



HANDS + HEARTS

Be the Change

A NEWSLETTER FROM MINISTRY FOR CHANGE



WHAT HAS JEREMIAH BEEN UP TO?

2023 was a big year for Jeremiah Abeche, the asylum seeker from Cameroon that we took into the church in May 2022. He continued helping out around the church with odds and ends when needed until he finally received his permit to work in July. He had multiple offers for jobs in the area, and he decided to take a job at Whole Foods on Ogden. His work is hard and very physical as he is unloading trucks of produce, usually working the night shifts. He was recognized as employee of the month recently and is enjoying getting to know his co-workers. He took an online English class for the first half of the year and did very well on the final exam.

He got his drivers permit in October and is in the process of learning to drive, with the hopes of getting his driver's license in the first part of 2024. One of the highlights of the year for Jeremiah was cooking a traditional African meal for over 100 PADS clients. With the help of MFC members and a big assist from James Lang, he shopped, cooked and served a delicious meal and the clients ate every bit of food he cooked.

HOW YOU CAN BE A CHANGE-MAKER! hinsdale.church/events



Sat, 12/23:
Provide meal



Serve a meal
Tues, 12/26 | 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Tues, 1/23 | 5:00-6:30 p.m.



IMPACT IN 2023

DuPage Pads

850 meals +
80 birthday gifts

The Night Ministry

980 sack suppers +
140 hygiene kits

The Boulevard

70 homeless kits +
40 resident meals

A Just Harvest

600 meals

Eleanor's Stockings

310 stuffed +
delivered

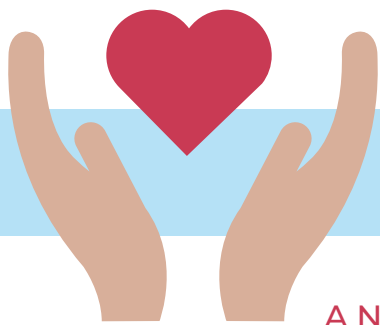
HCS Family Services

Van full of
donated food!

LIVE GENEROUSLY

Have a vision for a *different* way to make change? Our ministry accepts submissions from church members who want to **live generously!**

Send your ideas to:
traycebiancs@yahoo.com



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THE ELVES HAVE BEEN BUSY WITH ELEANOR'S CHRISTMAS STOCKING PROJECT

The holidays are in full swing as our outreach work with our agency partners is keeping the MFC elves very busy. On Dec 6th we had a wonderful time stuffing over 300 stockings which were distributed to the following four agencies and groups that support underserved children in the Chicago area:

- **Stepping Stones** - serving victims of human trafficking and their children - steppingstonesnetwork.org
- **Bridges** - serving low-income mothers and their children - jobcc.org/connect/on-mission
- **New Life** - serving immigrants - facebook.com/NewLifeCenters/
- **Otis P. Graves Grade School** in Summit - school in a community supported by Union Church - sd104.us/o/graves-es

Adult volunteers from the church and Stepping Stones, as well as kids from our Gather + Grow Groups, filled stockings with candy, hats, gloves, toothbrushes, toothpaste, crayons, pencils, and small toys. A big thank you to everyone who donated items or funds to fill the stockings and to the volunteers who assisted with the project. A special thank you to the church members who sewed the 310 hand-made stockings! You all have helped underprivileged children have a merrier Christmas this year.



If you would like to help next year, please contact Jane Grimm at jgrimm723@comcast.net.



A WARM WELCOME TO GREEN HALO SCHOLARS!

We are very excited to introduce our newest agency we have partnered with for 2024, Green Halo Scholars. For a full description of Green Halo visit their website at greenhaloscholars.org/.

The mission of GH is to support, mentor, and expand opportunities for motivated and committed first-generation and low-income students in the Western Suburbs of Chicago along their post-secondary education journey. We feel our congregation has many resources to assist the GH scholars on their journey, whether it be mentoring a student as they navigate college life for the first time, or sharing our own career experiences with students as they transition from college into the workplace. There are numerous ways we can connect and grow with the students throughout the coming year so look out for more information to come on how you can be a part of this new partnership.

Keep an eye out for our details about our upcoming outreach trip to Guatemala in June!!!