

News from the Neighborhood

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

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November/December, 2023

So Many Neighbors in Need!

This year has brought a need for food assistance that we have not seen for 10+ years. With the CARES funds ending, food benefits ended or decreased, and the current inflation people are struggling now more than ever. If they can manage to pay for their basic needs, (rent, utilities, gasoline, prescriptions, etc.) there is not money left over to buy food to feed their families, or to purchase hygiene products. Doorstep, along with other local agencies, have stepped up to fill this need. During the pandemic we changed the time between food orders from 60 days to 30 days, and this was manageable for Doorstep to have the supply to fill orders. But, 2023, brought us unexpected challenges like having enough food to fill orders, being able to get more food in fast enough to keep up with the need. In 2022, Doorstep spent \$7,900 on food purchases, and by the end of this year Doorstep will likely reach \$50,000 in food purchases. The need is up, costs are up, and we are paying that price. In the past month we've had three businesses who held food drives to help stock our pantry shelves! **Hawks Realty** held their annual Hawktoberfest bringing in 489 pounds of food and \$630 towards food purchases; **Kansas Secure Title** brought in 570 pounds of food; and **KAMMCO** donated 71 pounds and are collecting Christmas items. Several businesses and groups have inquired about donation needs for the families we will adopt from the Christmas Bureau this year to help make the holiday brighter for their neighbors!



As always, we have wonderful supporters who donate food and money to help fill this gap. Our member congregations have tried to do their part while everyone is feeling that inflation pinch in their expenses. Doorstep was fortunate to receive a portion of the City of Topeka ARPA Grant funds for 2023 and 2024. This has allowed us to help more families with rent and utility assistance; along with services we cannot always offer due to lack of funds such as assistance with a car payment, car insurance, car repairs, daycare payment for our neighbors who are working and have experienced a crisis in their lives. The intent with these funds is to truly offer a 'hand up' to some of our neighbors and get them out of their crisis and on to self-sufficiency.



The staff and a group of volunteers have been planning for this Christmas and providing for the 260 households with 800+ individuals we are adopting through the Christmas Bureau. We need your help to push us to the finish line... on the next page you will find a list of items we still need by December 8th, and we need monetary donations to cover the cost of their Christmas food order and the gift cards we will provide for each person, a total of \$30,000. Please help Doorstep show these families who are struggling, that their neighbors, their community cares about them this holiday season by donating gift items or monetarily.

From the Doorstep staff, We wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving, Christmas and Holiday Season! ~ Lisa, Jason, Tracy, Barb & Jim



Doorstep Donation Slip

I/We would like to donate to Doorstep: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ Member Congregation: _____

Email: _____ **Send year-end donations before December 31st!**

Doorstep Christmas Project ~ 2023

Doorstep is adopting 260 households with 800+ individuals from the Christmas Bureau again this year. We have been collecting items for a few months, and now to help spread out the requests.

We still need the following NEW items: (Need items by 12/8/23)

- 🎄 Blankets - Queen & King Only (NO THROWS) 🎄 Tools Sets
- 🎄 King Size Sheet Sets 🎄 Cologne/Perfume Sets
- 🎄 Silverware Sets ~ Dish Sets ~ Kitchen Utensil Sets
- 🎄 Nerf Guns ~ Lego Sets ~ Learning Toys like Vtech
- 🎄 Family Board Games & Puzzles 🎄 Men's Body Care Sets (Axe)
- 🎄 Any type of KC Chiefs décor, hoodies, etc. 🎄 Sauce Pans & Skillets
- 🎄 Hoodies - Sizes Med-4X (Men/Women/Teen) A variety of colors, designs, plain
- 🎄 Money for Gift Cards & Food



Each household we adopt will receive:

Blanket ~ Health Kit ~ School Supplies (if appropriate) ~
One household item ~ Christmas food order ~ gifts and toys for
household members ~ \$20 gift cards per person in the household.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Tuesday, December 12th ~ Opportunities from 8:30am – 12:30pm and 12:30pm – 5:30pm.
(Lunch provided)

Wednesday, December 13th ~ Opportunities available from: 8:30am – 1:30pm,
1:30pm – 4:30pm and 4:30pm - 7:30pm. (Lunch & Dinner provided)

Thursday, December 14th ~ Opportunities available from 8:30am – 12:30pm and
12:30pm – 5:30pm. (Lunch provided)

Call Doorstep (785) 357-5341 to sign up & help during distribution week!

