

Earlier this year, an Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC) Volunteers in Mission team traveled to the island of Bohol in the Philippines and delivered tangible resources that would bring hope and empowerment to a community of women.

For several years, IGRC has partnered with United Methodist Churches in the Philippines. Most recently, they began working alongside a growing church in

Bohol whose space is overflowing with people. The congregation is working toward building a second church to accommodate its continued growth so more people can hear the Good News of Jesus!

During the trip, the team supported the local church through a variety of outreach ministries. They hosted an optical clinic, children's ministry programs, music and voice classes, special care opportunities for church workers and pastors, and several days of sewing classes.

Longtime seamstress Deb Nuske has worked with sewing ministries in the Philippines for the past five years. Each year, she collected donated sewing machines from her community, cleaned and repaired them, and shipped them ahead of the mission team.

Eventually, however, those donations began to run out.

Because her church, Forrest Hill UMC, serves as a Permanent Collection Site, Deb knew Midwest Mission collects and refurbishes sewing machines for micro-business opportunities around the world. She reached out, and Midwest Mission was able to provide eight sewing machines for the new sewing ministry in Bohol.

When the team arrived and unpacked the machines, Deb was thrilled by their excellent condition.

The sewing classes quickly became a highlight of the trip. Deb taught participants how to take measurements, lay out patterns, and cut fabric, while her teammate Cindy showed them how to operate the machines, thread bobbins, and sew confidently.

Each participant selected a pattern for their project. Many chose simple but beautiful dress patterns that could easily be recreated after the team returned home. Deb intentionally selected designs that did not require zippers, buttons, or other materials that might be difficult or expensive to obtain locally.

By the end of the four days, each person had a finished outfit.

To celebrate, the group hosted a joyful fashion show featuring the handmade garments, with the local pastor serving as emcee.

The church now officially has a sewing room, where community members can come and use the machines to make items. Many will sell the items to help provide for their family.

Today, the church officially has a sewing room where community members can gather to create clothing and other handmade items. Many participants plan to sell what they make to help support their families.

Just two days after returning home, Deb heard from the pastor in Bohol

"The sewing room is full of people," he shared excitedly.

The pastor explained that while younger generations may still be able to find work, many older adults have few opportunities to earn income. Sewing now provides a meaningful source of financial support and renewed dignity for many women in the community.

This is why Midwest Mission continues its work around the world. Tangible gifts can open doors to hope, empowerment, and opportunity.

Thank you to this IGRC team for partnering with Midwest Mission to place resources into the hands of those who need them most.

We look forward to seeing how these sewing machines continue to impact lives in Bohol for years to come.

A New Chapter for Midwest Mission Iowa

Did you know you can now have a full volunteer experience Midwest Mission Iowa?

From assembling Kits to repairing bicycles and sewing machines to hands-on sewing projects, there's truly something for everyone. Whether you have a special skill or simply a willingness to serve, your time can make a meaningful impact.

Thanks to a partnership with Jefferson First UMC, volunteers can now stay right in Jefferson for just \$15 per night and fully immerse themselves in mission work. The church offers multiple lodging options, access to lounge areas and recreation space, and a kitchen — creating a welcoming and comfortable environment for multi-day volunteers and teams. (You can read more about lodging [here](#).)

And there's no shortage of ways to serve.

Our sewing machine and bike repair shops are buzzing with activity, while sewing tables are ready for volunteers eager to put their talents to use. Throughout the facility, important work is happening every day: sorting donations, assembling Kits, preparing resources for shipment, and building hope for people around the world and around the corner. Every task matters. Every volunteer makes a difference.

We are currently welcoming both single-day and multi-day volunteers and teams, Monday through Thursday. We're also looking for Day Volunteer Leaders who can help guide, encourage, and support fellow volunteers during their time of service.

This season also marks an exciting time of growth and transition for our Iowa location. We're grateful to have Danille Curtis serving full-time as Iowa Director, providing strong leadership and managing the location. Kirsten Carman, a former teacher, has joined the team and is thriving in her role coordinating and instructing volunteers, and managing inventory. Alaire Willits has transitioned to Mission Engagement Coordinator, mostly working off-site to help engage churches in mission! Mike Kennedy is also a tremendous blessing, serving part-time in the warehouse — using his driving skills to coordinate pickups and transport semi-trailers to Illinois.

