

## **Blessings Box report**

**January 2025**

The Blessings Box, created as part of a Venturing Summit Award, was completed, installed and stocked with the first round of food, personal care items and school supplies the second week of August, 2022.

Costs for the Blessings Box were \$1920.00 for the year for food, clothing, school supplies, personal care items, backpacks, small games, small toys and books.

Supplies including food items, personal care items, feminine hygiene supplies for donations for the Blessings Box have been purchased from Aldi. Additional Winter warmth items have been purchased at Savers.

There have been regular donations placed into the plastic bin in Park Hall, including several generous donations of many pairs of socks, gloves and hats, as well as food items and personal care items.

In general, the Blessings Box is resupplied over the weekend with occasional mid-week resupplies needed as well. There continues to be a steady use of protein items (tuna, chicken, canned meats, peanut butter), beans and soups. There has also been regular use of all personal care items including shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes, dental floss and hand sanitizer. Feminine hygiene items are also taken on a regular basis. Extra items of most of those stored in the unfinished part of the basement, for easy restocking.

We would like to purchase a cart, which we can keep downstairs, to facilitate with moving dozens of canned goods each week, from the basement, up the ramp, and out the back door of the church (by the circle drive). This would allow our volunteers to safely transport the heavy canned goods on a cart, rather than up and down the stairs to and from the front of the church and into the unfinished portion of the basement.

This year, we expanded the group of people who are assisting with re-stocking the Blessings Box and are placing stickers with St. Martin's Logo, phone number and address.

In 2024, the LEF Grant generously offered to fund the Blessings Box for 2024, for \$963. We were also awarded a quarterly \$250 grant from the DioMo Task Force for Hunger. Additionally, we had several hundred dollars left from last year, which we were grateful to be able to "roll over" into this year's expenses.

We did feel the need to begin limiting the number of items we were placing in the Blessings Box in late summer, as the box was nearly emptied out after only 1 or 2 days. We were concerned we would run out of funding if we began filling the box 2-3 times per week. Because of the uptick in usage, we have increased the request made from DioMO's Task Force on Hunger as well as the amount we have asked from the Outreach Committee.

We look forward to being able to continue this important Outreach Ministry in our Community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Montgomery