

January 3, 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Thank You for a Great Year!

Happy New Year from all of us at Midwest Mission.

As we look back on the year, there is no other response to 2024 than to say a big **THANK YOU!**

Here are a few highlights from the year:

- You helped us send over 5,000 Student Kits to Peru with the U.S. Southern Command.
- You continued to serve Ukraine, when a lot of people had forgotten that the war raged on.
- You prayed for and sent items for Iowa, when a devastating tornado hit Greenfield, and torrential rains caused major flooding around the state.
- Your help prepositioning supplies earlier in the year allowed supplies to quickly get to people in need when Hurricane Beryl hit the

Caribbean.

- You poured out prayers, funds, donations, and support when Hurricanes Helene and Milton left unprecedented damage over much of the southeastern United States.
- You generously gave when we asked you to help us raise funds to send a tractor to Honduras.

And this is just the icing on the cake! There are *so* many more stories from the year, from the way you volunteered, to the way God showed up in great ways.

We praise God for the blessings, and pray God will continue to bless you and Midwest Mission in 2025.

2025 is Midwest Mission's 25th year of sending hope and empowerment around the world and around the corner. We look forward to celebrating with you, as we look forward to the next 25 years of ministry!

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

Happy New Year!

Serving Right Where They Are: Asbury UMC



Asbury UMC in Sioux Falls, South Dakota is passionate about missions. We are blessed by their partnership with Midwest Mission! They are a Permanent Collection Site, they've hosted Rice and Soy Blessing Bag packs, and they've made many Kits.

Now, they are celebrating that a new group in their church is getting involved in a Midwest Mission project. The church placed two looms in their "Missions Room," and it's been a huge success! They have already finished four Sleeping Mats.

"We are donating them to Midwest Street Medicine" said Cynthia Nelson, one of the volunteers who weaves Sleeping Mats at Asbury. "It's a local nonprofit, ministering to the needs of those in our community who are experiencing homelessness." Their mission is to bring care to the streets, and these Sleeping Mats will aid them in doing just that!

Thank you, Asbury, for sharing your great story. It's inspiring to know that we can all

do good right in our own community!

If you're interested in weaving Sleeping Mats where you are, visit midwestmission.org/loom.

Prayers to Lift Up

Praise God for the blessings poured out on Midwest Mission. Please pray for this next year of ministry, that God will continue guiding and shaping Midwest Mission for God's Kingdom.

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2 Corinthians 9:8

MIDWEST MISSION
Disaster relief • education health • micro business

MISSION UPDATE
SUMMER 2024

Astria's Story

When Astria was two years old, an illness on her from the street, and caused her to have third degree burns all over her body. Her grandmother, who was her guardian, could no longer care for her because of the medical expenses. Because she deeply cared for Astria, her grandmother made the difficult decision to send her to an Angels of Hope home. The home would help meet her medical needs and make sure she would live a full life.

That Angels of Hope home is supported by Honduran humanitarian organization, CEPHO, and their close partner, Food For The Poor. Midwest Mission works alongside these organizations to serve many Angels of Hope homes in Honduras by providing Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits.

Several years later, Astria was married and had a home with her husband. But Hurricane Eta swept through the country, destroying everything she had worked so hard for. The country was in ruin. Houses were gone. Many people had to start over — including Astria.

After the hurricane, Food For The Poor and CEPHO came together to build Sustainable Communities — new communities where they would bring people together who lost everything, and provide them with new homes.

These communities were built to be self-sustaining with agriculture, water access, schools, government, and more.

Astria was given a home in a Sustainable Community outside of San Pedro Sula.

Not only did they provide her a home, but they also gave her a Midwest Mission sewing machine. This sewing machine was the key to getting out of poverty. Now, she has a way to make money to support her two children. Not only that, but she has the financial means to pay a babysitter to watch her children while she works, supporting another family as well.

Astria makes burlap bags for coffee using the sewing machine, and paints beautiful art on the outside of the bags. Then, she is able to sell them at local markets. She also makes purses and hats, and paints reusable water bottles.

This is such an exciting story of the life change that happens when someone is given a hand-up through the gift of a lifetime.

We are blessed with the opportunity to partner with you to make an impact like this every single day.

