

JANUARY 5, 2024

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**MISSION**

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



As 2024 begins, we are excited to see what God will do this year. We would love for you to join us as a prayer partner. More than anything else, prayer drives what we do here at Midwest Mission.

Here are four things you can be praying for in 2024:

1. God will continue providing the right things at the right time for the right people.
2. As staff members, we have ears to hear and eyes to see what God is calling Midwest Mission to.
3. Our partners, their relationships with those in need, and their ministries.
4. That our volunteers will truly feel the joy that comes from serving, and be inspired to bring others along on the mission journey of bringing hope and empowerment around the world and around the corner.

*2023 was a great year, and we look forward to seeing all God will do in 2024!*

**Bringing Hope to Honduras**



In 2023, we sent 44 international shipments to help people in need.

10 of those shipments went to Honduras.

More than 48 percent of the population lives below the poverty line in Honduras. According to Food For The Poor, "unemployment, gang violence and a widespread lack of opportunity contribute to the challenging landscape. Chronic malnutrition is rampant in Honduras. Infant and child mortality rates are also high. Honduras remains one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters in the world... As a result, the most vulnerable populations in Honduras continue to suffer from hunger and food insecurity."



Their daily circumstances are worse than most of us will face in our lifetime. But, in the midst of their worst days, we are able to help bring hope.

The kits, Rice Meals, medical supplies, sewing machines, and more that we send when requested are tangible items that change lives in intangible ways. They give hope for a child's future. They empower a mother to make money on her own. They meet needs while also reminding each recipient that they have been prayed for by someone they will never meet, and they are loved by God.

Here are a few comments we received from a recent Angels of Hope shipment to Honduras:

- *"The children love the Personal Dignity Kits because they know that each kit is their own."*
- *"The Home Care Kits are appreciated by the staff at each home because they contain cleaning products that are useful for everyday use. The products help to keep a sanitary environment for the children."*
- *"A total of 33 households throughout Honduras received the kits, and both children's homes and impoverished families were especially happy to receive practical items for use in their daily lives."*





The opportunity we have to impact so many lives together is priceless. So, thank you for being a part of this mission, so we can bring more hope to the hopeless, and empower those who feel like they are at the end of their rope.



**GOD IS ON**  **THE MOVE**  
MIDWEST MISSION  
Sowing Hope & Empowerment



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](#)

## January 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!

# 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](#)

## 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](http://midwestmission.org/get-involved).

Click Here for the UMVIM  
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January 12, 2024

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

## Disaster Relief Supplies Pre-Positioned in Nine Countries



Food For The Poor is our partner who serves Latin American and Caribbean countries. Every year, they pre-position disaster relief supplies in nine countries: Dominican Republic, Trinidad & Tobago, Haiti, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, El Salvador, and St. Lucia. Their disaster relief kits have supplies from several nonprofits. Each kit includes 250 tarps, 320 disaster blankets, 540 disaster hygiene kits with hygiene items from MAP International, 250 women's care kits, 7,000 packets of Liquid I.V. Hydration Multiplier, an oral rehydration solution, 5,760 water purification packets from Water



Mission, 250 hand-crank emergency radio flashlights, 5,000 diapers, and 280 Student Kits from Midwest Mission.

These kits are placed in countries where disasters are very likely every year. When a disaster happens, transportation is one of the first things that is disrupted. It can be hard to get from one place to another in one city, let alone if supplies need to be flown in. Having supplies ready-to-go, in-country, allows Food For The Poor to respond within the first 24 hours of a disaster.

If there was not a disaster in one of the countries within the year, the supplies are distributed to people in need in December. Then, in February or March of the next year (before hurricane season), more disaster kits are pre-positioned in the country.

As mentioned above, we provide Student Kits for their big disaster relief kits. This is because when a disaster happens, everyone's life is in chaos. For children, they are thrown out of their normal, and need something to do as their family figures out their plan for recovery. The Student Kits keep children occupied, help them cope with the trauma they are experiencing, and give them a few basic school necessities for when they can go back to school.

On Tuesday, January 9, we sent **5,600** Student Kits on a shipment to Food For The Poor in Coconut Creek, Florida. There, their volunteers will put our Student Kits in each Disaster Relief Kit for the nine countries.

This is a great example of how working *with* organizations who are all trying to do good in the world can make a bigger impact *together*. When we all do our part — the things we each do best — lives are changed for the better.

