

The String Thing



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What is a string thing? It is a book written by David Burrier of Hope Ministries in Des Moines, IA. It is also a concept that he believes and teaches to the many homeless and others with whom he works each day.



The 430 participants at the October Junior High Youth Gathering in Des Moines learned this concept. We were reminded of the blessing we are to others when we all work together to help each other. Each of us receives a ball of string (talents) when we were born. When we put all our strings together, we are stronger and can reach out to help others.

Youth and leaders bringing items to donate to Hope Ministries in Des Moines and the Nehemiah Project in Los Angeles made a big impact as a group. Cash gifts, 231 toys, 53 backpacks, 998 school supplies, 95 pieces of underwear and 2,055 health items totaling 3,732 donated items made a huge 'string thing'!

Some of these items were assembled into "We Care Kits" at the Gathering. David Burrier shared that the 150 kits will be given to homeless people who will come to the shelters in the next week. Yes, in the next week! We often think of homeless in big cities like Los Angeles or Chicago, but there are many homeless in Des Moines. The "We Care Kits" each contained nine health care items such as soap, wash cloth, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc. The last, and maybe the most needed item, was then included in the bag. It was a note of encouragement, hope and a reminder of God's love written by the junior high youth.



Twelve Iowa District West college students were a huge part of the 'string thing' as they volunteered at the Gathering. They happily served in many ways as 'happy

helpers' and 'the blue shirts' including counting, packing and lugging the donated items.

What is Hope Ministries?

Hope Ministries is a Christ-centered faith-based ministry that provides programs and services for homeless, hungry and hurting people in Des Moines and central Iowa. They are one of the largest non-denominational efforts in Iowa focused on homelessness and hunger issues.

Each year over 100 individual churches participate in their ministry through financial support, volunteers, and clothing and/or food donations. Also nearly 1,000 volunteers donate their time and talents each year. Be one of those volunteers! Iowa District West pastors' wives were part of those happy volunteers as they spent an October afternoon at the Hope Bargain Center.



For information on how you, your family or church group can become involved, check out www.hopeiowa.org.

Their facilities include:

- Bethel Mission - rescue shelter with 108 beds for homeless men
- Door of Faith - long term men's recovery center with 102 bed facility
- Hope Family Center - 3 eight bedroom houses for long term recovery for homeless women and children
- Hope Bargain and Community Outreach - low cost clothing, furniture and numerous other items.

If interested in purchasing The String Thing book by David Burrier go to www.playbooks.com

To organize a donation drive, one-day service project, or a short term mission trip, contact

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