

HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITY - Support Local Homelessness Assistance

Homelessness has continued to rise since the Covid pandemic, including in Ozaukee County. As we prepare to retell the story of Mary and Joseph searching for a warm, safe place to stay with the newborn Jesus, we ask you to consider supporting Ozaukee County service organizations that address homelessness here and now.

We usually think of homeless people living outside, but in Ozaukee County the homeless person is more likely to be living in their car or moving from one friend's couch to the next. The homeless person may be fleeing domestic violence, dealing with loss of a second household income, or experiencing mental health challenges. However, in the past two years, homelessness has risen amid the rising costs of housing and now, the end of federal pandemic relief funds.

Approximately 6% of Ozaukee County residents live in poverty and about another 20% have incomes described by the acronym ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, and Employed; these incomes are above the federal poverty line but insufficient to meet monthly living costs). People fitting the ALICE definition are constantly at risk of homelessness.

Our church continues to lift up the work of two Ozaukee service organizations offering shelter for persons who are homeless. Here are ways to support this work:

Family Promise provides resources and services to individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Ozaukee County. Since 2015, Family Promise has provided shelter and a comprehensive case management program for single persons and families who are homeless. First it was overnights in local participating churches, now at the Portlight Shelter in Port Washington which opened early last year.

- [Click here](#) to make a donation.
- Join other church members in providing meals for shelter guests during the week of December 16. Contact the church office for more information.
- Checkout the [Portlight Shelter Wish List](#) on Amazon. Items will be shipped directly to FP.

Advocates of Ozaukee County provides advocacy, safety, and awareness for persons experiencing domestic and sexual violence.

- [Click here](#) to make a donation.
- Checkout the [Advocates Shelter Wish List](#). Current needs include new full-size sheets, shampoo and conditioner, gift cards, Shared Ride taxi vouchers...and more. Items can be placed in the two large collection baskets at church (one near the Outreach Nook, and one outside of Fellowship Hall).

Thank you for helping to care for one another this Christmas season.

Submitted by Louise Mollinger, Jeanne Mantsch, and Renee Proctor
Members of our Community Outreach Team

