

# News from the Neighborhood

Doorstep, Inc. 1119 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, Ks 66604 (785) 357-5341

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## Match Challenge Met, But Our Goal... Not Yet!

We feel so very blessed that in roughly two weeks, with several larger donations, our Match Challenge of \$20,000 for raising \$40,000 has been met! What an honor that businesses, individuals, and organizations have stepped up so quickly to help us meet that Challenge!

Once our 55th anniversary year is complete, we will have a wrap-up event to thank everyone for helping Doorstep with this big project, and the budget required to complete it!

While it is exciting that the Match Challenge has been met... the reality is that we have not met our goal yet! We still need donors to help get us to the finish line, by May 31st! We still need another \$25,000 to meet the latest updated bid to have our 60+ year old HVAC system updated. And, we hope those prices do not increase again before we lock them in for installation.

Please consider donating to this HVAC upgrade project. As we have said before, any funds we Raise over what is needed for the purchase and installation of the new HVAC system, will be used towards additional rent and utility assistance for our neighbors in need.

Rest assured, your donation will be used for the benefit of Doorstep, and the people we serve. Please use the slip below and the envelope provided to send your donation in before May 31st.

Once the new system is installed, we can expect to see a 10% increase in efficiency on the electric, and a 20% increase in efficiency on the gas. With prices going up, this is a great savings, and we will have updated equipment which will be under warranty!

From the staff, Executive Board, who have been very involved in this process, board members and coordinators, I would like to convey how grateful we are for the continued support of our supporters, and the Topeka community in general. The work we do can be challenging, but the neighbors who come to our doorstep seeking help are also leading challenging lives. Our ability to help them in a time of crisis with food, rent, prescriptions, clothing or household items, utilities, gas vouchers, dental vouchers and bus tickets comes from the support of our community. Even if we are only able to provide them information on community services and programs which may help them be more self-sufficient; it is that time spent listening to them, letting them know someone cares about what they are going through, and wants to help that can make the difference.

*55 years of Helping our Neighbors in Need... and going strong!*

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: **HVAC - Anniversary Fund** **General Fund**

## **2021 Services**

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

Food Orders	870 orders	Utility Assistance	357 bills paid
Prescriptions	147 households	Dental	71 vouchers
Transportation Bus	41 households	Transportation Gas	167 vouchers
Transp. Auto Services	21 households	Rent Assistance	243 households
Christmas	259 households	Outreach	545 households
Clothing	1,767 households		

A total of \$342,172 was spent on emergency services. (2020 was \$251,350)  
We distributed 62,002 pounds of food and \$68,975 worth of clothing & household items to our neighbors in need.

## **SAVE THE DATE ~ 5th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Run**

On **Sunday, October 2, 2022 at 2pm** we will start our 5th Annual Walk/5K Fun Run!!!



Mark your Calendars & Save the Date...

We hope to be back, in person, at Lake Shawnee, walking & running as a big group of Doorstep supporters this year!

Keep an eye out for more information, and registration forms later this summer!

## **Legacy Giving Page ~ Now on our Website!**

*Doorstep's Resource Committee really worked hard on some of our projects in 2021! They were instrumental in the ideas and creating the 55th Anniversary Fund, and Kick-Off for our 55th Anniversary Year Celebration!*

*They also created our new Endowment Fund Brochure highlighting Doorstep's Mission & Programs. As well as, the various Legacy & Planned Giving Options available.*

*This brochure and an Estate Planning Guide are on our website for your convenience.*

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

## **Volunteer Opportunities Available**

Doorstep's Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from our member congregations and at-large members.

Currently, we have member congregations who do not have a representative on the board.

We also need two committee chair positions filled since they have been vacated. The Administrative and Marketing Committees.

If you are interested in serving on the Doorstep Board of Directors as a Board Member and/or Committee Chair, please call Lisa at 357-5341 (Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm).

Meeting times for committees are flexible. If you have a passion for helping your 'neighbors in need', this might be for you!

