

Bethesda Church in Waukesha, Wisconsin, has been honored to have the opportunity to share in the ministry of the Matthew 25 Initiative through the generous \$2,000 anonymous donation we received. At Bethesda church, we have been active in outreach programs locally (through the Women's Center in Waukesha) and in Haiti (through *Ventures in People*). We have continued our support of both organizations through the pandemic and were so thankful to receive further funds through the Presbytery that would allow us to offer even more help to these needy causes, especially during these hard times. This is where the donated funds were distributed to help others:

- Locally, the Women's Center of Waukesha requested funds for baskets of food to be donated to needy families during these very difficult times. Our church collected funds for 11 baskets to be donated for November and we were then able to offer an additional \$750 (thanks to the anonymous donor) for food baskets for December.
- The mission of The Women's Center is to provide safety, shelter and support to empower all impacted by domestic abuse, sexual violence, child abuse and trafficking. Unfortunately, reports show that these needs have only increased due to situations associated with the pandemic. Bethesda Church was able to donate \$520 (from the generous donation) to the Women's Center to provide shelter for those in need.
- In Haiti, through *Ventures in People*, Bethesda Church has helped with the education of young children for many years. To meet the guidelines of the Matthew 25 vision, we focused on an issue of health: water filters for clean water. The lack of sanitary drinking water is one of Haiti's biggest problems. Most Haitians must rely on rainwater, or water taken from polluted streams that must be boiled before it can be used, for their needs. Others may walk 5 miles or more to obtain good, clean drinking water from drilled wells. Good drinking water is a must if you are to raise healthy children. Through *Ventures In People*, Bethesda Church donated \$730 (thanks again to the anonymous donation) to provide water filters (along with education for the filters' cleaning) so that many Haitians will now be able to drink clean water and avoid water born diseases.

The members and friends of Bethesda Church in Waukesha sincerely thank the anonymous donor for the opportunity to provide important help to so many individuals.

With much gratitude and on behalf of our entire church community,

Jacquelyn Dove
Clerk of Session
Bethesda Church
Waukesha, WI