

# News from the Neighborhood

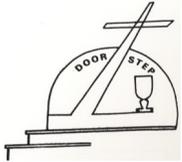
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## Doorstep ~ 55 Years & Counting

On June 8, 1966, a tornado roared through Topeka killing 17 people and injuring hundreds. The cost of property damage was \$100 million. One of the agencies helping people in need during the aftermath was a six-month old agency named "Doorstep", which at that time consisted of six area churches.



From humble beginnings, Doorstep grew and now has 52 interfaith member congregations working together to provide emergency aid to those in need - food, clothing, household goods, rent and utility assistance, dental and prescription assistance, as well as help with local transportation. Throughout its history, Doorstep has helped more than 407,000 households, which includes more than 970,000 individuals. From a tornado in 1966 to a pandemic in 2021, for the past 55 years, Doorstep has been there for our neighbors in need.

On June 27th, we had a 55th Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration! Doorstep has been providing for our neighbors in need now for over 55 years! We want to celebrate all that has been accomplished since starting in 1966 to where we are now! **During our year long celebration, we seek "to invite, involve, include, and inspire people to participate in Doorstep's mission".**



We thank those of you who have been faithful supporters over the years. We could not have accomplished anything without your support. We give thanks for the support we have received from religious organizations, civic organizations; support we have received from federal and local governmental agencies; as well as the support we have received from local businesses and corporate sponsors. We give thanks for members of the media, who tell the wider community about what we do to make Topeka a GREAT PLACE to live!



Doorstep has started a "55th Anniversary Fund" and seek to raise funds for its assistance programs, capital improvements, an endowment fund, and operating expenses. For example, Doorstep currently has a heating/cooling system that is more than 60 years old. We are seeking to replace that system, before it completely quits, with a more energy-efficient system that will help us to reduce our monthly utility bills. The savings in utility costs can be re-allocated to help those in need. **The minimum we need to raise is \$150,000. We are asking each of our supporters to donate a minimum of \$55 per person towards 55th Anniversary Fund. A couple would be \$110 or more. Please note "55th Anniversary" with your donation so it goes to the correct account.** Please give where you can, and help Doorstep!

Lisa Cain, Executive Director

### Donation Slip

I/We would like to donate to Doorstep: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Member Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please apply our donation towards:      **Anniversary Fund**      **General Fund**

## Save the Date!

### **Doorstep's 4th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Run**



**Sunday, October 3rd**  
**Lake Shawnee**  
**Shelter Houses 1 & 2**

The event will **kick off at 2:00pm**. We will have entertainment before the start, with snacks & drinks provided afterwards.

**Chris Fisher** with WIBW-TV 13, will join us again as our Celebrity Starter!

**Registration is \$30** for individuals or pledges (\$30 minimum).

One registered child age 10 & under can walk for FREE with a paid adult.  
(T-shirt extra)

T-shirt included with \$30 registration fee or on total pledges of \$100+.

**Register by September 14th to be guaranteed an event t-shirt.**

**Late & Event Day Registrations Accepted**

**Go to [www.DoorstepTopeka.org](http://www.DoorstepTopeka.org)** (under the About Us Tab) to register online or for registration/sponsor forms.

Our goal for the 4th Annual event is to raise \$10,000!



## 2020 Services

Doorstep provided the following services to families & individuals in need in our community:

Food Orders	1,349 orders	Utility Assistance	453 bills paid
Prescriptions	178 households	Dental	96 vouchers
Transportation Bus	24 households	Transportation Gas	169 vouchers
Transp. Auto Services	23 households	Rent Assistance	159 households
Christmas	257 households	Outreach	315 households
Clothing	1,971 households		

Nearly \$251,350 was spent on emergency services. (2019 was \$162,380)

We distributed 87,166 pounds of food and \$52,640 worth of clothing & household items to your neighbors in need.

## Christmas in ~~July~~...August!

This year is going by so fast...

Normally, this newsletter would have gone to our supporters in July. However, I am behind, and now it will be August! We still need to replace the items we did use last year during our restricted Christmas Project.

We are focusing on blankets, towel sets, hygiene items for the health kits, and toys. All of these items are available this time of year.

