

Alan McLaughlin
Director

A big ‘thank you!’

It has been a busy summer and now Ministry and More, Inc. is moving into the busy holiday season. We are supplying special Thanksgiving sacks to clients in November, including a gift card for each household to use to purchase a turkey or meat of their choice. We also are in need of more items for the Christmas stockings for the children of client households. Contact the pantry at 823-9804 to arrange drop off. Even though this is our busiest time of year, it is my favorite. Sometimes it can be hard for many people not to dread the season, for various reasons, and often our clients, like some of us, feel the loneliness or disappointments of the past at this time. This makes it even more important to share the kindness, love, and HOPE of Christ. That’s our theme for Christmas this year – Sharing the HOPE of Christ!

This year we will be giving out Christmas stockings for the children in our client households. This is going to be a fun endeavor

Yvonne Huber and Brenda Howerton hold Christmas stockings that will be given to the children that visit Ministry and More, Inc.



assembling items for the stockings and being able to give one for every child served by our pantry. We still hope to have some families ‘adopted’ for Christmas as well – so if you or your group would like to ‘adopt’ a family, please contact Ministry and More, Inc. right away so we can match a family up with you.



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It’s always exciting to have young people serve with us and catch the joy of ‘ministering to others while ministering together’. Over the last several months we had a church youth group unload groceries from our trailer and stock our



Christ Lutheran youth group unload groceries and stock the shelves!



shelves. A children’s Sunday school class from East White Oak donated their special offering money to buy food for the pantry, and several schools had food drives for the pantry – Northpointe Elementary, Calvary Christian Academy and Cornerstone Christian Academy. We are

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Client prayer requests and praise: Will you PRAY—will you GIVE?

This is the most important part of what we do and of this newsletter – please take a few moments to pray for these requests, for those we serve and those who serve!
Thank you

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Daughter to pass GED | Blood transfusions to help me |
| Job search/interviews | Son in the military |
| Unity among my children | Eye issues |
| Daughter to get away from negative influences | Need new place to live where my walker will fit |
| My life to be in order with my children | My marriage |
| Back to heal | Many with cancer related requests |
| Way to pay for medical bills/insurance premiums | Autistic child |
| Need knee replacement | Many giving thanks for food and prayers of Ministry and More, Inc. |
| Premature birth of baby | |
| Guidance from God for my life | |

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.
I Timothy 2:1 – 4

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Thank you to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church for the many coats that will be donated to needy families.

currently distributing coats donated by the families of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. The generosity of these kids and their families has been overwhelming – what is it that these kids are learning through sharing with the less fortunate? It is the truth of what Jesus himself said ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). Lessons worth living.



Follow us on Facebook

If you follow our Facebook page you might remember seeing a photo from the 4H Fair in August. We were blessed through the giving of 4-Fair pork to the pantry again this year. Perfect timing as our meat supply was very low at the time. Thank you again to Toohill Meats, Bloomington Meats and Chenoa Locker!

Ministry and More, Inc. has several new board members, Jerry Everett, Marilee Wehrenberg, Randy McKain, and Randy Lloyd



A big ‘Thank you’ to Toohill Meats, Bloomington Meats and Chenoa Locker for giving towards the pantry at the 4-H fair.



The Shoot and Share outing raised enough money to purchase turkey gift cards for all the Thanksgiving sacks.

as our board president. Marilee’s husband, Mike, recently had a Shoot and Share outing as a fund raiser for Ministry and More, Inc. The money raised from that outing entirely funded the turkey gift cards for Thanksgiving sacks this year! What a blessing!

Finally, as some of you know, Wilma and I recently went on a mission trip to Kenya, Africa. We went to encourage and serve the believers in the Ngong Hills area, but, we ourselves were encouraged and served even more! One of the sweetest moments among many, was placing our hands on the shoulders of little Javan. As Javan took the bright colored sack from us, his eyes told us he believed the sack was his gift. We asked the interpreter to tell him the gift was in the sack. As he reached in, he held tightly to the handles of what held



On a recent mission trip to Kenya, Wilma and Al visit with Javan.

his gifts. As I looked back on this time with Javan, I wondered how many times I have received a special gift from God and never got past the outside container. How often do I hold tightly to the ‘sack’, fighting the pressing from the Holy Spirit to loosen my grip and look more closely to the real gift inside. Wow. The Holy Spirit through Javan spoke to me and Javan had no idea. We traveled thousands of miles for a precious lesson from a loving God through a sweet little boy.

Blessings to you all!

Alan and Wilma



Gen Starkey was a devoted volunteer to Ministry and More, Inc. and will be truly missed.

As some of you may already know, a devoted volunteer, Gen Starkey, left this life for her eternal home in October. Gen, and her husband Harlan, have been faithful volunteers and supporters of Ministry and More, Inc. since it began in 2003. Gen did all the entry of client data for our statistics, among other things. We already so miss her smile, cheerfulness, and sense of humor that brightened every day she volunteered. Our loss, heaven’s gain.

Ministry and More, Inc. is a food pantry located on the Westside of Bloomington, serving Bloomington/Normal and surrounding communities; solely supported by the generosity of individuals and organizations, and receive no assistance from government funding. Ministry and More, Inc. is staffed and run by those who seek to follow Christ, ministering to others by ministering together.