



COMMUNITY SERVICE: PROJECTS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES



6641 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS 66208

14895 Antioch Rd.
Overland Park, KS 66221



I was a stranger and you welcomed me

Cross-Lines School Supply Drive

(Suitable for all ages) Cross-Lines makes back-to-school time a little easier by providing school supplies and backpacks to over 900 area students. The annual school supply distribution is generally held in July with collection beginning in April. Monetary donations and supply donations are needed to provide each student with a new backpack and appropriate supplies for their grade level. Donations need to be turned in by mid-July. Call Cross-Lines at 913-281-3388.



Operation Breakthrough

(Suitable for elementary school age children and older) Volunteers can read to an Operation Breakthrough preschooler, donate a preschool (3,4, and 5-year-olds) level book or two or organize a book drive. Donation boxes can be found at the South Entrance or in the hallway on the second floor near the Children's Library. Contact Cindy Whitham at ciwhitham@aol.com or 913-262-3062.





I was hungry and you fed me (continued)

Village Food Pantry

(Must be 14 years of age or older) More than 300 volunteers staff this mission. Our volunteers include students who help stock shelves, sort through donations and divide supplies. Contact Susan Webb, director of the Food Pantry, at susan.webb@villagepres.org.



Village Food Pantry Food Drives

(Suitable for preschool and older) Throughout the year, the Food Pantry promotes their need for various food staples such as Peanut Butter Sunday and Souperbowl Sunday. They also request donations of whole grain cereals (all varieties) and assorted canned fruit. The pantry collects hearty soups throughout January. Warm soup during the winter months is a staple for clients, often times it's their supper. Brown paper and plastic grocery sacks are always needed. If you would like to organize a food drive for the pantry, contact Susan Webb, director of the Food Pantry, at susan.webb@villagepres.org.



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Glory in the highest

Angel Tree

(Suitable for preschool and older) Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship, reaches out to the children of prisoners and their families with the love of Christ. Prisoners apply to have presents given to their children in their name. Village Church on Antioch receives the family contact information and calls each family to see what the children need, what sizes, colors, etc. Then volunteers prepare an angel per child with the gift ideas and a personal message from the parent in prison. The church members purchase the gifts and deliver the presents to families all over the Kansas City Metropolitan Area during the week before Christmas.



Diaper Drive

(Suitable for preschool and older) During the Christmas holiday season, Village Church collects diapers beneath our trees in the Welcome Center and South Entrance to the church. Diapers will be distributed to Food Pantry clients with small children. Food stamps cannot be used to purchase diapers.



Hat and Mitten Tree

(Suitable for preschool and older) During the Christmas holiday season, Village puts up Christmas trees in the Welcome Center and at the South Entrance to the church. Children can help decorate this tree with hats and mittens, which will be donated to the Village Church Clothes Closet for clients.



I was hungry and you fed me (continued)

Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) Global Gardens

(Minors must be accompanied by an adult) Work alongside refugee growers at one of the JVS community garden sites. Possible activities include: helping prepare the garden for planting (cleaning up debris and trash, tilling the soil, shoveling compost, mulching the walkways, setting up a trellis, etc.) and helping winterize the garden at the end of the growing season. Group workdays for general garden maintenance will take place periodically throughout the growing season. For specific, up-to-date needs, please call 816-629-8937.



Ronald McDonald House (RMH)

(Suitable for all ages) Families at RMH are constantly on the go and the last thing for them to worry about is food while they are away from the houses. Eats and Treats snack packs are the perfect solution. This opportunity can be done on your own, off-site, or on-site. Check out rmhkc.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer/ for available opportunities and times. Call 816-842-8321 for more information.



Village Community Garden

(Suitable for preschool and older) located at 9900 Mission Road at the Meneilly Center for Mission, the Village Community Garden offers opportunities for individuals of all ages to participate in service work. Every growing season from March through October, the garden needs volunteers to plant, water, weed and harvest crops. All produce harvested from the garden is donated to the Village Food Pantry located on the same grounds as the garden. Contact Deborah White in the Mission Office at Deborah.white@villagepres.org.