Doorstep is located at 1119 SW 10th, 66604 (10th & Buchanan).

Donation hours are Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm.

You can mail your monetary donations, or use our website:

DoorstepTopeka.org under the Donate Tab.

Please Note: Donation Date Changes

Tuesday, November 21st is the last day Doorstep will accept used clothing / household donations until Monday, December 18th.

We will take food and Christmas items until Friday, December 8th, 8am - 3pm. Christmas adoption distribution is **December 11th - 15th**. There will be **No donations or services during this week.**

Follow Doorstep on Facebook!

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

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

In Memory & Honor...

Donations were made in memory or honor of the following people since July:

Memorials

Pat Blue Mildred Huttenmaier
Norma Hill Dennis Johnson
Rev. Dr. Robert Langston Joan Morrissey

Honor Of

Pam Oroke

Donating to Doorstep in Memory or Honor of someone is a special way to continue helping your neighbors in need throughout the year.

New Congregations Join Doorstep

Jim McCollough, Doorstep's Congregation Coordinator has been working with our faith communities about joining Doorstep to work together with current member congregations to help their neighbors in need! We would like to welcome our 53rd and 54th member congregations:

- ♦ **Cornerstone Community Church**
- ♦ **New Hope & Love Community Church**

Doorstep Holiday Hours

November 22nd	Close at Noon
November 23rd - 24th	Thanksgiving
December 22nd	Close at Noon
December 23rd - 26th	Closed

December 27th - 29th 8:00am - 3:00pm

Donations Only - No Client Services

January 1st	Closed
January 2nd (donations only)	8am - 3pm
January 3rd	Resume Services

Normal Hours: Monday - Friday

Office Hours	8:00am - 3:00pm
Client Service Hours	9:00am - 1:30pm
Mondays 9:30am - 1:30pm	

6th Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run Update

Another beautiful, but warm day for this year's event this year! We had a good turnout, even with the heat keeping a few people at home. Doorstep made \$8,300 from this year's event, thanks to our sponsors, supporters, and participants! The 7th Annual event may return to Saturday morning in 2024.



Ongoing Ways to Support Doorstep

Dillon's Community Rewards Program ~

NPO# EK321 In first three quarters of 2023, with an average of 67 households choosing Doorstep, we have received \$735 from Dillon's / Kroger. Add Doorstep to your Rewards card and help us earn more!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Please remember Doorstep when you have Choice Dollars available through Thrivent, and designate our agency to receive those funds! So far in 2023, Doorstep received \$718 in Choice Dollars from our supporters! Spread the word and help us earn additional Dollars!



DOORSTEP
Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Doorstep, Inc.
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Topeka, Ks 66604-1182
www.DoorstepTopeka.org

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Return Service Requested

News From The Neighborhood

Christmas Adoption Project Information Inside!

Please see the flyer inside to see how you can help brighten the holidays for our neighbors in need who are struggling and cannot afford to provide Christmas for their families.

We have some volunteer opportunities available.

**Distribution days are:
December 12th - 14th**

Please bring gift items by Dec. 8th.

**Send your tax deductible donations by
December 29th!**

We will stop taking used clothing & household donations from
Nov 22nd - Dec 17th, to set up for Christmas distribution, so plan ahead!

Food & Hygiene Items Needed!

Doorstep has been in constant need of food and hygiene items this year to meet the needs of our neighbors who are struggling.

Food Items we Need:

Egg Noodles	Chicken Noodle Soup
Spaghetti / Pasta	Spaghetti Sauce
Macaroni & Cheese	Vegetable Soup
Saltine Crackers	Peanut Butter
Evaporated Milk	Powdered Milk
Pancake Mix	Canned Fruit (variety)
Boxed Potatoes	Cream Mushroom Soup
Oatmeal	Spaghetti O's / Ravioli
Pork N Beans	Tuna Peas
Canned Beans	Corn & Green Beans

Full-Sized Hygiene Products:

Shampoo + Conditioner (2 in 1), Bar Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Razors, Body Wash, Deodorant, Brushes & Combs

**Bring donations 1119 SW 10th Ave,
Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm, South door.
No donations Dec. 11th - 15th.**