Midwest Mission Iowa is growing, evolving, and expanding its impact — and there's a place for you in the story.

Will you join us?

Learn more and reserve your volunteer spot at Midwest Mission Iowa by visiting midwestmission.org/iowa or call 515-386-2236 with any questions.

Midwest Mission Sewing Retreat in Iowa

Join us this summer for the **Midwest Mission Sewing Retreat in Iowa, June 18-20, 2026!** This special event brings together mission-minded sewers to create some of the most needed hand-sewn items that go directly into Midwest Mission Feminine Hygiene and Layette Kits. Each participant will receive one pre-cut kit for every sewing session and instruction from our experts. Whether you're an experienced sewist or simply love to sew for a purpose, this retreat is the perfect opportunity to sew together in fellowship with others.

The retreat kicks off Thursday afternoon with set-up, free sewing time, and a potluck meal before diving into projects. On Friday and Saturday, participants can begin the day with an optional devotion and worship at Jefferson First UMC, followed by a light breakfast and full day of guided sewing. Lodging options are available at Jefferson First UMC or at the Cobblestone Hotel with a special Midwest Mission rate. Free-will donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the event.

This is more than a retreat—it's a way to make a meaningful impact for families around the world while connecting with new friends who share your heart for service. To register, contact Midwest Mission Iowa at (515) 386-2236 or iowa@midwestmission.org.

CURRENT Needs

Please consider collecting and donating:

- One-handled bags
- Bed Packs (Twin flat sheet, twin fitted sheet, pillowcase, pillow)
- Feminine Hygiene Kit Items:
 - Day and Night Pads
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Work Done in Illinois

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Desk Shop

- Poly Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop
- Cleaning
- Groundskeeping
- Campus Improvements
- Items counted into inventory
- Offsite Pack Prep
- Unload Trailers

- 130 Personal Dignity Kits
- 80 Student Kits

Offsite:

- 160 Personal Dignity Kits - Westside Rotary - Springfield, IL

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
 - Sewing Shop
 - Sewing Machine Repair Shop
 - Cleaning
 - Campus Improvements
 - Items counted into inventory
 - Cutting fabric for sewing projects
- 120 Blessing Bags
 - 110 Personal Dignity Kits
 - 140 Student Kits

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Volunteers

May 15th, 2026

Volunteer Leaders



Jane Wolf



Nancy Compton



Mary & Mark Grant

Illinois Teams



Taylorville UMC
Taylorville, IL



Lincoln First UMC
Lincoln, IL



Sewing Group First UMC
Springfield, IL



Midland First UMC
Midland, MI



Bright Star Parish UMC
Bluffs, IL



Athens UMC
Athens, IL



Knoxville UMC
Knoxville, IL



First UMC
O'Fallon, IL

Iowa Teams



Lanesboro UMC
Lanesboro, IA



Bethel Warriors
Boone, IA



SHARE *& connect*

Share the Newsletter

Volunteers Help Send 72,000 Meals to Haiti



Shipment day is always a good day. The sound of forklifts moving through the warehouse. The chatter of volunteers as they watch the Operations Team load the container. The circle of volunteers and staff members gathered together in prayer, lifting up the shipment and the people who will receive it.

Tuesday was one of those joyful days.

In just a few weeks, food packed by caring volunteers will be placed in the hands of those who desperately need it in Haiti.

During the prayer circle, Chantel Corrie shared a powerful reminder about the realities of hunger in Haiti. A lack of consistent access to food creates a devastating cycle that affects every part of a person's life. Beyond malnutrition, many people are unable to take needed medications because taking medicine on an empty stomach can make them sick. Without nourishment or strength, even the simple task of finding the next meal becomes more difficult.

This shipment contains 12,000 Rice and Soy Blessing Bags packed by volunteers across the Midwest. These meals will feed a total of 72,000 people in Haiti.

That means 72,000 people will have a well-balanced, nutritious meal that will provide them the energy to get through another day, take the medicine they need, and find the next meal for their family.

You can be a part of providing meals to people in need all over the world. \$2 provides one Rice and Soy Blessing Bag that feeds six people. Visit midwestmission.org/donate to make a donation.

Your church, organization, or service group can also provide meals by packing Blessing Bags together right where you are. Learn more at midwestmission.org/missionevents.

Lives will be changed because of the supplies you help provide.