Our 2024 Summer Update is available for download! Using the button below, you can download the report and share with someone you know!

Download

CURRENT Needs

For the Cleaning Kit:

- Laundry Detergent (32-64 oz.)
- Liquid Dish Soap (16-34 oz.)
- Work Gloves with Leather Palms
- Kitchen Gloves
- Heavy Duty Trash Bags or Contractor Bags (2+ mil thickness)

Other Requests:

- Shampoo (12-19 oz)
- Deodorant (2-3 oz)

You can purchase items on Amazon [here](#).

You can bring items to Midwest Mission or a [Permanent Collection Site](#) near you — or send them through the mail to 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558.

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.

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Ready to Get Involved?



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3. Volunteer at Midwest Mission

We have dates available in 2025 and 2026! [Click here](#) to check calendar openings and to reserve your spots.

2025 and 2026 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.

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Midwest Mission Iowa

If you would like to do the Midwest Mission Experience at our Jefferson, IA location, visit midwestmission.org/iowa - or reach out to [Melissa Brookens](#).

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Midwest Mission | 1001 Mission Drive | Pawnee, IL 62558 US

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January 10, 2025



Tractor is purchased and ready to send!

During Giving Tuesday, we shared with you our opportunity to purchase a John Deere 4105 tractor with several attachments. Bill Ridgley, full-time volunteer in Iowa, worked hard to find the tractor and to negotiate a price of only \$25,000. Thank you, Bill!



The tractor will go to the Agriculture School of Valle de Sula Choloma in Honduras, where our team visited back in May.

Right now, every crop at the school is planted and harvested using hand tools. Because of this, it requires a lot of manual labor to produce a small yield.

A tractor would mean they could plant more types of crops, such as corn. They would also be able to expand their existing fields of crops like plantains.

The instructors have dreamed of having a tractor so students could learn the basics of using and fixing heavy machinery.

This tractor will not only increase the amount of food and goods they can produce, consume, and/or sell, but will also prepare them for better job opportunities once they graduate.

We are excited to share that we purchased the tractor!

The opportunity to purchase the tractor was shared with you, and you responded with **abundant generosity!** We received more than enough money to purchase the tractor and several attachments. Now, we wait to find out the shipping date. **Our hope is that it will arrive before our team travels to Honduras on a mission trip the first week of March.**

Because so many of you were excited about this agriculture initiative, and

because we have funds beyond the necessary \$25,000, we are in the planning stage of officially adding an Agriculture Program at Midwest Mission. There will be more details to come. But know that any extra funds received towards the tractor will go to develop other agriculture efforts in the near future. We will keep you informed as the program is solidified!

Thank you SO much for all of your support and vision. This tractor will make an endless impact of sustainability for the students and their communities. We look forward to seeing it delivered and in-use on their campus!



Prayers to Lift Up

Thank you Lord because you never leave us alone! We praise you because you protect us and guide us on this path back to you.

"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

-Deuteronomy 31:6



Astrid's Story

When Astrid was two years old, oil spilled on her from the stove, and caused her to have third-degree burns all over her body. Her grandmother, who was her guardian, could no longer care for her because of the medical expenses. Because she deeply cared for Astrid, her grandmother made the difficult decision to send her to an Angels of Hope home. The home would help meet her medical needs, and make sure she would live a full life.

That Angels of Hope home is supported by Honduran humanitarian organization, CEPUD, and their close partner, Food For The Poor. Midwest Mission works alongside these organizations to serve many Angels of Hope homes in Honduras by providing Personal Daily Kits and Home Care Kits.

Several years later, Astrid was married and had a home with her husband. But, Hurricane Iota swept through the country, destroying everything she had worked so hard for. The country was in ruins. Homes were gone. Many people had to start over — including Astrid.

After the hurricane, Food For The Poor and CEPUD came together to build Sustainable Communities — new communities where they would bring people together who lost everything, and provide them with new homes.

These communities were built to be self-sustaining with agriculture, water access, schools, government, and more!

Astrid was given a home in a Sustainable Community outside of San Pedro Sula.

