

Whatever you do for the least of these my brothers, you do it to me. MATTHEW 25:40

An Opportunity for FBC to Serve TIMES Center Men

Originally Aldeane Wills sensed the need for our church to reach out to the men who are leaving the TIMES Center to go out on their own. She wanted it to be for ALL the church to participate in and for it to be a long-standing commitment. She took it to the Mission Board and to the ABW Ministries, and was supported by both.

She learned from Joyce, the director at TIMES Center, and Marilyn Harrison of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Champaign: her church provides each man leaving with a laundry basket, filled with salt and pepper shakers, toilet tissue, a sewing kit, bowls, plates, flatware, two pans, laundry detergent, a can opener, a Bible, devotional book and a note telling them this is from a church. They call these baskets “Fresh Start.”

To move into an apartment, the men were encouraged to save at least 60% of their wages from their new job to go towards rent and deposit. They often come back to the Center to get food items that will help them until they can get to a store. Sure, they can go Empty Tomb or Salt & Light, but that may not be convenient at the time due to work schedules and hours these places are open as well as not having transportation.

So, Aldeane proposed: If the items can be placed in a copy paper box which has a lid, then when it is empty, it will provide the man with storage.

THE BASIC BOX (no exceptions)

- Peanut butter and jelly (or jam)
- Box macaroni and cheese
- Two cans of chunk white tuna, pickle relish, mayo (Cool Whip bowl for mixing and storing tuna salad)
- Two cans soup and box of crackers
- Cereal
- Two cans each of fruits and vegetables
- One box each of jello and pudding mix
- A pint jar filled with sugar and marked on the outside as sugar. This jar can then be used as a measuring cup or drinking glass.
- Add tea bags, cocoa envelopes, mugs, plastic Illini glasses, or anything you choose.

THE DELUXE BOX

For those who wish to do more — Add:

- Carnation non-fat dry milk (that is what they serve at the center)
- Add an empty 64 oz. plastic juice bottle in case they don't have a pitcher
- Jar of spaghetti sauce and a box of pasta
- Pancake or biscuit mix and syrup
- Canned chicken meat
- Envelopes of “Suddenly Salad” or pasta envelopes
- Additional cans of fruits and vegetables
- Instant Coffee

We will include a note saying something to the effect that we hope this will help them get started in their new life. We name our boxes “NEW START” and include the worship times of FBC, and pray that if any come to our services, they would be welcomed. If we have 60 active families participating, then no one will have to do it more than once a year. Before it is picked up by Angel Corp, we ask that you pray over the box and its contents and for the recipient. You will keep the box at home until we are ready to deliver it.

Call the church office at 352-2240 and let us know that you have a box ready. We will contact the appropriate people for you. (The recipient and donor are both anonymous.)

There is mailbox in the copier room where you can obtain the list of items that goes in either BOX.