Thank you for doing *your* part by being a part of the mission of Midwest Mission. You are sending hope and empowerment around the world and around the corner.

## Kit and Project Changes in 2024

Each year, we evaluate our current kits, and make changes based on feedback we have received from our partners. This is why we have a new Kit Brochure every year. Please take a look at these changes, and put these into practice when you are making Midwest Mission Kits at home!

### Personal Dignity Kit — remove razor, add lotion

- 1 Hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 Adult toothbrush – no multipacks
- 1 Bar soap - 3-4 oz
- 1 Shampoo - 12-19 oz
- 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz - stick, roll on, or pump
- **1 Lotion - 8-10 oz**
- 1 1-gal resealable plastic bag
- \$2 donation for toothpaste and carrying bag, per kit.

After our time in Jamaica, we found out that a lot of times, they have to remove the razor from the bags before handing them out. This is because the bags go to a lot of children, hospital patients, and even prisons! They shared about the need for lotion, so we took out the razor, and added the lotion instead.

### Birthing Kit Removed

Based on feedback from our partners, we have made the decision to remove the

Birthing Kit from our Kit list. This decision was not made lightly, but was ultimately what we felt was right. The Birthing Kit was originally adapted from UMCOR, and created for rural use. However, many times, these were being used in hospitals, where the entire kit was not necessary. Because we want to steward our resources as best as possible, and because we want the resources we send to be safe and beneficial to the receivers, we decided to remove the kit. Moving forward, we will provide hospitals with individual needed items when requested and possible.

### Cover Them With Love Quilt Size Change

Cover Them With Love Quilts will now be 42"x72."

This is so the quilts can fit on a twin-size mattress.

You can use *any* quilt pattern for the quilts. If you have any questions, email [patterns@midwestmission.org](mailto:patterns@midwestmission.org) or call 217-483-7911.



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## Prayers to Lift Up

This week, please pray for all of our volunteers who are serving with us in 2024. Pray that their hearts and hands will be prepared for their mission journey, and that God will transform them as they impact the lives of others around the world and around the corner.

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"**  
*2 Corinthians 5:17*

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

### Work Done

- 330 Student Kits
- 100 Personal Dignity Kits Off-Site - Grace UMC, Jacksonville, IL
- Bike Shop
- Sewing Machine Shop
- Desk Shop

### Disbursements

- CICIM, Decatur, IL: Furniture, linens **Value: \$6,408.00**
- St. Martin de Porres, Springfield, IL: Linens **Value: \$11,448.00**
- CICIM, Decatur, IL: Furniture **Value: \$3,767.00**
- St. Martin de Porres, Springfield, IL: Body wipes **Value: \$26,880.00**
- Little Galilee Church Camp, Clinton, IL: 56 Twin mattresses **Value: \$5,600.00**
- Food For The Poor, Coconut Creek, FL: 5,600 Student Kits **Value: \$89,600.00**

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Thank you!

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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.

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## **Volunteers at Work**

January 8-12, 2024

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### **Volunteer Leaders**



Jeff and Jane Johnson  
Glen Carbon, IL

### **Volunteer Teams**



**Our Saviour's UMC  
Shaumburg, IL**



**Springfield First UMC Sewing Group  
Springfield, IL**



**Clarence Harms  
Brillion, WI**

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**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!**

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January 19, 2024

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

## The Midwest Mission Experience

### Changes to the Midwest Mission Iowa Format



As an organization, our biggest area of growth in 2023 was our off-site opportunities. We believe this is because of the impact it makes in the churches and organizations hosting them. These opportunities allow us to bring the mission to you. Entire congregations serve alongside one another, new relationships are formed, discipleship happens over packing, and churches are revitalized with a renewed excitement for being the hands and feet of Jesus. Not to

mention, so many resources are packed and quickly sent to people in need.

As we look ahead to 2024 and beyond, we want to invest our efforts in our areas of growth. So, we are starting the Midwest Mission Experience at Midwest Mission Iowa, and *on select days* at Midwest Mission Illinois.

Midwest Mission Iowa opened in June 2023. With every new project, there are always transitions that occur. As 2023 was winding down, Midwest Mission leadership reflected on the first several months of Midwest Mission Iowa's operation. The new location was a success, but not without challenges. It became clear that this location could not operate like the main location in Pawnee, Illinois. As a result, leadership began to plan a new format for our Iowa location that would better suit the needs of Midwest Mission, the needs of those we serve, and the needs of the congregations we partner with.

