

Lions Provide First Aid Supplies for the Unsheltered

I always find it interesting when the universe chooses two unrelated people/organizations and says, “hey you need to work together!” The Lions of District 26M6 were tasked with finding a location for the 2022 District Convention. As a member of the convention planning committee, I began to think about places that could host the event, with minimal cost, while keeping in mind the challenge of our District Governor Phyllis Krebs to “harness your passion!” As a social worker, service to at-risk populations, advocating for social justice and inclusion has always been my passion. At that point my heart light began to ask, “what about The Venues Church?” This church has at its core the values of social justice and inclusion. They have a longstanding history of community outreach and service to those that are unsheltered.

The church welcomed us with open arms! We were so grateful and wanted to find a way to express our gratitude. I shared with the committee that The Venues works in the community to advocate for change; provide meals, activities, housing, and clothing; and share their love, compassion, and message that each person is seen, heard, valued, and included. I reflected on Lions International’s mission “To empower Lions clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding.” And vision “To be the global leader in the community and humanitarian service.” And there IT was—we would SERVE!

District 26M6 will be collecting supplies and assembling first aid kits, contained in a clear plastic eyeglass case, during our convention for those who are unsheltered in our community. According to the Community Partnership Ozarks Alliance to end Homelessness, Springfield has more than 6000 unsheltered adults and children, and the numbers are growing. These first aid kits will be distributed by The Venues Church through their current outreach programs. We hope to share more opportunities to SERVE together!

Wendy R. Jackson, LCSW, MSW
District Governor Phyllis Krebs

Donations can include:

- Band-Aids
- Hand Sanitizers
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Gauze/Tape
- Chapstick

*** Medication will not be accepted ***

