

Helping Hands Ministry

Helping Hands ministry was created to build on the Beacon House project of W C Martin UMC. Beacon House was created as a resale shop for the community and thereby create funds to be used by Helping Hands to assist Bedford residents and Martin UMC members struggling financially.

Helping Hands has been and continues to be a beacon of hope to Bedford residents and our members.

Our policies only allow a specified maximum of funds to each person/family in any consecutive 12 month period. Funds are provided for utilities, prescriptions and gift cards for groceries or gas. The majority of the funds are used for utilities as we no longer provide rental assistance and no funds are given directly to clients.

Currently Palmer Keith and I are the only people that provide these funds with oversight from Diane Hutchison and Chris Galloway.

This ministry is not extremely visible to the entire congregation and so we wanted to help you understand the impact on the residents of Bedford.

In 2022 this ministry provided funds, to the community, of almost \$14,000 dollars. In 2023 this number was nearly the same amount at \$13,500. 2024 saw Mission Central close its doors and United Way informed us that many other agencies were closing or cutting back on funding. Helping Hands began to see a dramatic increase in requests for assistance starting in August of 2024. Your church continued to provide funds until mid-December when we initiated a pause simply because of unusually high demand. We ended 2024 providing funds totaling \$27,888 almost doubling our previous two years.

Martin UMC is making a difference in this city!

Please stop either Palmer or I if you would like more information or could assist in this ministry.

Doug Northup