With this in mind, as we enter into 2024, Midwest Mission Iowa will be a training ground for off-site and at-home opportunities. We are calling it the "**Midwest Mission Experience.**"

#### **The Midwest Mission Experience**

A team of people from a church or organization can come to Midwest Mission to experience several different

hands-on, easy mission activities. They will learn about Midwest Mission, learn how they can make a greater impact in the world from right at home, and leave with the tools and knowledge to take this to share at their church or organization.

Maybe your church is excited about serving, but doesn't know how exactly to get the community involved, or you have heard about Midwest Mission, but need to show others what exactly you've been talking about. Or, maybe COVID really separated your congregation, and you need something that would bring everyone together and back in the building. Maybe there are people that want to serve, but need something that is easy, accessible, and can be done in homes or in small groups.



There are a lot of reasons you might be looking for a new mission opportunity, and there are ways for everyone to impact the world from right where they are. But, the problem is, many people just don't know what to do! The Midwest Mission Experience allows people to try out several different hands-on opportunities with a group of volunteers, and learn for themselves what will be best for their community. The best part is, as you are trying out different stations, you are still being the hands and feet of Jesus! The items you pack at Midwest Mission will be shipped to a person in need around the world or around the corner.

## HOW THE MIDWEST MISSION EXPERIENCE WORKS

1. Gather a group of volunteers who are interested in learning more about mission projects.
2. Call our Reservations Coordinator at 217-483-7911 to reserve a date for your shift. **Midwest Mission Iowa is now solely hosting Midwest Mission Experience days. Midwest Mission Illinois will host Midwest Mission Experiences on select days, as well as regular shifts.** Call for availability. Watch the newsletter for upcoming days.
3. The cost is \$6 per person for a half-day or \$12 per person for a full-day shift.
4. You will come and try out Rice Meal packing, Student Kit assembly, Personal Dignity Kit assembly, making Sleeping Mats with a loom, and sewing projects.
5. When you return home, you should share your experience, and begin planning a mission experience at your location. This could be coordinated through Midwest Mission, *or* you can do it on your own! Either way, your community will be united, revitalized, and filled with joy from serving with one another. And we are ready to help!

## Springfield Area Schools Learn about the Sleeping Mat Project



On Martin Luther King Jr. day, students from four Springfield, IL high schools met for a day of Unity. This is the tenth year Springfield District 186 has hosted Unity Day, and we were honored to be a part this year.



District 186 reached out to see if Midwest Mission would be one of three nonprofit speakers, and host an activity. We excitedly agreed — it would give us the opportunity to share our mission with almost 100 local high school students.

Chantel Corrie, our Executive Director, shared about who Midwest Mission is, and how serving together can bring people (and schools!) together. Teresa Whitehouse, our Project Manager, shared about our Sleeping Mat Project and how students could get involved.

Then, the students were able to participate in the Sleeping Mat Project. Each person cut grocery bags into strips, and together they wove their strips into the Sleeping Mat. When our time came to an end, they combined the leftover strips into a plarn ball that was over 150 ft long! The students were excited to do something hands-on that could benefit their homeless community.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to share with our local community. Everyone — whether you are a senior in high school or a senior citizen — can work together to make this world a better place. Serving together unifies us as humans, and God's children.

Our local news station covered Unity Day. You can find the article [here](#).



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Liquid Household Cleaner  
56-80 oz total (no spray bottles)  
purchase online [here](#)

# 2024 KIT AND PROJECT CHANGES

1. BIRTHING KIT HAS BEEN REMOVED
2. PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT CHANGES  
ADD 8-10 OZ LOTION, REMOVE RAZOR
3. COVER THEM WITH LOVE QUILT SIZE CHANGE  
42" X 72"



## Prayers to Lift Up

This week, please pray for the health of Midwest Mission staff and volunteers. Sickness has hit us hard so far in 2024!

*"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases." Psalm 103:2-3*

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

### Work Done

- 900 Student Kits Verified
- Bike Shop
- Sewing Machine Shop
- Desk Shop

### Disbursements

- Urban Bicycle Food Ministries, Des Moines, IA: 54 Sleeping Mats Value: \$1,350.00

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Thank you!