Not only did they provide her a home, but they also gave her a Midwest Mission sewing machine. This sewing machine was the key to getting out of poverty. Now, she has a way to make money to support her two children! Not only that, but she has the financial means to pay a babysitter to watch her children while she works, supporting another family as well.

Astrid makes burrito bags for coffee using the sewing machine, and paints beautiful art on the outside of the bags. Then, she is able to sell them at local markets. She also makes purses and hats, and paints breathtaking portraits.

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Midwest Mission Weekly Projects Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
- Desk Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop (18 electric)
- Campus Improvements
- Items counted into inventory

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January 17, 2025



Progress on Second Solar Project



We are excited to announce that in 2025, we will be a completely solar-powered campus!

In 2022, we began the first phase of our solar project by installing solar panels on our warehouses that power one of three meters on our campus. In early 2024, we shared that we were pursuing a fully solar campus by raising the money to put solar panels on our other buildings.

The up-front cost was \$149,000, but after government and grant incentives, the net investment was \$39,000. And, you helped us reach our goal! Thank you!

This past week, we learned from our solar company, Verde Solutions, that the plan is to start the installation of the second round of solar panels in March. Take a look at this great aerial shot of our campus. Solar Panels will be installed on the staff house (marked "A"), Twice Giving (marked "B"), the Studio (marked "C"), and the Lodge (formerly known as the Dorm – marked "D").

These new panels will power the remaining two meters, making Midwest Mission Illinois a completely solar-powered campus!

This solar panel system will save Midwest Mission an estimated \$305,978 over 30 years. AND we will be better stewards of our environment. How exciting is that!

As we begin the installation process, we will keep you updated on the progress.

The California Wildfires

Please join us in praying for all of those affected by the wildfires in Los Angeles. The level of devastation is heartbreaking, and we can't even imagine what so many people are going through.

At this time, we have not received a request for supplies. Our partner Global Citizen USA is on the ground in California, assessing the needs. After our first call to touch-base, they had what they needed to provide for the affected communities. We will keep you updated if things change. But, what you can do is join us in praying.

Pray for the firefighters and first responders who are working many hours to save lives, homes, businesses, and communities.

Pray for those who have lost their homes that they will receive guidance, direction, and comfort as they take the next steps into the unknown.

Pray for the disaster relief organizations who are on the ground, helping meet needs, sharing resources, and counseling grief.

Lord, have mercy.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way.." Psalm 46:1-2

Sewing Machine Shop Volunteer Training in Jefferson, Iowa

Learn how to refurbish sewing machines at Midwest Mission in Iowa! No previous knowledge is required. Many times, sewing machines just need tested and then cleaned.

A few months ago, we opened our Sewing Machine Shop up at our Jefferson, Iowa location. Now, we are in need of more volunteers who can test, clean, and/or fix up the machines. If you're close to Jefferson, this is a great way to get involved on a regular basis.

The training will help you learn our processes, and figure out if this is the

volunteer opportunity for you — no commitment necessary!

There are two upcoming trainings:

1. Thursday, January 23 from 10am-12pm
2. Thursday, January 30 from 10am-12pm

You can register for the training [here](#).

Only six spots are available for each date, so register as soon as you can!

Prayers to Lift Up

This week we pray, Lord, that you would be our shield as we walk with you and do your kingdom work. We also pray that your shield be over those in California who are enduring and fighting the fires. Be with the families of those who have been lost and protect those in the midst of the tragedy.

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds success in store for the upright, He is a shield to those whose walk is blameless."

-Proverbs 2:6-8

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MISSION UPDATE SUMMER 2024

Astria's Story

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Several years later, Astria was married and had a home with her husband. But Honduras has swept through the country, destroying everything she had worked so hard for. The country was in ruin. Houses were gone. Many people had to start over — including Astria.

After the hurricane, Food For The Poor and CEPHO came together to build Sustainable Communities — new communities where they would bring people together who lost everything, and provide them with new homes.

These communities were built to be self-sustaining with agriculture, water access, schools, government, and more.

