

Give the gift of a mother’s voice! Help Women’s Storybook

Project connect incarcerated mothers & their children

Be an elf and help raise funds for the Women’s Storybook Project of Texas this Christmas. Many times, the gift of a book and a recording of their mother’s voice reading it is the only contact a child has with their incarcerated mom. This positive connection is so important for the child’s mental health and wellbeing. At the same time, it promotes a love of reading. Volunteer with your family members to promote WSP during the Storybook Project Book Drive at the Sunset Valley Barnes & Noble during weekends in November and December. Angel: Sherri Bowen - Parenting Tweens & Teens Class

- I want to:
- ☐ Work a 2 hour shift at the Book Drive
 - ☐ Donate \$_____ to cover the cost of book & recording delivery. (\$25/child)

Warm clothes, cookies and cards delivered by warmer hearts through Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Donate new or gently used blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, socks or other warm clothing that will be shared with our homeless neighbors, along with Christmas messages of hope. Collection bins will be in the gym entryway. If you prefer, donate \$ toward buying these items in bulk quantities. People of all ages are invited to make cards and bag cookies to go with items. Angel: Katie Ruback - Family Foundations

- I want to:
- ☐ Donate blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, warm clothing
 - ☐ Donate \$_____ for items
 - ☐ Make cards to be distributed with items (time TBD)
 - ☐ Donate homemade cookies
 - ☐ Prepare and deliver meals, along with these items, on Monday, Dec. 23, 4pm.

Re-build dreams, drywall and wheelchair ramps with Hurricane Harvey Recovery Team

Help put lives back together through home repairs in and around Victoria, Texas as part of the continuing WUMC recovery effort for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Donations will purchase building supplies. There is a big demand now for wheelchair ramps – we’d like to raise \$1,000 to cover the cost of 2 ramps. Consider making the short trip with the team to Victoria, and join us in making a home livable again for a family in need of shelter and grace. Jim Balthazar - Journeys Class

- I want to:
- ☐ Donate \$_____ for building supplies
 - ☐ Join the team in Victoria to repair houses. All skill levels welcome. Tentative trip dates in early December and between Christmas/New Year’s

Make a joyful noise - Go Caroling with the Choir!

What a great way to share your Christmas spirit! Sing and jingle bells with WUMC choir members as they carol at various locations around town. Caroling date & destinations will be shared in late November. Angel: Nina Revering - Music Ministries

- I want to:
- ☐ Go caroling in December

Provide Christmas connections for incarcerated women in Lockhart State Prison

Kairos Prison Ministry serves the women in the Lockhart state prison. Most of the 1000 inmates do not have money for Christmas cards or postage to send a message to their loved ones and friends. Donate cards and/or postage through November 26th to give families a chance to connect this Christmas. Look for collection baskets in the Worship Center lobby. Angel: Ann Finch - Kairos Prison Ministry

- I want to:
- ☐ Donate Cards
 - ☐ Donate \$___ for postage

Raise a Cup of Joe for those serving in our armed forces

Holy Joe’s Cafe distributes coffee to US Military Chaplains in 47 countries around the world. Coffee creates an inviting space for soldiers to come and seek help when they need it. Think of the relationships, morale boost, and comfort your donation will facilitate for our troops during this holiday season. Kim Weidmann - Service Committee

- I want to:
- ☐ Donate \$_____ (\$35 buys 5 lbs of coffee)



westlake-umc.org/CIO



Christmas in October

Getting ahead of the holiday rush with meaningful gifts and projects.

Share your spiritual gifts this Christmas!

Use this guide to identify projects/gifts that work for you and your family. The project Angel will contact you with more details as necessary. To pay by check, write check to WUMC with CIO-(project name) in the memo line. Sign-up and payment is also available online at westlake-umc.org/CIO.

NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

Empower students in Zimbabwe through “It Starts With Soccer
The focus of “It Starts With Soccer”, the non-profit organization founded by Doug Brown (son of WUMCers Becky and Bill Games) is building literacy skills in primary schools, supporting vocational skills in secondary schools, and helping supply the new clinic in Batoka, Zimbabwe. The goals of ISWS are developed each year in collaboration with rural school teachers, parent led education committees, and community nurses. Join in supporting these engaged students, many of whom walk miles each day to participate in educational opportunities.

Angel: Becky Games - Preston Wyatt Class

- I want to:
- ☐ Donate \$___ for soccer balls (\$10/ball)
- ☐ Donate \$___ for primary school text books (\$25/student)
- ☐ Donate \$___ for manual pedal sewing machines (\$100)
- ☐ Donate \$___ for new baby supplies and vitamins for Batoka clinic (\$30/kit)

Be the best Santa ever! Adopt-a-Family from Any Baby Can
Many families served by Any Baby Can struggle to meet basic needs. Add the stress of chronic health issues, and the holidays can often be overwhelming. . .without you. Provide the gift of hope to grateful hearts by adding individuals served by ABC, and their family members, to your Christmas list. Select, purchase and wrap new gifts from a suggestion list for various family members. Families generally range from 2 to 10 members. Sign up for the number you’d like to sponsor and you will receive wish lists and further instructions. Got a big sleigh? Help with the gift delivery to ABC!

