

# COINS FOR KENYA

*Your spare change can bring life-giving assistance to the needy 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? After all, 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. Three years ago Blackhawk sent a 14 person delegation to Kenya. At that time, Coins for Kenya had raised more than \$3,500. So the Blackhawk and Imenti volunteers purchased two truckloads of food, which they distributed in two different locations. The people who were given that food live in the Northern part of Kenya where severe drought has made it impossible to grow anything for a very long time. Following that distribution, one member of the

Blackhawk delegation said that many of the people they served looked like walking skeletons. 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. But, 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. Those, of course, are people who actively save their coins. But the truth is that even those who put a few coins aside at a time can build up a significant amount. Why not put those coins to a significant use?

Blackhawk Presbytery is sending another delegation to Kenya in January 2017, so they would like to send in a Coins for Kenya donation in November. The program will continue beyond that, but you are invited to make a special effort between now and November to build up the amount of food they can distribute.

While we know we cannot solve the problem of hunger, we can share from our abundance with those in need.

