

Hope's Home Ministries Serving in Community

Sharing Gratitude for Gifts

"Just wanted to say thank you again for the Valentine's gifts it made my day definitely in those pictures on the bags were amazing make sure you give a big high five and tell the kids thank you very much they definitely made my day. I so appreciate."

This thank you note is from a father who is experiencing homelessness and loss of his children and family. He works third shift and sleeps in his vehicle during the day when the men's shelter is closed. Caroline and Karmen Altfeather joined members of our remote outreach team on Sunday, February 14 to deliver Valentine's Day Blessing Bags designed by children and families.



Arctic Blast & Outreach Crisis Response

During one of the longest subzero streaks on record, Friends of the State Street Family and Greater Madison Resource Center (GMRC) teamed up to raise funds to get children and their families along with our most vulnerable with underlying medical conditions making them more vulnerable to COVID-19 who are on a waiting list for hotel shelter.

The City of Madison followed this example teaming up with the County and outreach specialists to get our most vulnerable (individuals with underlying medical conditions) off the streets out of vehicles and tents to safety indoors. Our Hope's Home remote outreach team: Karen Andro, Michelle Ogilvie, Maggie Wilson and Carrie Castree serve on the city-wide team with community partners with this life-saving effort.



Yesterday, the team came upon another individual with frostbite stage 1 and stage 2, provided triage and connection to safety. It is during the delivery of food and supplies that the team does COVID-19 screenings, safety checks and share supportive connections to care including sharing prayer at times. Rev. Maribel Celiz shared a special prayer this week via phone called upon by Karen during a time of great need.

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.

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 they may spend limited 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/overnight shelters.

Many individuals sleep in their vehicles in parking lots 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

- Fuel Cards (Kwik Trip \$10, \$15 or \$20 increments)
- Fruit Cups
- Chef Boyardee Ravioli/Beefaroni/Spaghetti Individual Meals (pop top cans preferred)
- Starkist Tuna Salad or Chicken Salad in a Pouch
- Individual Trail Mix & Nut Snacks
- Protein Bars, Breakfast Bars & Granola Bars

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 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/>