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Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
 - Desk Shop
 - Poly Shop
 - Sewing Shop
 - Sewing Machine Repair Shop
 - Cleaning
 - Items counted into inventory
 - Offsite Pack Prep
-
- 33 Bed Packs
 - 340 Personal Dignity Kits
 - 396 UMCOR Cleaning Kits
 - 672 UMCOR Hygiene Kits
 - 156 Disaster Relief hygiene Kits

Offsite:

- 388 Blessing Bags, Our Saviour's UMC, Schaumburg, IL

Disbursements:

- **Maryville & GlenEd Food Pantries**, Maryville, IL. Fabric and Miscellaneous Hygiene Supplies. Value: \$146.00
- **Community Crisis Center**, Elgin, IL. Miscellaneous Cleaning and Hygiene Supplies. Value: \$1,002.00

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

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Volunteers at Work

January 13-17 2025

Volunteer Leaders



Jeff & Jane Johnson
Glen Carbon, IL

Illinois Teams



Our Saviour's UMC
Schaumburg, IL



Sewing Group First UMC
Springfield, IL



Simpson Group
Springfield, IL



Union Reunion
St. Louis, MO



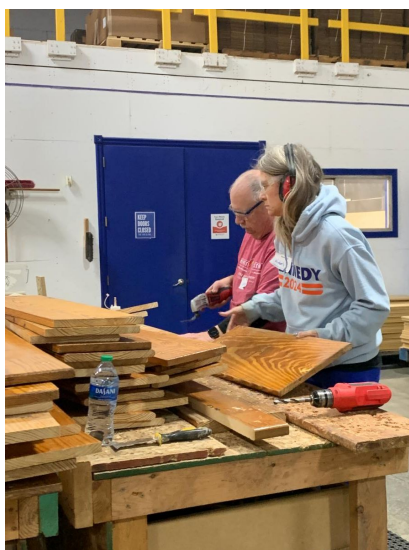
Monticello UMC
Monticello, IL

Douglas Avenue UMC
Springfield, IL



Grace UMC
Jacksonville, IL





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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January 24, 2025



First International Shipment of the Year — Ghana!



Every year, Midwest Mission facilitates one shipment to Ghana for our partner, the [International Health and Development Network \(IHDN\)](#).

In 1996, IHDN was formed by a

group out of Springfield, Illinois. Shortly after, they began holding Health Fairs in Ghana led by Dr. Edem Agamah. Many people were seeing a physician for the very first time.

“IHDN seeks to develop effective and sustainable Primary Health Care programs in small towns and villages in the developing world.” Now, IHDN operates a hospital in Ghana, seeing patients who are in great need of medical care that would be otherwise unavailable.



This annual shipment helps outfit the hospital with needed equipment and supplies that are difficult to find or expensive to buy in Ghana. This year, Dr. Agamah’s car is inside the container, so that when he is in Ghana, he has transportation.

This shipment also included a lot of medical supplies and equipment, computers, and electronics.

While the shipment was being loaded, we talked with June Agamah, Dr. Agamah’s wife, about what this shipment means for them. *“We are excited because we are about to go on our 45th mission trip to Ghana, and now this shipment is heading there!”*

Midwest Mission has been partners with us for over 20 years. This is by no means an easy task. We usually procure the supplies from all over, then we have to package it, bring it over here, and then the Midwest Mission team gets everything ready and prepared for us. It’s funny how you do it every year or so, and each time it is always different.

We are very thankful to the Lord for His goodness, and for the support we have gotten from Midwest Mission for all these years. Please continue to pray for us that the equipment will get there safely, so that we can continue to help the poor in Ghana, West Ghana.”

This partnership is beautiful, and we are grateful to play a small part in the great work IHDN is doing in Ghana. This is our longest partnership, and we love that it is a group from right here in Springfield who had big dreams for Ghana that are coming to fruition.

Please pray that this shipment will make it safely and timely, and that the items will bless the staff at their hospital, and that their patients will, in turn, receive better care.

2025 Kits and Projects Brochure

Our annual Kits and Projects Brochure is [available for download!](#)

We publish a new Kits and Projects Brochure every year, because we make

changes to our Kits and collection items annually. It is always important to continue asking our partners what they need, and finding out if what we send is truly meeting their needs.

