

# Hope's Home Ministries Serving in Community

## Wednesday Community Outreach

On Wednesday, March 3, a highlight of our outreach was engaging specialists from Wisconsin Veterans Affairs. Gerald Sieren (Marine Corps Veteran) who supervises Veterans Outreach & Recovery Program (VORP) and Adayta Axelson, AODA specialist with a strong background in criminal justice, accompanied Karen Andro our remote outreach



team leader, and Hope's Home Ministries volunteer Ronnie Barbette (Marine Corps Veteran & Advocate for Homeless Rights). Ronnie experienced chronic homelessness in his past using his experience to help transform the lives of others, and serve as a leader in our community including serving on the City and County Homeless Issues Committee (HIC) where he helped our community give voice to the rights of individuals and families who experience homelessness.

Karen and Ronnie built a bridge to care and housing by bringing Gerald and Adayta to a remote outreach site to meet with Danette and Steve. Here in the parking lot of a neighborhood park, they met and shared deeply personal conversation with two veterans suffering trauma and homelessness. This relationship took many months to cultivate sharing basic survival needs; food, supplies, survival gear, and during subzero weather hotel respite.

Thanks to hotel respite, and prior to that being able to help with nutritious food, supplies, and survival gear--A bridge was built. This was the first of 21 individual connections made by Karen and Ronnie on Wednesday.

We are grateful for the support of donors and the engagement of volunteers who procure food, stock and organize our inventory of food and supplies, bake Loaves of Love, prepare hot meals, assemble emergency food bags, cleanup kits, make special Blessing Bags and share spiritual messages of Hope.

Thank you for making it possible for us to be a part of our church's Radical Hospitality serving in the manner of Jesus.

Please check out the good work of Gerald and Adayta of Wisconsin Veterans Affairs Housing and Recovery Program.

<https://dva.wi.gov/Documents/benefitsClaimsDocuments/VORP%20-%20Gerald%20Sieren.pdf>

<https://dva.wi.gov/Documents/benefitsClaimsDocuments/Adayta%20Axelson.pdf>

## Gift of Transportation

One of the most critical unmet needs for individuals and families experiencing homelessness is transportation: bus passes, gas cards and cab rides.

Friends of the State Street Family helps with bus passes along with other homeless service providers. We have a very limited budget to help with taxi transportation vital in responding to immediate needs. We do not transport individuals in our own vehicles, and we call 9-1-1 for situations involving imminent danger.

Most of our interactions requiring transportation assistance are getting individuals and families to day or night shelter, jobs, a place where individuals and families may spend some time “doubled-up” at a friend or family’s rental unit often placing that household at risk of losing their lease. A vehicle can serve as safe shelter, warmth and solitude away from congregant day and overnight shelters.

Many individuals sleep in their vehicles such as Danette who is a veteran pictured here with her service dog Frank. Several sleep in their vehicles in a parking lot near their place of employment not able to afford gas to get to and from shelters.

**If you would like to help, please check out our Greatest Needed Items  
Contact Karen to coordinate drop off or pickup of donations.**

- Fuel Cards (Kwik Trip \$10, \$15 or \$20 increments)
- Ravioli (pop-top or microwavable)
- Tuna Salad or Chicken Salad Pouches
- String Cheese
- Chips or Cracker Sandwiches (single serve)
- Mayo or Mustard Packets
- Peanut Butter Single Serve
- Toilet Paper



*We no longer need paper or plastic bags.*

*Boxes and cardboard not needed.*

Please do not leave donations outside the church. We greatly appreciate you contacting Karen at 608-338-0320, or [kandro@fumc.org](mailto:kandro@fumc.org) to arrange for drop off or pickup of donations.

**To make a financial donation** mail a check to FUMC, PO Box 7578, Madison, WI 53703, or contribute online and select Hope's Home Ministries as your gift designation.

<https://fumc.org/mindful-giving/>