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Remote distribution sites bless MFB and agencies

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The Lord has blessed the effort. Eighteen of those are extremely remote (Harlan and Stanton KY, Dickson and Morristown, TN). In these cases, a ministry has a passion for that area. They provide all of the volunteer support and drive food to the location.

Remote distributions increase MFB’s impact. While there are equipment and fuel costs, remote distributions are a means of reaching more people in a cost-effective way. As the Lord continues to provide opportunities, MFB will continue to assess locations for possible remote distribution.
**Volunteering is a perfect retirement activity**

As a person who likes to be active in the service of the Lord, Dan Sager and Midwest Food Bank are a perfect fit. Dan is a volunteer at MFB’s satellite location in Fairfield, IL. Beginning at age 11 as a newspaper carrier, Dan has had a long employment career. Ten years ago, after 34 years of working for GTE (Verizon), Dan retired. His wife, Cindy, also retired from a 25-year banking career.

Before long, Dan began to feel a little lost. He found what he was looking for in volunteering at MFB. Dan manages the Fairfield warehouse, does inventory, schedules volunteers, and prepares pallets of product for agency pick-up. His willingness to volunteer has led to a practically full-time position.

Parents of two sons and a daughter, they enjoy time with children and grandchildren. Dan has served on church boards, and is the Vice President of the board for the local ambulance service. He enjoys going on church mission trips throughout the US and Latin America, and especially likes South America.

“God has blessed Cindy and me so much over our lifetime that I am glad to give back,” says Dan. “It is rewarding to help our partner agencies feed the hungry in our area.”

Volunteers like Dan and Cindy make the Midwest Food Bank possible. Contact the MFB nearest you to see what an impact you can make.

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**AGENCY SPOTLIGHT**

**Gathering Humanity blesses refugees**

There was a family from the Congo that had spent a decade living in a refugee camp. They arrived in Phoenix, AZ, with very little. Gathering Humanity set the family up with an apartment, food and other items for basic living. The mother of this family recently had a baby. Volunteers from Gathering Humanity donated baby food and products to bless the family. The child was named Favor, in recognition of the favor and blessings showered upon them.

Gathering Humanity is a non-profit charitable agency that primarily serves refugees and those seeking asylum in the US. It works hand-in-hand with all four federal refugee resettlement agencies in Phoenix to support refugees being resettled in the Phoenix area.

As a partner agency of Midwest Food Bank Arizona, Gathering Humanity receives food to give to the refugees they help. Since October 2018, they have provided over 22,000 backpacks filled with food to refugees.

“Gathering Humanity is 100% volunteer operated,” says cofounder and Executive Director Christina Anwood. She appreciates the help MFB Arizona offers. Midwest Food Bank is blessed to support caring partner agencies like Gathering Humanity.

At left, Gathering Humanity volunteers fill backpacks to give to refugees.

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**UPDATES FROM MFB LOCATIONS**

**ARIZONA**

MFB Arizona is thankful to have added Safeway and Trader Joe’s to our regular product donors. The fresh produce donated is a real blessing to our partner agencies. Our Tucson requests for potatoes have been strong support in the southern part of our state. A few pallets of food have been sent to Flagstaff, AZ, as we begin to establish a second remote distribution.

In May, we were pleased to have Kouzali Construction include Midwest Food Bank in their booth at the AMA tradeshow. The Kouzali booth allowed attendees to assemble a food bag for those in need. Attendees took their food bag with them to share with it someone it could bless.

**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, IL**

Spring and summer tend to mean Disaster Relief. MFB Bloomington-Normal is the staging ground for most disaster relief. We shipped three loads of food and cleanup supplies to flood-stricken areas in Nebraska, and a load of food boxes to Davenport, IA in May. Before the month was over, an additional call came for food boxes in Jefferson City, MO. Devastating tornado activity also brought the need for hygiene kits, drinks, and snacks for the Dayton, OH, area. As we begin the 2019 hurricane season, our location will respond with the help of our volunteers and donors.

