

# Social Ministry

Greetings to you all! September--can you believe it is September already?!? This has been a different year from last year but we still are experiencing a different normal. And it is that way for everyone. One thing that seems to remain “normal” or “the same” though is the need for “care packages” for so many people that are in need. And because of the last year there are even more people in need. This situation makes our monthly collections at UL even that more important.

During June and July we collected healthy snacks for the Gravette schools. Though the collection was considerably less this year I still have a good trunk full to be delivered to Tabby the counselor. They are so grateful for these snacks as it helps to ensure that teachers and counselors can see that no child goes hungry during the day. It is saddening that so many children come to school hungry. You have helped make sure that their tummies feel good!

The Oaks Indian Mission item of need in July was backpacks. Sixteen backpacks were received. On the 8th of August we had a Blessing of the Backpacks at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church. Eben Ezer is the congregation that serves children and staff from the Mission. The backpacks were then delivered to the Mission in time for school to begin. Every child likes to start a new school year with a new backpack!

September brings back to school time so the current collection is school supplies of all kinds and Kleenex. These items will be divided between Gravette and Decatur schools and the Oaks Indian Mission. I also have a Thrivent Action Grant card that will provide even more supplies.



These items are so appreciated as schools can never have too many supplies.

We for sure don't want to forget ULC's first Sunday meal gift to the Salvation Army. When our daughter from Chicago area was here in July with her junior high youth they spent one evening serving a meal at Salvation Army. When asked how they happened to choose the Salvation Army to work at Judy said that her parents went to ULC. The response was “Oh we love ULC!! They are just wonderful!!” That's a response that will warm your heart!

To end on a fun, happy note - I volunteered to head up the details for United for Lutheran Night at the Naturals in July, I invited Eben Ezer congregation, the Oaks Indian Mission and our daughter's youth to join with us. I ended up ordering 75 tickets!! Since that was the largest number of tickets in one order, I got to choose someone to throw out a first pitch. I chose seven year old Tanner Hoang who loves to go to Naturals games!!

In closing I want to thank all who so faithfully continue to support the on going Social Ministry needs. Know that as you have blessed others with your gifts you will be blessed as well.

Wishing you all God's love and peace! Joyce