# Share some GOD news with those you love!

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[Volunteer Reservation Calendar](#)

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

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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.

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## **Volunteers at Work**

January 15-19, 2024

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## **Volunteer Leaders**



Jeff and Jane Johnson  
Glen Carbon, IL

## Volunteer Teams



Chase Family  
Springfield, IL



Trish and Jennifer Ericson  
Pawnee, IL



Taylorville UMC  
Taylorville, IL



Clarence Harms  
Brillion, WI





Rus and Tony Debonis  
Waterloo, IA



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January 26, 2024

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

## Needed Supplies on the Way to Honduras

Second International Shipment of the Year



One of the best parts of January is when we get to start shipping again! Every year, our partners close for a few weeks in December. By the time we get to January, we are on our toes, ready to start sending supplies.

A few weeks ago, [we sent our first international shipment](#) — it went to Food For The Poor in Florida where they will separate the supplies and pre-stage them in nine different countries.

On Tuesday, January 23, we sent our second international shipment of the year. This one is heading to San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

We packed a LOT of needed supplies into this container. Our shelves in the third warehouse were empty after we loaded everything!

This shipment included:

- 146 Birthing Kits (we will continue shipping what we have in inventory even though we are discontinuing this kit)
- 28 Electric sewing machines
- 6 Treadle sewing machines
- 90 Midwest Mission Desks
- 840 Student Kits
- 117 Little girl outfits
- 28 Twin mattresses
- 35 Tarps - Lamar Advertising
- Hygiene supplies
- Cleaning supplies
- And a lot of medical supplies

This shipment weighed 23,940 lbs with a **monetary value of \$143,534.98.**

We are SO excited to witness how God is going to work through our shipments in 2024. We don't know where we will send items, or what will be requested to send, but we know God has a hand in it all!



## Mission in Motion Manager, Gene Turner — Mission Journey to Haiti

Our Mission in Motion Manager, Gene Turner, and his wife Brenda will be spending the next week serving the people of Haiti. They are serving alongside Brenda's father who



spends several months volunteering for Josean Ministries every year. They brought with them several requested items for the mission they are working with.

At Midwest Mission, Gene handles our Off-Site Events, the largest event being our Rice Meal Packs. He is constantly planning and executing events that will supply resources for people who do not have even the most basic necessities.



Now, Gene and Brenda will be able to personally hand out the items so many of you spent time and resources on in order to provide for the least of these. Rice Meals, hygiene supplies, school supplies, medical supplies, little girls' dresses and boys' outfits... all of these items have the potential to change lives. The people they encounter will be shown God's love in a practical way through needed resources. They will know the love of Christ, and know they are loved by so many in the Midwestern United States.

We look forward to sharing stories from their trip when they get back to the United States!

Please be praying for Gene and Brenda as they embark on this journey. Pray for safety and wisdom, encouragement and excitement, and pray God will use them in great ways.



## GOD IS ON THE MOVE

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## Lotion

8-10 oz. bottles

[click here to purchase online](#)

## Diaper Ointment

2 oz. (we do not accept A+D brand)

[click here to purchase online](#)

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2. PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT CHANGES  
ADD 8-10 OZ LOTION, REMOVE RAZOR
3. COVER THEM WITH LOVE QUILT SIZE CHANGE  
42" X 72"



We will continue to accept other sizes of quilts, but our priority is 42"x72" to meet our partners' needs.

## Prayers to Lift Up

This week, please pray for Gene, our Mission in Motion Manager, and his wife Brenda as they serve communities in Haiti. Pray for protection and guidance, and pray that lives will be changed in Christ's name.

*"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

Isaiah 41:10

## Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

### Work Done

- Sorting gloves
- Bike Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop
- Desk Shop

#### Disbursements

- Sugar Creek UMC, Chatham, IL : 36 Toothpaste Tubes Value: \$12.96
- Honduras, Food For The Poor: See story above!
- Haiti: See story above!

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**January 22-26, 2024**

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# Volunteer Leaders



Ron and Sharon Monroe  
Glen Carbon, IL

# Volunteer Teams



Union Reunion  
St. Louis, Missouri



Clarence Harms  
Brillion, WI



SASED AM  
Riverton, IL



SASED PM  
Riverton, IL



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