



## **TOPEKA NORTH OUTREACH, INC. (TNO) 2023 Annual Report Summary**

Our Mission: Reaching Out To Our Neighbors In Need With The Love Of Christ.

TNO shares God's love with people who are struggling by helping to meet some of their basic needs. Chartered in 1971 as a 501(c)3 organization, this all-volunteer group serves residents of the Oakland and North Topeka communities. The group is comprised of approximately 20 churches from these communities which have united to extend a helping hand to those in need.

Below is a summary of major activities and programs for 2023:

### **Caring Committee**

TNO provides emergency assistance to families who are facing crisis situations. We provided utility, rent and medical assistance to 241 families (total of 521 people: 314 adults and 207 children). A total of 632 calls were received and 256 transactions were processed, with TNO paying \$38,605.56 for this assistance.

TNO churches also collect and donate food to Topeka Rescue Mission (TRM), to be shared in food boxes for the community.

### **Christmas Adoption**

TNO member churches adopted 52 families (total of 194 people) from North Topeka, Silver Lake, & Oakland areas from the Christmas Bureau in 2023. The families were blessed with gifts, handmade quilts from 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian, towels & washcloths from Northland Christian, as well as food items to make a full Christmas meal. Bibles were donated by the Gideon's. Elmont and Northern Hills elementary schools collected personal hygiene & cleaning items and hats & gloves, and Seaman Middle School donated funds from a fundraising carnival. The distribution was held at Northland Christian Church.

### **Grants & Donations**

Committee was formed in late 2023, consisting of Julie Falk (chair), Laura Smith, Melissa McDonald, Jenny VanLeeuwen, and Linda Stephens. Total grants submitted in 2023 were \$161,700, with \$64,350 received. Several new fundraisers brought in donations, also.

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#### **Hygiene Ministry**

Essentials and hygiene items were distributed to 35 families at our School Supply Giveaway.

#### **JAM (Jesus and Me)**

This after-school mentoring program meets on Friday afternoons and served up to 17 kids each week in grade K-6. Bible stories, activities, games and snacks were provided. Total meetings at Garfield Community Center were 38, and average attendance was 10.66 kids. The team also took the kids on 3 field trips, with an average of 13 kids at each trip.

#### **Operation Backpack Program (OBP)**

The OBP works to alleviate childhood hunger by providing weekend food sacks filled with nutritious, kid-friendly food items to children in need. Sacks are sent home with children on Fridays and the day before holidays to ensure the children have food every day of the week. The OBP provided 33,872 weekend food sacks during 2023, at a total cost of \$119,996.06.

#### **School Supply Giveaway**

Book bags and school supplies were given away to 100 families (252 students) at this event held in August at Seaman Community Church.

#### **Thanksgiving Meals**

In partnership with Douglas Cafer Insurance team, we were able to bless 25 area families (approx. 90 people) with a food box filled with holiday meal items. After the food boxes ran out, we gave away 13 grocery gift cards of \$20 each. The Gideons passed out Bibles, and the 1687 donated many Christian books for kids & adults.

#### **VIP Senior Ministry**

A free lunch especially for those ages 55 and over is held every Wednesday at Topeka Church of the Brethren. Bible study begins at 10:30 am, and a delicious homemade meal is served at noon. TNO Member Churches and Celebration Villa (formerly Atria) take turns providing the meal. Participants bring potluck on the first Wednesday of each month. Attendance averaged 42 people per week and the free will offering at about \$78 per week. Food was donated by Wheatfield's Baker in Lawrence and by Reser's. Midland Care provided free blood pressure checks each month.

All of this was accomplished with a lot of prayer, and a lot of help from many caring, cooperative and hard-working individuals, churches, and organizations; but most importantly, by the amazing grace of God!