Angel: Susan Nichols & Shevawn Eisman - Fellowship Class & Journeys Class

- I want to:
- ☐ Be Santa for ___ (how many ?) family members
- ☐ Help transport collected gifts to Any Baby Can

Share a Thanksgiving Blessing Bag with a new refugee family
Include a family served by Refugee Services of Texas (RST) as part of your Thanksgiving tradition. Shop for items from a specific list, filling a festive, reusable grocery bag with food and a note of support and welcome. You will receive family details for your Thanksgiving Blessing and a shopping list via email. Thanksgiving Blessing Bags will be collected at WUMC and delivered together to RST office on November 21st or 22nd.

Angel: Kim Weidmann - Service Committee

- I want to:
- ☐ Adopt a family and shop for their Thanksgiving Meal
- ☐ Deliver the Bags to RST (Thursday 11/21 or Friday 11/22)

Exercise your Christmas Spirit with “GotNets?”
GotNets?, a non-profit organization founded by WUMC youth, Grayson and Bryce Walker, is dedicated to improving outdoor recreational facilities in underserved areas. Guided by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, GotNets? volunteers revive neighborhood basketball facilities by replacing nets and handing out basketballs to people using the court. Exercise your Christmas Spirit by participating in a service day or donating \$ to purchase nets and balls.

Angel: Diane Kofahl - Youth Ministries

- I want to:
- ☐ Volunteer to put up nets Saturday 11/2 (time TBD)
- ☐ Volunteer to drive a team to hoop locations on 11/2
- ☐ Donate \$ ____ for nets and balls

Provide counseling for Youth in Recovery at University High School
University High School is the only sober high school in Central Texas, providing teens in recovery from substance use disorder a safe and recovery-supportive environment in which to fulfill their academic potential. Many of the students are working hard to resolve mental health issues as they fight to maintain sobriety. Help support critical counseling services for these brave students and their families!

Angel: Pete & Danni Morford - Fellowship Class

- I want to:
- ☐ Sponsor a counseling session for ____ student(s) (\$50/session)

BINGO! Host a Holiday Celebration at Community First Village
On Thursday, December 19th, join this joint project with Temple Beth Shalom. They will provide dinner for 200. WUMC volunteers are needed to provide fellowship, conduct the Bingo games, and donate prizes for this most special event.

Angel: Bob Batlan - Perspectives Class

- I want to:
- ☐ Volunteer on Dec. 19th at Community First Village
- ☐ Donate \$50 HEB Gift Cards
- ☐ Donate \$_____ for a large gift (examples: a new TV or new Bike)

Join the Lunch Bunch supporting a Habitat for Humanity build
Gerard Van DeWerken and crew are building another Habitat home in partnership with a deserving family. Get in the holiday mood by providing/serving lunch for hungry volunteers at the building site on Saturday Nov. 9th or Saturday Nov. 16th. This is a great way to involve the whole family in this important ministry. Megan will contact you with specific details.

Angel: Megan Getman - Children’s Ministries

- I want to:
- ☐ Help make lunch on 11/9
- ☐ Serve lunch at the site on 11/9
- ☐ Help make lunch on 11/16
- ☐ Serve lunch at the site on 11/16

Let your Christmas love bloom!
Deliver flowers to homebound members
Flowers are one way we send love and encouragement to our “unwilling absent” WUMC members. In a particularly meaningful holiday activity, volunteer to deliver poinsettias from the church to our home bound members the week after Christmas. There are also ways you can help spread the love and support of the Flower Ministry throughout the year.

Angel: Susan Nichols - Flower Ministry

- I want to:
- ☐ Volunteer to deliver Poinsettias to 2-4 homebound members, Dec. 26-31
- ☐ Volunteer to deliver flowers after services on 5th Sundays (4x/year)
- ☐ Volunteer as a Flower Ministry Substitute (deliver bouquets as needed)

Bring Christmas to asylum seeking families at La Posada
Help provide a heartwarming Christmas celebration on December 14th for asylum seeking families who are living at La Posada, a residential shelter in San Benito, Texas as they prepare for their next step. These families have traveled many miles to find sanctuary and are in desperate need of hope and your gifts of hospitality. Sign up below and you will get details for timing and needed items.

Angel: Ann Finch - Service Committee

- I want to:
- ☐ Donate Food and Baked Goods
- ☐ Donate Christmas decorations
- ☐ Donate \$_____ for the feast
- ☐ Join the festivities and host the party at La Posada in San Benito