This year, there were just a few changes:

- **The Birthing Kit is BACK!** You can read about the changes in a previous newsletter here.
- The **Tornado Kit** has a slight change — we are **no longer including 24 clear trash bags**. The 24 heavy-duty trash bags will still be included.
- We have updated the description of **bikes that can be donated**. Now, bikes **cannot be 10-speed, road racing, or any other type with *thin* tires**. These bikes do not do well with the rough terrain they are usually shipped to. As always, they must be in working condition with minimal rust.

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Last week's training was great! Thanks to everyone who came out.

Prayers to Lift Up

Lord, establish our plans and give us the courage to commit our plans and actions to you. We praise you here at Midwest Mission because when we have submit ourselves to your will in the past, you have shown up in incomprehensible ways.

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans."

-Proverbs 16:3

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Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

Onsite:

- Bike Shop
 - Desk Shop
 - Poly Shop
 - Sewing Machine Repair Shop (17 Electric)
 - Cleaning
 - Items counted into inventory
 - Offsite Pack Prep
-
- 210 Personal Dignity Kits
 - 252 UMCOR Cleaning Kits
 - 192 UMCOR Hygiene Kits

Offsite:

- **2,960** Blessing Bags, **First Free Church**, Ballwin, MO
- **320** Blessing Bags, **St. Paul UMC**, Rosewood Heights, IL
- **1,520** Blessing Bags, **Suamico UMC**, Suamico, WI

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Thank you!

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Midwest Mission Iowa

If you would like to do the Midwest Mission Experience at our Jefferson, IA location, visit midwestmission.org/iowa - or reach out to [Melissa Brookens](#).

Volunteers at Work

January 20-24, 2025

Volunteer Leaders



Jeff & Jane Johnson
Glen Carbon, IL

Illinois Teams



Troy MC Youth
Troy, IL



Wellspring UMC
Oswego, IL



Taylorville UMC
Taylorville, IL



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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Midwest Mission | 1001 Mission Drive | Pawnee, IL 62558 US

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January 31, 2025



See What You Helped Accomplish in 2024 — 2024 Recap Video —



Our 2024 Recap Video shows the impact YOU made in the world in 2024. Thank you for partnering with Midwest Mission to send hope and empowerment around the world and around the corner.

We look forward to another year of great impact in 2025. One of the ways we can do more good in the world, is to get more people involved!

Show this video to someone you want to join you in serving in 2025!

You can download the video [here](#).

Second International Shipment of the Year — Guyana

Our second international shipment of the year left the warehouse on Thursday, January 30! This shipment is headed towards Guyana.

Guyana is on the northern coast of South America, and is bordered by Venezuela, Suriname, and Brazil. Almost 39% of the population lives below the poverty line, which is equivalent to \$5.50 U.S. dollars a day.

This shipment contains 28,800 Rice and Soy Blessing Bags that will feed 172,800 people in Guyana!

Also included:

- 15 Bikes
- 18 Electric Sewing Machines
- 160 Layette Kits
- 57 Cover Them With Love Quilts
- 833 Little girl outfits
- 170 Pillowcase dresses
- 50 Sleeping Mats
- Tools
- Tarps
- Toys
- Wheelchairs and walkers
- Medical Supplies

The value of the shipment was \$132,965.00.

Tractor Update



This week, Ramon Ortiz, Operations Manager, drove to Iowa and picked up the tractor for Honduras. The tractor is officially on the Midwest Mission

campus! Now, Brad Walton, Director of Operations, can get the final specs needed to schedule a shipping date.

We can't WAIT for it to be delivered to the Agriculture School. Please continue praying that the paperwork will go smoothly, and that the container does not get delayed (which is common in the shipping industry). Pray that the tractor will arrive in Honduras before our Mission Team travels there the first week of March.

Prayers to Lift Up

Lord, thank you for your word and how it guides us to love and reach those around us. We pray as we do your work this week that you would be a shield to us.

"Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him."

-Proverbs 30:5

MIDWEST MISSION
Disaster relief • education health • micro business

**MISSION UPDATE
SUMMER 2024**

Astrid's Story

When Astrid was two years old, an illness on her from the street, and caused her to have three strokes burn all over her body. Her grandmother who was her guardian, could no longer care for her because of the medical expenses. Because she deeply cared for Astrid, her grandmother made the difficult decision to send her to an Angels of Hope home. The home would help meet her medical needs and make sure she would live a full life.

