

# Creating a network of hope

The human spirit can endure in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear? **PROV. 18:14**

**D**riving Hope of Texas serves the poor and elderly in Central Texas and provides them transportation for doctor appointments. Driving Hope provides 200 to 300 rides each month for a growing list of more than 125 patients, many of whom require multiple treatments each week. With demand increasing, there are days when Driving Hope must turn people down.

If someone cannot find a ride to a doctor's office on a Friday, chances are they won't make it to church on Sunday. As such, riders like to discuss their spiritual struggles with their driver or the dispatcher, often revealing their struggles with hopelessness and abandonment, or the challenges of keeping their personal affairs in order.

The purpose of the Texas District mission grant, *Creating a Network of Hope — Driving Hope of Texas*, is to facilitate a natural continuum

of care between riders and congregations located in the towns where these patients live. Driving Hope wants these riders to experience the expression of God's love best found in a church community.

One network congregation is already providing care bags containing water, snacks and devotionals. Others help provide ride vouchers for patients who do not get transportation assistance from government programs. Participants in one congregation responded to a sight-impaired rider's request for help in cleaning up around her home. Most importantly, network participants are responding to riders' specific requests for prayers.

Driving Hope gathers riders' requests and passes them along to church leaders and through the Echo Prayer smartphone app. Future displays in churches will help serve as a constant reminder of the battles our neighbors are fighting. Driving Hope aims to identify ambassadors in these churches who will help facilitate connections with willing caregivers. Through



Joy Cowan, vice-president of Gospel Outreach, delivers a mite grant check to Dr. Philip Hohle.

a network partnership, a patient's non-transportation needs will be met by disciples who reflect the heart of God (Matt. 26:34-39).

The district mission grant is helping make the service a valuable instrument in the ministry toolbox of the pastors and congregations that seek to bring God's love and mercy to the poor and suffering in their communities. Your mites are doing God's work and are much appreciated!

**Dr. Philip Hohle**  
Executive Director,  
Driving Hope of Texas

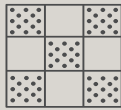
# Women in action

The Lutheran Women in Mission are also Lutheran women in action. The LWML Texas District brings hope and care to those suffering from homelessness and despair, caused by natural disasters or war, through their donations of quilts, and school and health kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

An average of 300,000 quilts are lovingly distributed worldwide each year by LWR. Texas is a big part of that outpouring. This past November, the LWML Texas District held ingatherings in Marion (near San Antonio), Houston and Plano. Donations came in from all over the state and even from Louisiana. Four semi-trucks were filled and took the items to LWR warehouses.

Janel Johnson-Momanyi says this about her sisters in Christ in Texas: "On Sept. 16, 2019, I became the Quilt and Kit Ministry manager at Lutheran World Relief. During orientation I heard several stories about how the Texas ingatherings are the largest in the country and

## What a difference these donations can make in the lives of others:



Quilts/Blankets  
**16,943**



School kits  
**8,954**



Personal Care kits  
**10,423**



Baby Care kits  
**1,411**



Fabric kits  
**485**

the Maryland warehouse looks forward to unloading the trucks filled to the brim with quilts and

kits. Four months later in January 2020, we learned that there was a very contagious virus circulating.

"Two months later, we were canceling ingatherings. In June 2020, Marion became the location to host a pioneer ingathering in a brand-new way! By November, Marion, Houston and Plano were all back in operation and in November 2021 the magic happened again.

"Lutheran World Relief is extremely grateful for the love that Texas has shown to our neighbors in need around the globe. Countless lives have been changed because of your generosity. Thank you."

I want to thank the women, men and youth of all the Lutheran congregations who volunteered and made the Texas ingatherings such a success. It is a lot of work and we end the day exhausted, but it is a "good tired," knowing that the love of Jesus is going out into the world through quilts and kits. To God be the glory.

**Mary Afsharirad**  
Mission Service Chairman

## Going, going, gone!

Time is running out to apply for the LWML scholarship to be awarded for the 2022-23 school year. If you know of a female member in your Texas District congregation attending an LCMS college or university and studying to become an LCMS full-time professional church worker, we have a wonderful opportunity to help pay for tuition.

For eligibility requirements and to apply, visit [lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org). From the menu bar click

"Committees," choose "Scholarships" from the drop-down menu and download the 2022 scholarship application packet. For more information, contact Joyce Martinets, Scholarship Committee chairman, at [scholarship@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:scholarship@lwmltxdist.org). Completed application packets must be sent to Joyce post-marked by March 31.

**Melissa Houchin**  
Scholarship Committee



**2020-22 MITE GOAL**  
**\$377,500**

Mites received through November: \$313,983

Mites still needed to meet goal: \$63,517

Mission grants paid through November: \$177,434

Please include a remittance form when submitting your mite offerings. Send them to:

LWML Texas District  
Attn: Kathy Walther, Financial Secretary  
PO Box 124, Giddings, TX 78942

## STAY CONNECTED

[lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org)

Send news and photos to **Joanna Roche**,  
District News editor, [districtnews@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:districtnews@lwmltxdist.org).