## **Doorstep & MAP's Shower Trailer ~ 2021**

Last summer we shared with you about **MAP (Mobile Access Partnership)**, and how Doorstep was helping out with this community effort. To recap: In a partnership between Valeo and Topeka Rescue Mission there are three trailers that will move around the city to different locations starting again this Spring. A food trailer from TRM, a health trailer from Stormont Vail Health, and the Shower, Laundry & Restroom 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.

In 2021, Doorstep provided a total of 2,165 articles of clothing for men and women to the shower trailer portion of MAP! And, we kept our clothing room stocked for clients coming to us as well! Thank you to the community for bringing us your clothing and household donations!

## **Ongoing Ways to Support Doorstep**



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

**Dillon's Community Rewards Program** ~ Doorstep's NPO Number is EK321

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Please remember Doorstep when you have Choice Dollars available, and designate our agency to receive those funds!

## **Christmas Adoption Distribution ~ 2021**



Another Christmas season has come and gone... We did not get to have our regular Christmas Store, where the adopted families shop for themselves, again in 2021. We decided to provide our regular Christmas food order, a health kit by household size, school supplies, blankets & quilts, a family fun pack, and \$20 VISA gift cards per person. In total, we assisted 259 households involving 822 individuals.

As always, we had great groups of volunteers who put food orders together, filled the health kit, school supplies and blankets for each household, and cart runners who went out to the vehicles with a staff person to deliver the items, and gift cards.



We planned everything out, and it was a pretty well organized 3 1/2 days! While putting the family fun packs together in the basement, Cathy Butler, Christmas Store Chair, started pulling toys for kids, gifts for men and women, etc. as we had leftover donations from previous years. All in all, we hope the households we adopted through the Christmas Bureau felt blessed to receive the items we provided in 2021... Thanks to all of you, our donors!



### **Additional Funding for our Neighbors**

The COVID pandemic brought new and/or additional government grant funds to Doorstep, and other agencies, as we saw more people in need.

We have been very fortunate to have also received donations from some non-government grants to help provide additional rent and utility funds. Some to provide non-COVID related assistance, because just as before the pandemic, some of our neighbors in need have just had 'life happen' and they need a hand up to get through it.

We would like to recognize and thank the following donors for their support the past two years:

Schwartz Foundation  
Walter & Lucy Roush Foundation  
Callernan Family Foundation  
Braymen Family Fund

Additional people in need are receiving assistance because of your generosity.

### ***In Memory & Honor...***

*The following people had memorials or 'in honor of' donations given to Doorstep in their name:*

#### **Memorials**

Patricia Blue  
Odie Mike Boyer  
Marcia Hamilton  
Norma Hill  
Dennis Johnson  
Rudy Kramer  
Joan Morrissey  
Connie Scott  
Swede Swenson

#### **Honor Of**

Friends of Steven & Fran Crouch  
Jose & Lesley Fernandez  
Jackie Fink  
Jim Frownfeltner  
Betty Kramer  
John Moore  
David Ozaki  
Ken & Kay Shriner  
Owen Smith  
Beverly Sparks  
Kevin Tucker

### **A Successful SouperBowl Sunday!**

Thanks to our member congregations, and their members, for donating 5,342 pounds of soup and crackers on Super Bowl weekend! This will go a long way in feeding our neighbors in need!!

### **Follow Doorstep on Facebook!**

Like and Follow us on Facebook, to keep up-to-date with our current needs, volunteer opportunities, and news!

Then invite your friends to Follow us too, help us grow and get the word out to more people at once!

### **Doorstep's 3rd Summer Cash Bash**

**Will be back this July! We have secured matching funds for 2022's Cash Bash to help us through the summer months when donations are typically down.**



**This year we will have it together with our Christmas in July Collection. After this past Christmas, we have a good idea what people are requesting as gifts. And, we'll be able to give a more specific list of needs for the summer collection.**