

MICAH MESSENGER

Mission Newsletter
August 1, 2019



White Bear Lake
**UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Nourishing the Hungers of Life

*He has told you,
O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD
require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly
with your God?*

- Micah 6:8

“UP and OUT of POVERTY” BRIDGING

“Items that no longer have meaning to you can mean the world to a family or individual in need.” And so through Bridging, an invitation is extended to each of us to help create a bridge between those who have and those who need. Since the first donated item, Bridging has provided the basic home essentials to more than 90,000 families!

The Beginning . . .

It was 1987, and Fran Heitzman, a business owner and entrepreneur, had tried to retire three times. It wasn't working for him. He was a member of a new church community in Eden Prairie and failing at retirement, so he told the church pastor that he was going to become the official church custodian.

One day, as he sat in his small office/supply room at the church, a woman brought a crib to the church and asked Fran if it could be used in the children's nursery. Fran said no to the nursery, but told her she could leave the crib there and he would find a home for it. He started making phone calls and found a social service agency that said they would be thrilled to receive the furniture. And that was the moment Bridging was born. According to Fran, he thought: “Why can't we take things that people no longer need and give them to someone who needs it?”

Today . . .

Fran is in his 90s and remains active at Bridging nearly full time. With warehouses in Bloomington and Roseville, Bridging provides quality goods free of charge to more than 4,500 households per year — people who need help setting up a home following a period of homelessness, a new move to Minnesota or because of limited financial resources.

In the coming months, WBLUMC will be scheduling group volunteering activities, as well as organizing donation drives to provide household essentials and blankets — Bridging needs 300 blankets a week!

Watch carefully for more information and a chance to volunteer.



Photo above: Karly Aberle holds a “Kitchen Kit” for Bridging assembled during Mission Day 2019. WBLUMC donated 50 of these great kits.]



**Bridging saves over
10 million pounds of
household material
from landfills every
year!**

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND

SHH Mission:

To end hunger through community partnerships.

We often hear or read about food “shelves” or “pantries” and have a basic understanding of what those places are and what they provide for a community. But what about a food “bank” — have you heard of it and do you know what it's all about? Here is some clarification that might be helpful for all of us.

A **food bank** is a non-profit organization that collects, safely stores, and distributes millions of pounds of food to smaller hunger-relief organizations that operate in a wide variety of locations throughout our local communities. The food they store and distribute is donated from local neighbors, farmers, retailers, grocery stores, and restaurants. A food bank makes it easy for agencies to obtain nutritious food at low cost in the quantities they need for their clients.

In order to get the food into the hands of the community, food banks hire drivers to make deliveries. Every food bank serves a specific area that varies in size.

A **food shelf/pantry** is a distribution center where hungry families can receive food. Supplied with food from a food bank, pantries feed hundreds of people per week! Because every community is different, many different types of pantries exist.

Second Harvest Heartland is a food bank and is one of the nation's largest, most effective and most innovative hunger relief organizations.



They're a member of Feeding America, a network of more than 200 food banks that helps feed people across the country.

Second Harvest Heartland was created on October 1, 2001, when Second Harvest Greater Minneapolis and Second Harvest St. Paul joined forces to bring together more than 44 years of combined history and experience to the fight against hunger.

In the Twin Cities, there are two warehouses: Second Harvest Heartland East (Headquarters), Maplewood, and Second Harvest Heartland North, Brooklyn Park.

Volunteering with Second Harvest Heartland . . .

There are many ways you can help including becoming a driver to pick up and deliver fresh produce to area agencies or working in the administrative offices.

One of the most common volunteer opportunities is sorting and repacking food. Every day more than 200 volunteers are needed to sort, label and repack a variety of donated foods including fresh bread, unlabeled cans, frozen food, etc. These items go to nearly 1,000 partner agencies, such as food shelves and feeding programs that serve hungry people. This position requires that volunteers be able to stand for several hours and lift up to 10 pounds.

Thank you to a team of six volunteers from WBLUMC who packed food in Maplewood on Saturday, July 20. Additional opportunities to join a church team are scheduled for August 27, October 19 and December 12. Sign-up sheets will be located in the Narthex at church, or you can contact Lori McBride.



Photo above: WBLUMC volunteers Emma, Julie, Charlotte, Cindy and Lillian. Not pictured: David.

Until next newsletter, peace to all.

Lori McBride
Missions and Faith Formation
Minister

Questions? Don't hesitate to contact me:
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