I was hungry and you fed me

After the Harvest

(Suitable for all ages) Gleaning means harvesting excess produce from farms and orchards that would otherwise go to waste. After the Harvest has gleaning opportunities from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. during the summer. Call 816-921-1903 for more information.



Backsnacks

(Suitable for elementary and older) More than 90,000 children in the Harvesters' service area receive free and reduced-price school meals during the week, but are at risk of hunger on weekends. To help address that risk, Harvesters Food Bank created the BackSnack program, which provides sacks of assorted food items to low-income children for the weekends. The program creates a partnership between Harvesters, a participating school and local corporate, civic or religious organization. Village Church has been involved as a BackSnack partner and during the school year, our volunteers pack and deliver food weekly to more than 100 children at Overland Park Elementary and Nieman Elementary, totaling over 3,000 packs annually. If you are interested in helping distribute food packs to our partner schools during the school year, please contact Deborah White in the Mission Office at Deborah.white@villagepres.org.



City Union Mission

(Suitable for all ages) Make peanut butter sandwiches for clients, organize an underwear and sock drive or bottled water drive or assemble welcome bags for City Union Mission clients. Volunteer opportunities are numerous. Check out www.cityunionmission.org/volunteer/drive-or-collection for more information or call 816-566-5085.

Glory in the highest (continued)

Salvation Army Bellringer

(The Salvation Army asks that youth under the age of 16 have their parent's permission to ring and those under the age of 14 have adult supervision while volunteering) Red Kettle funds provide everything from food and shelter for the homeless and victims of disaster, to after-school care and programs for children in poverty. Most kettle sites have limited space. Groups of more than three people may intimidate potential donors to the kettle. Two or three people are optimal. For more information on bellringing opportunities, contact the Salvation Army of Kansas and Western Missouri at 816-968-0372.



STAR Families

(Suitable for preschool and older) Every November, Village Church sponsors "Star" Families from Operation Breakthrough and helps provide Christmas gifts for children and holiday meals. The children who receive Christmas aid all come from low-income families. Some are homeless, many are in foster care because they have been abused or neglected, and nearly all live in single-parent families.

In addition, Village offers an opportunity to buy individual toys for the Operation Breakthrough Holiday Store. Nearly 750 kids who don't attend Operation Breakthrough but live in the same urban community benefit from this one-day shopping event. Pre-registered parents come and pick out gifts for each of their children with a volunteer. You can choose from a toy list offered during the holidays. Contact Deborah White in the Mission Office at deborah.white@villagepres.org.



I was naked and you clothed me

Hillcrest Transitional Housing Thrift Store

(Suitable for youth age 14 when accompanied by adult) Hillcrest Transitional Housing offers homeless families, singles and youth a disciplined educational program within a caring, supportive environment. Unlike many organizations whose focus is one-time or emergency care, Hillcrest's primary objective is to move clients from homelessness to self-sufficiency by addressing the total life situation of the homeless families they serve. The Hillcrest Thrift Store at 7824 Quivira Road offers opportunities for youth to tag, sort and price inventory and assist with general cleaning. For more information, call 913-808-5360.



Happy Kits for Patients

(Suitable for preschool and older) Help make a child or parent's day by assembling a Happy Kit! Kits are used in a variety of areas throughout the hospital and clinics to make our patients and families feel welcome and happy during their visit at Children's Mercy Hospital. Happy Kits can be assembled off-site and delivered to Volunteer and Guest Services at the Children's Mercy Adele Hall Campus (downtown hospital). Look online for Happy Kit guidelines at childrensmercy.org. Once you are ready to deliver your Happy Kits, please use the online scheduling form available at www.childrensmercy.org/help-our-kids/donate-goods or call 816-234-3496.