The container also included 8,000 hospital blankets as well as scrubber sponges, totaling \$98,538.00 worth of supplies.

Collections Around the Midwest — Annual Conferences



Midwest Mission may be coming to your state soon!

Beginning next week, Midwest Mission will travel to 11 Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church to host donation collections supporting people recovering from disaster, poverty, and crisis around the world.

That means you don't have to travel all the way to Midwest Mission to drop off your donations!

Everyone is welcome to participate – even if you are not attending the conference or do not attend a United Methodist church. If your church leader is attending one of the conferences, consider sending donations along with them (after asking nicely, of course!) to drop off at the Midwest Mission truck.

There is currently a significant need for gently used school supplies, medical equipment, and tools, as well as new fabric, Personal Dignity Kits, and Home Care Kits. These simple but essential items provide dignity, hope, and empowerment to individuals recovering from disaster, poverty, and crisis.

To view the full list of needed donations, visit midwestmission.org/collect-donate.

If you would like to help at one of the conference collections, email mallory@midwestmission.org.

Where will Midwest Mission be?

Kearney, NE – May 27-29

Bexley, OH – May 28-29

Acme, MI – May 29-30

Peoria, IL – June 4-5

Indianapolis, IN – June 5

Middleton, WI – June 5

Bismarck, ND – June 5-7

Wooster, OH – June 11-12

Des Moines, IA – June 12-13

Schaumburg, IL – June 14-15

St. Cloud, MN – June 16-17

To learn more about each collection location, and to download promotional flyers, visit midwestmission.org/annual-conferences.

Midwest Mission Iowa Sewing Retreat



Have you registered for the Midwest Mission Sewing Retreat yet?

June 18–20, 2026, mission-minded sewists from across the region will gather in Iowa for a meaningful weekend of fellowship, creativity, and service. Together, participants will create hand-sewn items that will be used in Midwest Mission Feminine Hygiene and Layette Kits — resources that bring dignity, comfort, and care to families around the world.

Throughout the retreat, participants will receive pre-cut sewing kits, guidance from experienced instructors, opportunities for worship and fellowship, and plenty of time to connect with others who love sewing with a purpose. Whether you're highly experienced or simply enjoy sewing and serving, there's a place for you.

During the weekend, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy morning devotions and worship, meals together, and guided sewing sessions. Lodging options in Jefferson, Iowa include accommodations at Jefferson First UMC or a discounted rate at the Cobblestone Hotel.

Come be part of something meaningful while building friendships and making an impact — one stitch at a time.

To register, contact Midwest Mission Iowa at (515) 386-2236 or iowa@midwestmission.org.

If you are in the Springfield, IL area and would like to attend, a group will be carpooling from our Illinois location to Jefferson, IA. Email board member, Darla Holden at djholden81@gmail.com if you are interested.

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Please consider collecting and donating:

- One-handed bags
- Bed Packs (Twin flat sheet, twin fitted sheet, pillowcase, pillow)
- Feminine Hygiene Kit Items:
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disaster relief • education health • micro business

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?

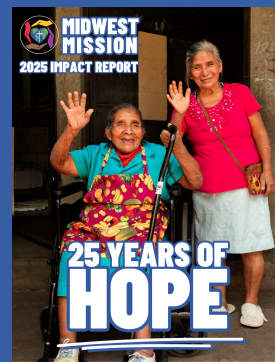
PRAY
We are an organization grounded in faith and sustained through the power of prayer. Every day we witness remarkable outcomes when supporters like you lift us up in prayer and the supplies leaving our doors. We worship with you and continue to pray for Midwest Mission, our individual supporters, and all those who receive hope through this work.

SERVE
There is nothing quite like the joy of working others with passion and love. Whether from the comfort of your home with your own camera, or alongside our team on-site, there are meaningful opportunities for you to make a difference. Because that joy can't be divided and is a part of the impact of international relief provided.

CONNECT
Share our faith stories, the privilege of serving you in person every day, the best ways to stay connected and involved by following our social channels and keeping up with the latest information. We invite you to remain engaged by joining our online community and continuing to believe the impact you help make possible!

Scan the QR code to view current needs and learn how you can help.