Please help where you can, and bring your donations to our office at 10th & Buchanan, Monday-Friday, from 8am - 3pm.

## You can donate online!

Visit our website:  
[www.DoorstepTopeka.org](http://www.DoorstepTopeka.org)

Go to the *Donate* Tab & use PayPal to make your donation!

Let us know if you attend one of our member congregations!

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Like & Follow Doorstep Inc. on Facebook!

## Ongoing Ways to Support Doorstep



With busy schedules, many of us shop online to save time, and get the things we need!

Set up an account with Amazon Smile, and choose Doorstep as the charity you want to support!

### Dillon's Community Rewards Program

There is an easy way to support Doorstep all year long! Dillon's Rewards Program. Please consider making Doorstep your charity of choice!

Doorstep will receive a percentage of each purchase made from those who select Doorstep for their rewards.

Doorstep's NPO Number is EK321.

## Operation Soup Line - 2021

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions we did not have this year's event.



We were fortunate, however, that our regular sponsors were willing to donate to our "non-event" so that we did not lose all of the income we typically make from this annual event.

### A BIG Thank You To:

Stormont Vail Health  
Security Benefit  
BlueCross BlueShield of Kansas  
Federal Home Loan Bank  
Kansas Gas Service  
CoreFirst Bank & Trust  
Capitol Federal Foundation

## Legacy & Planned Giving



*Doorstep has been here, helping our neighbors in need, since 1966. It is through donors like our member congregations, individuals, community groups, and businesses that we are able to continue providing these vital emergency services.*

*Our Mission is: "With the assistance of faith-based organizations, community members and groups, Doorstep, Inc. will provide short-term emergency aid to families and individuals in need; and provide information on services to promote long term self-sufficiency for our clients."*

*Doorstep was fortunate to be the remaining beneficiary of the Holford Hussey Trust in 2019. We used the funds from the trust to start our own Doorstep Endowment Fund at the Topeka Community Foundation. Your legacy gift to Doorstep can help us continue this vital work into the future. You can designate a specific amount or percentage of your estate to Doorstep. You can also designate Doorstep, Inc. as a beneficiary of an IRA or 401k retirement fund. However you may choose to give, and leave your legacy, please remember Doorstep as you work on your estate planning.*

# **DOORSTEP'S CHRISTMAS IN *AUGUST***

Each year we adopt 260 households for Christmas. There will be 800+ individuals in these households and we need your help in providing gifts & necessities.

Last year with the pandemic we did not have our 'normal' Christmas Store, and only gave out blankets and health kits with the food and gift cards. Therefore, we still have gifts in the basement ready for this year. For Christmas in August we are focusing on replenishing the blankets and health kit items we used, and toys which we rarely have enough of for the adopted children.

**Below are specific items we need this Christmas.**

## **Health Kit Items**

Towels (new) bath & hand, and washcloths, Combs, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste/brushes, Shampoo, Razors



## **Toys**

Games - All Ages  
Baby Dolls,  
Balls - Football, Soccer,  
Basketball  
Teen Girls Gifts -  
Make Up & Nail Kits  
Back Packs  
Color & Reading Books  
School Supplies  
Toys for Ages 2-12  
NO Barbies Please

## **Quilts & Blankets**

Full, Queen & King



***Please Bring Items To Doorstep In *August* For Families Who Will Be Adopted This Christmas.***

## Memorials

The past year and a half Doorstep has lost some wonderful supporters, volunteers, board members, coordinators, and a previous director.

Our thoughts and prayers have gone out to each of their families experiencing the loss.

We will always remember these wonderful people who shared their time to help their neighbors in need.

Mona Logan Magee	Jan Walker
Lew & Mary Mills	Nancy Sargent
Dick Shermoen	Deacon Oroke
Marilyn Berberick	Day Kaufmann
Lou Embrey	Bob Beaman
Evelyn Argabright	Barbara Wydman

## Beautifying Doorstep!

Doorstep has wonderful, giving volunteers! This past year and half would have been even more challenging without the crew who has been here with us week after week! And, more have come back since getting their vaccines, so more of our 'Doorstep family' is back together!