Go unto the world (continued)

Thwake Village, Kenya

(Suitable for preschool and older) Heartland Presbytery has partnered with the Kikuyu Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa to support the mission work in Thwake village. Village has been an integral part of this process from the very beginning. Together with the rest of the churches in the Presbytery, they have built and staffed a health clinic, helped construct and support both a primary and a secondary school, dug a well to supply water to the school and the clinic and completed construction of a Presbyterian church and children's home. Donations to the Thwake well on the first floor of the Village Church help raise funds for fuel for the well pump in the Thwake Village.





Go unto the world

Dominican Republic Youth Mission Trip

(Freshman in high school or older) Each year during Spring Break, Village Youth travel to the Dominican Republic to donate their time and efforts to learning about and helping communities in the DR grow. Projects include construction, medical work and small group learning. For more information on youth mission trips, contact Zach Walker, director of Youth Ministry at zach.walker@villagepres.org.



Haiti Mission Trips

(Suitable for freshman in high school or older) The Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope, which recently opened in December 2016, is located on the campus of Haitian Christian Mission in Fonds-Parisien, Haiti, an isolated village in eastern Haiti approximately eight miles from the Haiti/Dominican Republic border.

Each quarter, Dr. Higgins brings mission teams (both medical and non-medical participants) to the facility and performs approximately 75 procedures each trip. Dr. Higgins is also training Haitian resident doctors and staff to run the facility independently, as a critical component of his mission is promoting a sustainable culture in Haiti and reducing foreigner dependency. Contact Director of International Mission at 913-671-2390.



I was naked and you clothed me (continued)

Village Clothes Closet Back to School Drives

(Suitable for preschool and older) In the fall, the Clothes Closet needs back to school clothing, particularly socks and new underwear, all sizes. Contact Susan Webb, director of the Food Pantry, at susan.webb@villagepres.org.



SafeHome

(Suitable for youth age 16 and older) SafeHome's mission is to break the cycle of domestic violence and partner abuse for victims and their children by providing shelter, advocacy, counseling and prevention education in the community. Volunteers are needed to help with clothes sorting, meal preparation, game nights, the holiday store and Thanksgiving distribution. For more information contact the Volunteer & Community Engagement Manager at 913-378-1518.





Build a firm foundation

Community LINC

(Suitable for age 16 and older) Community LINC is a transitional housing program in Kansas City, Missouri that aims to end homelessness, impact poverty and remove barriers to self-sufficiency for the families we serve. Community LINC welcomes volunteer groups each Saturday or during the week. Group volunteer opportunities include preparing apartments for new families, assisting with building repairs, gardening and sorting in the clothes closet. Contact 816-531-3727.



Habitat for Humanity

(Must be 16 or older) For more than 25 years, Village Church has been working with Heartland Habitat for Humanity to provide decent, affordable housing for families of Johnson, Wyandotte and Jackson counties. Village Church sponsors the construction of one or more houses every year. The majority of the work on Village houses is carried out by the Tuesday-Thursday crew, men and women of all skill levels. Volunteer opportunities are also available on other days including occasional Saturdays. Habitat for Humanity does not allow young people under 16 at the work site. Individuals under 18 are restricted from using certain power tools. Contact Deborah White in the Mission Office at deborah.white@villagepres.org.



Build a firm foundation (continued)

Hillcrest Transitional Housing Apartment

(Suitable for elementary school age with parent) Village Church sponsors an apartment in conjunction with Hillcrest Transitional Housing in Kansas offering homeless families, singles and youth a disciplined, educational program within a caring, supportive environment. Hillcrest's primary objective is to move clients from homelessness to self-sufficiency within 90 days. Village Church welcomes volunteers who can help prepare the apartment for incoming families by stocking the kitchen and preparing a welcome meal (expenses are reimbursed). Contact Deborah White in the Mission Office at Deborah.white@villagepres.org.



Veterans Community Project Tiny Houses

(All minors must be accompanied by adult at all times) Veterans Community Project (VCP) focuses on creating Veterans Village - a community of transitional tiny homes and onsite services to provide housing stability and address the underlying cause of Veteran's homelessness. Volunteers help with the construction of these houses located at 89th and Troost. Call 816-599-6503 or info@vcp-kc.org.