Donate online at midwestmission.org or by mail to 1001 Mission Dr., Pawnee, IL 62558



[Download Church Bulletin](#)

[Download Impact Report](#)

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

- 102 Bed Packs
- 175 Blessing Bags
- 650 Personal Dignity Kits
- 504 UMCOR Cleaning Kits

Offsite:

- 3,520 Blessing Bags - Hartford First UMC - Hartford, WI
- 600 Blessing Bags - Tomahawk UMC - Tomahawk, WI
- 800 Blessing Bags - Sturgeon Bay UMC - Sturgeon Bay, WI

Disbursements:

- Food for the Poor - Coconut Creek, FL - 12,000 Blessing Bags, 8,469 Hospital Blankets, 480 cases of rubber sponges - Value: \$98,538.00
- First UMC Bike Project - Wilmington, IL - 23 Bikes - Value: \$2,070.00
- CICIM - Decatur, IL - Furniture - Value: \$580.00
- Cherry Hills Church - Springfield, IL - 24 UMCOR Hygiene Kits - Value: \$288.00

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Cleaning
- Items counted into inventory

- Offsite pack prep
- Sorting fire gear
- Cutting fabric for sewing projects

Offsite:

- 180 Personal Dignity Kits - Algona UMC - Algona, IA

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

May 22nd, 2026

Volunteer Leaders



Mark & Mary Grant



Rus & Tony DeBonis

Illinois Teams



Webster UMC
Webster Groves, MO



Manawa
Manawa, WI



St. Joseph UMC
St. Joseph, IL



Calvary UMC
Normal, IL



SHARE *& connect*

Share the Newsletter

Delivering Hope to Honduras Through Shipment #13!



As our 13th international shipment of 2026 made its way to Honduras, it carried more than supplies. Packed inside were pieces of protection, service, and hope – including much-needed fire gear for communities in need.

Midwest Mission began sending fire gear several years ago because one person asked the right question. Pat Baumer, former Board Member and current Ambassador, served at a local fire station and was shocked by the amount of gear that was “expired,” and could no longer be used by their department, but was still in really great condition. He often wondered if it would be possible to send retired fire gear around the world to firefighters in need. So, we asked our partner, Food For The Poor, and they responded with a resounding “YES!” Midwest Mission began shipping firefighting equipment to countries like Honduras, where many departments do not have a budget for proper safety gear. Midwest Mission is the only organization that sends fire gear through Food For The Poor.

Later, during a visit to Honduras, Pat experienced a moment he never expected. While visiting a local fire department, he spotted a mask for an air tank that once belonged to his former fire chief.

What had once served firefighters in the United States was now continuing its purpose thousands of miles away, helping equip firefighters in Honduras. **The moment served as a reminder that every donated tool, every piece of gear, and every volunteer hour can become part of a much bigger story.**

Here's a look at the contents of the shipment:

- Fire equipment such as gloves, jackets, pants, helmets, boots, air tanks, breathing apparatus, hoses, and water reservoirs
- 2,800 Personal Dignity Kits
- 9,978 Disposable Diapers
- 675 Bed Pads
- 144 Cases of Sponges
- 1,228 Hospital Blankets
- 8 Treadle Sewing Machines
- 13 Cabinet Electric Sewing Machines
- 60 Home Care Kits

The total value of this shipment is \$135,002.50.

You can talk to your local fire department about donating their gear that is no longer used. You can download a flyer [here](#) to share with them!

“We know God is working in this ministry,” said Executive Director Chantel Corrie.

Through partnerships, volunteers, and generous donations, we are able to continue to send practical relief and hope to communities around the world and around the corner — one shipment at a time.

After God's Own Heart: A Story of Faithful Service in Whitewright, Texas



In Whitewright, Texas, a group of dedicated volunteers from First United Methodist Church and the surrounding community is quietly making a lasting impact. Over the months of March and April, these women contributed a combined 150 hours of service, sewing practical items that will bring comfort, dignity, and care to people around the world and around the corner through Midwest Mission.

The effort began years ago when Mary Grant started sewing cloth diapers for an orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti that she personally supported. What began as a small project soon grew as other women in the church became interested and joined her efforts. Before long, a handful of volunteers were sewing diapers together, united by a shared desire to serve others in meaningful ways.

After her volunteer work in the early 2000s with Midwest Mission, Mary later re-engaged and introduced the idea of expanding the group's sewing efforts. The group began making Layette gowns, receiving blankets, feminine hygiene pads, and other supplies sent to communities in need around the world.

