## Community Ministry WELLCREST THE APPROXIMATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT

November 2023

n unanticipated job loss.
Unexpected medical
expenses. Homelessness.
Higher bills driven by
inflation. These are just
a few of the situations people in our
community face. Your generous giving
to "Light on the Hill" enables us to
respond to some of these needs.

Jesus emphasized the importance of "loving your neighbor as yourself." The story of the Great Judgment teaches that when we minister to those who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, or imprisoned, we are in fact ministering to Jesus himself (Matt. 25:40). We are to be a light set on a hill, guiding people to the One who can fulfill all our needs! Our efforts to help those in need are done in the name of Jesus, always giving thanks to God the Father through Him (Col. 3:17).

The ministry's highest priority is to provide aid to those of our Hillcrest church family (Gal. 6:10) who are facing financial crises. When our ministry team becomes aware of a need of one of our congregation members, team members work with them to determine how best to assist.

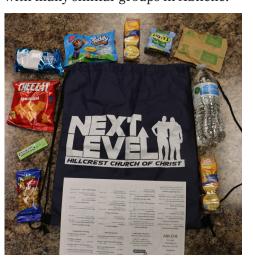
A second priority is to aid our neighbors. People often come to the Church Office seeking food or clothing. Since we do not maintain a food pantry or clothing room, they are referred to our partners at Christian Service Center and Christian Ministries, who are able to meet some of their needs. They are also given a Blessing Bag that includes some food stuffs along with a list of agencies in Abilene and the services they provide. We also tell them about the various locations in Abilene where free meals are served daily.

The Church Office receives numerous telephone requests and inquiries for assistance each week. A staff member gathers information about the individual and the assistance they are requesting. The caller is informed that their request will be considered when the benevolence team next meets, generally within one-to-



two weeks. Before that team meeting, information about the caller and their request is reviewed in the Basic Needs Network of West Central Texas (often known as BNN or 2-1-1). This network allows us to coordinate our response with other agencies in the Abilene area. Most requests are for assistance with rent or utility bills. Assistance to the same individual is provided by Hillcrest only a few times each year.

Hillcrest's Family and Community Ministry has working relationships with many similar groups in Abilene.



Occasionally one of these agencies refers qualified individuals to us because, either they don't provide the needed service, or their available resources have been expended. We help fulfill these needs depending on our availability of funds. Again, these requests are primarily for assistance with rent or utility bills.

Monthly support is provided for the routine maintenance and cleaning of one of the residences in Houses for Healing. These tiny houses are used by people from the surrounding area when they come to Abilene for extended out-patient medical treatment. Individuals generally supply their own meals (or arrangements are made with Meals on Wheels); however, ministry team members assist with transportation to appointments as needed. When a new resident arrives, a team member welcomes them and determines their needs. Soon thereafter, another member brings them a Bible and prays with them.

The needs in our community are great and we can't satisfy all of them. However, your generous donations are helping some of our neighbors during difficult times.

2	211	Hendrick Auxilary
	AISD Homeless/Taylor Elementary	Hendrick Hospice
	<b>Abilene State Supported Living Center</b>	Hope Haven
	All Kind Animal Initiative	Houses for Healing
	Alliance for Women and Children	International Rescue Committee
	<b>BCFS/HHS (Abilene Transition Center)</b>	Junior League
	<b>Beltway Garage Ministry</b>	Kairos (Outside Abilene)
	Ben Richey Boys Ranch	Love and Care Ministries
	Betty Hardwick	MCH Family Outreach
	Big Brother/Big Sister	Meals on Wheels
	Big Country Casa	Mental Health America
•	Boots on the Ground	Middleton/Robertson Prison
	Boys/Girls Club	NAMI
	Cancer Services Network	Nehemiah Abilene
	Child Welfare	<b>New Beginnings Big Country</b>
	Christian Homes	New Horizons
	Christian Ministries	Noah Project
	Christian Service Center	Phoenix House
	Christian Womens Job Corps	Pregnancy Resources
	City Light Ministries	Presbyterian Medical Care Mission
	Communities in Schools	Regional Victims Crisis Center
	Community Foundation	Rolling Plains Management Corp.
	Disability Resources	<b>RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)</b>
	Disability in Action	Salvation Army
	Faithworks	Sanctuary Ministries
	Food Bank	Soar Like an Eagle (Amputee Support Group)
	Gideons	

Global Samaritan

St. Vincent De Paul

Goodwill

Steps Recovery Center

Goodwill
Habitat for Humanity
United Way

Habitat for Humanity

Harmony Family Services

United Way

Young Life