

COINS FOR KENYA

Your spare change can bring life-giving assistance to the needy who live one-third of the globe away



Most of us don't give any thought to the coins we have lying around the house. Why bother? In our American economy, they barely have any value. But what would you do if you knew of a place where those coins could make a real difference in someone's life? That's where the Coins for Kenya program of the Blackhawk Presbytery comes in.

The idea is simple: Church members are asked to donate their coins on a regular basis to their home church, which then, at a given time, forwards the total to the presbytery office. Presbytery, in turn, sends the accumulated total from all their churches on to the Imenti Presbyteries in Kenya. But what happens to it at that point? The money is used to purchase food for starving people.

That food was actually distributed by members of the Blackhawk on the 2014 and 2017 mission trips to the Imenti Presbyteries in Kenya. The recipients were extremely grateful not only for the nourishment, but also to realize that someone knows and cares about their plight. That someone could be you.

Most of us have little or no idea as to the number of coins resting quietly in jars on our dressers or in cup holders in our cars or, yes,

COINS FOR KENYA

Your spare change can bring life-giving assistance to the needy who live one-third of the globe away



Most of us don't give any thought to the coins we have lying around the house. Why bother? In our American economy, they barely have any value. But what would you do if you knew of a place where those coins could make a real difference in someone's life? That's where the Coins for Kenya program of the Blackhawk Presbytery comes in.

The idea is simple: Church members are asked to donate their coins on a regular basis to their home church, which then, at a given time, forwards the total to the presbytery office. Presbytery, in turn, sends the accumulated total from all their churches on to the Imenti Presbyteries in Kenya. But what happens to it at that point? The money is used to purchase food for starving people.

That food was actually distributed by members of the Blackhawk on the 2014 and 2017 mission trips to the Imenti Presbyteries in Kenya. The recipients were extremely grateful not only for the nourishment, but also to realize that someone knows and cares about their plight. That someone could be you.

Most of us have little or no idea as to the number of coins resting quietly in jars on our dressers or in cup holders in our cars or, yes,

lurking comfortably under the cushions of our couches. According to Coinstar, the average consumer who uses their coin-counting kiosks assumes that they have just over \$28 in change laying around their home. However, the true average of their kiosk users is \$56. Of course, those are people who actively save their coins. But the truth is that even those of us who only put a few coins aside at a time can build up a significant total.

How significant? Since 2012, \$15,599.95 has been raised by the Coins for Kenya program. Every penny of that has been given to provide life-saving nourishment to people who are often in desperate need.

In January 2017, the Blackhawk group took part in a large scale distribution, which was followed by special deliveries to five needy shut-ins. Two of those shut-ins were 100-year-old women. Remarkably, even though they both struggled to walk, each of those women started dancing for joy when the van with their food arrived. And yes, the Blackhawk people danced with them!

Can you think of any other use for your neglected coins that could cause an arthritic centenarian to dance? If not, why not put your coins to a significant use? While we know we cannot solve the problem of hunger, we can share from our abundance with those in need.



Donations to the ongoing Coins for Kenya Project can be sent at any time to the Presbytery office (payable to Blackhawk Presbytery). Funds are wired to Kenya periodically.

lurking comfortably under the cushions of our couches. According to Coinstar, the average consumer who uses their coin-counting kiosks assumes that they have just over \$28 in change laying around their home. However, the true average of their kiosk users is \$56. Of course, those are people who actively save their coins. But the truth is that even those of us who only put a few coins aside at a time can build up a significant total.

How significant? Since 2012, \$15,599.95 has been raised by the Coins for Kenya program. Every penny of that has been given to provide life-saving nourishment to people who are often in desperate need.

In January 2017, the Blackhawk group took part in a large scale distribution, which was followed by special deliveries to five needy shut-ins. Two of those shut-ins were 100-year-old women. Remarkably, even though they both struggled to walk, each of those women started dancing for joy when the van with their food arrived. And yes, the Blackhawk people danced with them!

Can you think of any other use for your neglected coins that could cause an arthritic centenarian to dance? If not, why not put your coins to a significant use? While we know we cannot solve the problem of hunger, we can share from our abundance with those in need.



Donations to the ongoing Coins for Kenya Project can be sent at any time to the Presbytery office (payable to Blackhawk Presbytery). Funds are wired to Kenya periodically.