As the project continued to grow, so did the support surrounding it. What started with just a few women grew as others from the church, people in the community, and visitors from other churches began noticing the work, asking about it, and joining in. Some volunteers sew during organized sewing days, while others take prepared kits home to complete projects on their own. Donations of fabric and supplies from the community continue to help sustain the work.

When Mary and her husband began traveling full-time, her friend and fellow volunteer Jan Sager helped continue organizing the group in her absence. She maintained the systems that allowed the work to continue year-round

and ensured volunteers always had access to patterns, instructions, and prepared materials.

Today, the group has become far more than a sewing ministry. It is a reflection of a community committed to serving others through simple acts of care and faithfulness.

Reflecting on the women involved, Mary shared, “They really want to do what’s right.” She described them as people striving to have hearts like God’s – compassionate, generous, and willing to help wherever there is need.

Through every stitch, that spirit continues to shine.

If you would like to learn more about serving right where you are, and creating items that bring comfort and care to people in their time of crisis, visit <https://www.midwestmission.org/at-home>.



Midwest Mission is currently searching for:

- One enclosed 20' trailer
- One enclosed 28' (or larger) trailer

If you, your business, or someone you know would be interested in donating or partially donating a trailer, we would love to connect with you!

Call 217-483-7911 or email office@midwestmission.org.

CURRENT Needs

Please consider collecting and donating:

- One-handed bags
- 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

The screenshot displays the Midwest Mission website with the following sections:

- MIDWEST MISSION** logo with subtext: disaster relief • education health • micro business
- WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?** section with three options:
 - PRAY**: No one is ever alone... prayer. Every day we witness remarkable overcome when someone like you lifts up for mission and the supplies leaving our doors. We worship with you and continue to pray for Midwest Mission, our individual missionaries, and all those who receive hope through this work.
 - SERVE**: There is nothing quite like the joy of working others with passion and love. Whether from the comfort of your home with your own camera, or alongside our team on-site, there are meaningful opportunities for you to make a difference. Discover how you can get involved and be a part of the impact of international evangelism.
 - CONNECT**: Share our faith with the privilege of sending you to person every day. The best way to stay connected and inspired is by following our social channels and keeping up with the latest news. We invite you to remain engaged by joining our online community and continuing to follow the impact you help make possible!
- OUR MISSION**: Bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform lives and build sustainable communities.
- WHAT WE DO**: We send faithful missionaries to those in need to make an eternal difference in their lives through hope and empowerment. In areas of crisis internationally and in the United States, Disaster Relief, Health, Education, and Micro Business equipping our people through trained partner resources.
- SUPPORT THE MISSION**: Your generosity helps bring hope to those in need. While our most urgent needs change throughout the year, every donation makes a difference. Scan the QR code to view current needs and learn how you can help.



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[Download Impact Report](#)

Volunteer WORK & PROJECTS

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Onsite:

- Bike Shop
 - Desk Shop
 - Poly Shop
 - Sewing Shop
 - Sewing Machine Repair Shop
 - Cleaning
 - Groundskeeping
 - Campus Improvements
 - Items counted into inventory
 - Unload trailers
-
- 10 Feminine Hygiene Kits
 - 190 Personal Dignity Kits
 - 40 Student Kits
 - 144 UMCOR Cleaning Kits

Offsite:

- 100 Student Kits - Lincoln First UMC - Lincoln, IL
- 120 Student Kits - Sugar Creek Pioneers 4H Club - Chatham, IL

Disbursements:

- Becky Jenkins - Midland, MI - 144 UMCOR Hygiene Kits, 13 rolls of fabric - Value: \$3,678.00
- Pawnee Christian Church - Pawnee, IL - 1 wheelchair - Value: \$100.00

Work Done in Iowa

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Cleaning
- Offsite pack prep
- Cutting fabric for sewing projects

- 120 Blessing Bags
- 40 Personal Dignity Kits
- 40 Student Kits

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Volunteers

May 29th, 2026

Volunteer Leaders



Mark & Mary Grant



Rus and Tony DeBonis

Illinois Teams



Monticello UMC
Monticello, IL



First MC
Flora, IL



Wesley Chapel UMC
Jacksonville, IL



Grace UMC
Jacksonville, IL

Iowa Teams



Aurora UMC
Aurora, NE



SHARE & *connect*

Share the Newsletter