



TOPEKA NORTH OUTREACH, INC. (TNO)

2025 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 comprises approximately 18 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 2025:

Caring Committee

TNO provides emergency assistance to families who are facing crisis situations. We provided utility, rent and medical assistance to 196 families (total of 428 people: 270 adults and 158 children). A total of 653 calls were received and 212 transactions were processed, with TNO paying \$29,456.76 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 2024

TNO member churches adopted 52 families (total of 186 people, 79 adults and 107 children under 18) from North Topeka, Silver Lake, & Oakland areas from the Christmas Bureau in 2025. The families were blessed with gifts provided by the individual churches who adopted the families, plus handmade quilts stitched together with love from the ladies at Second Presbyterian Church, mittens and hats and hygiene and cleaning items donated by North Fairview, Northern Hills and Elmont Elementary Schools. A food basket for a Christmas meal was provided by TNO which included canned and boxed items donated by the member churches and perishable items of a ham, a dozen eggs, milk and bread purchased by TNO.

Seaman Middle School donated funds of \$5,000 from a fundraising carnival which was used to purchase the groceries of around \$1,100. Setup was Friday December 12th from 3 to 6pm and the distribution was held at Northland Christian Church on Saturday December 13th 2025 from the hours of 9 to 11am.

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Hygiene Ministry

Sorry to report that no distribution of hygiene kits was accomplished in 2025 due to limited inventory. We no longer have a budget for hygiene items, so inventory is limited. We do have excess hygiene items left over from our Christmas distribution in December 2025, but need to assemble a team to put kits together, or just distribute loose items to the schools who have resource rooms.

JAM (Jesus and Me)

The program was discontinued in May due to dwindling participation. Attendance has always been higher for celebrations, but very low for regular weekly meetings.

Leaders: Sandy Meneley, Todd Shuford, Rose Gilbert, Grace Gilbert

Curriculum: Salvation Army Prime Time

Total JAM gatherings at Garfield Community Center: 16

Average Attendance Per Week (including celebrations): 4.44 kids

Equipment and Supplies: Everything was removed from the Garfield Community Center and stored in the old Indian Creek Elementary School. This included a TV, VCR and TV stand.

Operation Backpack Program (OBP)

The OBP works to alleviate childhood hunger by providing weekend food sacks to children in need. The sacks are filled with nutritious food items that are easy for youth to prepare. Sacks are sent home with school children on Fridays and the day before holidays to ensure the children have food every day of the week. We serve 12 schools in the North Topeka and Oakland communities during the school year. The OBP provided 26,800 weekend food sacks during 2025.

School Supply Giveaway

Book bags and school supplies were given away to 66 families (197 students) at this event held in August at Seaman Community Church.

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 take turns providing the meal.

Attendance averaged about 45 people per week and the free will offering at about \$93 per week. Approximately 1,956 meals were served to seniors in 2025.

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!