We have one volunteer who loves to garden, and believe it or not... weed! She has taken our flower gardens on the West side, and the berm on the Northeast corner of our building under her wing. She is always finding new plants to add to them, and they really look nice!



She would not want to be recognized! She has even found a fellow volunteer to be her helper!

We just want to say a big THANK YOU to RL & GK for all of your hard work, and for keeping us looking colorful, and beautiful on the outside!

Please remember our 55th Anniversary Fund, and give where you can to help us reach our goal during our Anniversary year. Doorstep has owned our building for 25 years now, and updating the HVAC is our biggest expense.

## **Topeka Community Foundation Greater Topeka Fund**

In March of this year, the Topeka Community Foundation approved Doorstep's application of \$5,000 from the Greater Topeka Fund. The money was requested to be able to further assist families and individuals who were working, and struggling during this difficult time with car repairs, car insurance and car payments.

We currently have funds we receive annually to assist single parent households with these items and more, but nothing for individuals or two parent households.

With the \$5,000 we were able to provide 13 services/payments for 11 households.

Thank you to TCF for helping us to further assist our neighbors in need!

## Thank You!

With the pandemic beginning in March, 2020, Doorstep has been blessed with additional funding from a variety of sources.

We have received CARES funds from the City of Topeka, Shawnee County and the Emergency Food & Shelter Program.

We also received two unexpected donations at the end of 2020 that we have used for additional rent and utility assistance in 2021.

Thank you to the Schwartz Foundation & Walter & Lucy Roush Foundation.

## **Doorstep & Impact Avenues**

Doorstep offers many services to help our neighbors in need every day. But, there are two programs in the community that we have really been a part of, doing what we can to help.

**Impact Avenues** is a collaboration with over **35 partner agencies** that work together to address the needs of homeless students and their families in Shawnee County. We utilize collective impact, a single point of service, and intensive case management to **help families** eliminate barriers and **find sustainable housing**. It is estimated that there are around **500 homeless students** in Topeka and Shawnee County Schools.



The first program, **Impact Avenues**, is a program through the City of Topeka which helps homeless families with at least one school aged child. The families attend a series of classes, and once completed are placed into a home.

Doorstep has helped at times with rent assistance, gas vouchers, utility assistance, car repairs, food, clothing and more. The piece most people don't know about is that Doorstep also helps provide household & kitchen items, bedding, towels, lamps, and other items when the family is placed into their new home.



**Items we need to best help these families are:** (Gently used, not new)  
Queen & Twin comforters and blankets (Impact helps with beds in these sizes)  
Pillows (new preferred), Curtains, Silverware, Lamps  
Small Household Appliances – toasters, mixers, coffee pots, etc.

## **Doorstep & MAP's Shower Trailer**

The other program is still a new adventure! It is **MAP (Mobile Access Partnership)**, this is truly a community effort. In a partnership between Valeo and Topeka Rescue Mission there will eventually be three trailers in one location to best serve those who need these services. A food trailer from TRM, a health trailer from Stormont Vail Health, and currently, the Shower, Laundry & Restroom Trailer which is up and running. The trailer(s) will move to different locations within the city each week to allow people who are homeless, or in need of a shower, laundry services or bathrooms the opportunity to use the trailer.

Doorstep has been providing clothing for men and women, in a variety of sizes, to the program so people accessing the showers can have a new set of socks and underwear (from TRM), and a fresh set of clothing (from Doorstep) to put on afterwards. We continue to stock our clothing room for clients who need that service, and provide clothing to the MAP shower trailer as well. All of these items come from donations brought to Doorstep by our member congregation members, and the community at-large. Some of our member congregations are host locations for the trailers. Our volunteers and the staff feel very proud to be a part of this wonderful new service that has been created. And, currently, we are the only agency providing the clothing.

**Items we currently need to help MAP are:** (Gently used)  
Men's Jeans: Waist Sizes 30, 32, 40 and 42  
Men's & Women's Shorts – All Sizes  
Women's Sun/Summer Slip-on Dresses – Sizes Large, XL and 2X

**Please bring donations for either program to 1119 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue (10<sup>th</sup> & Buchanan), South Door, Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 9am – 2pm.**