**FOR UPDATES FROM MFB LOCATIONS BY STATE, CLICK HERE.**

**FLORIDA**

MFB Florida has been looking toward the future with go-getters. In addition to kowtering our debt, we plan to continue adding new partner agencies. Eight agencies were taken from our wait list and made active partners in the last month. A new mobile pantry was added in Cape Coral, with a goal of reducing the wait time at other locations.

**GEORGIA**

MFB Georgia plans to increase the amount of nutritious food to distribute. To do this, we plan to build a large capacity freezer and cooler, capable of storing 12 semi-loads of fresh and frozen food.

Additionally we will build a community gathering space that will be available for our volunteers and we will offer this space to businesses, civic and church groups, sports teams and families to use. To learn more about the project and how you can help, contact our Executive Director, Will Garner at wgarner@midwestfoodbank.org.

**INDIANA**

The Indiana Division had its first Indy 500 Donor appreciation event on May 15th. The event was well attended with nearly 70 supporters showing up to enjoy the day. Our guests were treated to a delicious catered lunch, Marco Andretti meet-and-greet, and a private tour of the Andretti pit area.

Volunteers are a vital part of our organization and during our annual Volunteer Banquet we took time to celebrate our volunteers for their faithful service with a special Hawaiian-themed luau. Our volunteers were recognized for their hours of service and nine received special name tags for giving 500 lifetime hours of service.

**MORMON, IL**

“Add some hamburger and cheese and that’s some kind of good.” That’s a recent taste testimonial about Tender Mercies from a food pantry served at the Mormon location. While the Tender Mercies meals packet can be served alone, MFB provides ideas and recipe cards to enhance this highly nutritious meal of rice, precooked pinto beans, fortified chicken seasoning, and soy protein. This shelf stable product allows food pantries to always have a healthy option available. Box appetit! To sponsor Tender Mercies meals contact us at 309-291-0000.

**PEORIA, IL**

We are grateful for granting dollars from Walmart Foundation, Community Foundation of Central IL, and Ameren Corporation to purchase a much needed refrigerated box truck. It will be used for our daily grocery donation pickups and other refrigerated donations and/or deliveries.

MFB Peoria has an immediate need for volunteer box truck drivers for the local grocery routes. No special license needed. For more information, please call/email Carrie at 309-691-5270. coulton@midwestfoodbank.org

**TEXAS**

Ron Donnini was hired as Administrative Director of MFB Texas. He began in April. Ron brings a wealth of experience to MFB as CEO or president of multiple companies. He will oversee daily operations including accounting functions, agency, volunteer, donor and staff development.

“I love serving with all of the folks at Midwest Food Bank,” says Ron. “I also enjoy interacting with the agencies we serve. I want them to know I pray for them daily.” Welcome aboard, Ron.

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**INTERNATIONAL LOCATION UPDATES:**

**East Africa**

After much effort, MFB East Africa has been able to get into South Sudan to help refugees there. In early May, 28 metric tonloads of Tender Mercies were distributed in Juba, South Sudan.

There has been civil war and strife there since 2013 and ethnic violence preceding that. This unrest has caused the departure of other relief agencies.

The food was distributed by Thic Nhialic (“Youth Mama”), a group pursuing evangelism and unity among believers. The connection to MFB came through Rebecca Garang, recently recognized as the Vice President of South Sudan.

**Haiti**

Tender Mercies is the mainstay of our feeding efforts in Haiti. There are no containers, including over half a million Tender Mercies meals, have arrived there.

Two storage depots for housing Tender Mercies meals have been constructed in Cape Haitien and Jacmel. Each has the capacity to store four to five sea containers of food.

Research is being conducted to determine the feasibility of sourcing and producing Tender Mercies in-country.

MFB Haiti is beginning a partnership with Matthew 28 Ministries. They operate feeding stations that feed children up to 5 years old.
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If you live near one of these locations and would like to volunteer to help, please contact us to learn more. midwestfoodbank.org

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