That Angels of Hope home is supported by Honduran humanitarian organization, CEPEDD, and their close partner, Food For The Poor. Midwest Mission works alongside these organizations to serve many Angels of Hope homes in Honduras by providing Personal Dignity Kits and Home Care Kits.

Several years later, Astrid was married and had a home with her husband. But Honduras has swept through the country, destroying everything she had worked so hard for. The country was in ruins. Houses were gone. Many people had to start over — including Astrid.

After the hurricane, Food For The Poor and CEPEDD came together to build Sustainable Communities — new communities where they would bring people together who lost everything, and provide them with new homes.

These communities were built to be self-sustaining with agriculture, water access, schools, government, and more.

Astrid was given a home in a Sustainable Community outside of San Pedro Sula.

Not only did they provide her a home, but they also gave her a Midwest Mission sewing machine. This sewing machine was the key to getting out of poverty. Now, she has a way to make money to support her two children! Not only that, but she has the financial means to pay a babysitter to watch her children while she works, supporting her family as well.

Astrid makes burlap bags for coffee using the sewing machine, and paints beautiful art on the outside of the bags. Then, she is able to sell them at local markets. She also makes purses and hats, and paints beautiful portraits.

This is such an enriching story of the life change that happens when someone is given a hand-up through the gift of a lifetime. We are blessed with the opportunity to partner with you to make an impact like this every single day.



Our 2024 Summer Update is available for download! Using the button below, you can download the report and share with someone you know!

[Download](#)

CURRENT Needs

For the Cleaning Kit:

- Laundry Detergent (32-64 oz.)
- Liquid Dish Soap (16-34 oz.)
- Work Gloves with Leather Palms
- Kitchen Gloves
- Heavy Duty Trash Bags or Contractor Bags (2+ mil thickness)

Other Requests:

- Baby Sleepers (0-6 month)
- Deodorant (2-3 oz)

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Midwest Mission Weekly Projects

Work of the Mission Volunteers

Work Done

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- Desk Shop
- Sewing Shop
- Sewing Machine Repair Shop (16 Electric)
- Cleaning
- Items counted into inventory
- Offsite Pack Prep

- 100 Personal Dignity Kits

Disbursements:

- **Community Crisis Center**, Elgin, IL: Cleaning and Hygiene Supplies: **Value: \$1,002.00**
- **Maryville & GlenEd Food Pantries**, Maryville, IL: Cleaning, Hygiene, and School Supplies: **Value: \$416.00**
- **FUMC Chicago Temple**, Chicago, IL: 10 Student Kits, 30 Feminine Hygiene Kits, and 20 Birthing Kits: **Value: \$1,960.00**
- **Heartland Continuum of Care**, Springfield, IL: 60 Personal Dignity Kits: **Value: \$960.00**

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Midwest Mission Iowa

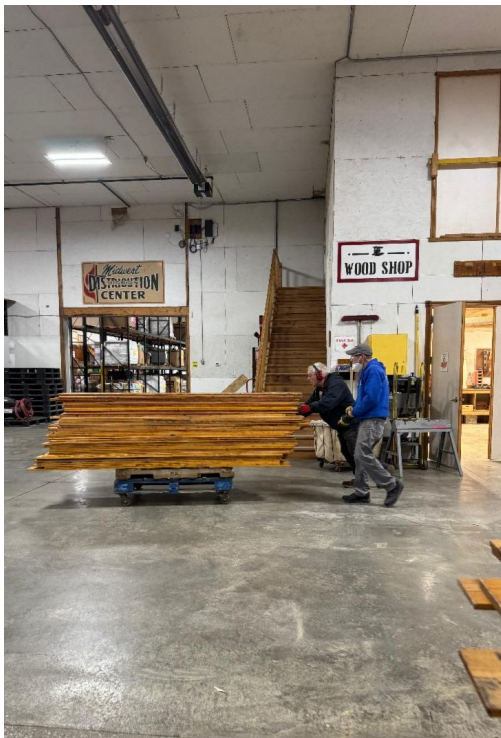
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Volunteers at Work

January 27-31, 2025

Illinois Teams





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