

Outreach Opportunity

5.16.24

This month has brought a new outreach opportunity to St. Luke's to fulfill Jesus's proclamation to love our neighbor. Parishioner Shanna Altrichter has a neighbor named Janelle who is experiencing significant financial hardship. Janelle is a single mom of 4 sons (2 who still live at home) who earns her living by painting and doing restoration and light renovation work. While Janelle is a very hard worker, her income is such that she typically lives paycheck to paycheck. As anyone who has been in this situation knows, all it takes is one major setback for everything to fall apart. This is where Janelle and her family find themselves today. Janelle's work slowed as a result of the pandemic; as she was finally recovering financially a few months ago, her van quit working. That van is how she gets to work and transports both tools and her family. Without the van, she lost her ability to work. With no wages coming in, she fell behind on her rent and other bills. She and her two sons at home (ages 10 and 16) are food insecure. The boys are also at those ages where they are growing like weeds and need new clothes and shoes.

Starting last week and going forward for the next couple of weeks, St. Luke's will be collecting money and resources to help make this family financially whole by getting them caught up on their rent, getting their van fixed, and providing for their sustenance and clothing needs. We will do this via plate offerings at church or through donations made to Shanna Altrichter, who will then make sure the donations get to Janelle and her sons. Thank you to everyone who has already donated much needed resources to this family and who have engaged in this new-to-St. Luke's outreach opportunity. Contact information for Shanna is below, as is a list of things the family needs if you would prefer to donate physical items or gift cards rather than via plate offering.

Contact information for Shanna Altrichter

Phone: (701)367-9375; you can call or text. If you call and I don't answer, please leave a message!

Address: 308 17th Ave NE, Rochester MN 55906; if you want to drop something off when you're out and about, you can leave donations by my front door with a note that says the donation is for Janelle. Envelopes can be pushed through the mail drop on the front of the garage.

Email: slgranst@gmail.com

Venmo: @SL_Altrichter; please put "For Janelle" or something similar in the memo line

Current donation needs:

Food! The family has no allergies and Janelle is an experienced cook, so if you have extra stuff in your pantry you're not using they would certainly be willing to take whatever you've got off your hands.

Particular food needs include snacks for the boys to have at school, frozen vegetables without lima beans, chocolate syrup for milk, blue Gatorade, Arnold Palmer iced tea, 1% milk, 80/20 hamburger, chicken pieces, mayonnaise, Miracle Whip

Gift cards to Aldi or Cub

Other needs: paper towels, paper plates, garbage bags, body wash like Dove, shampoo and conditioner, blue Dawn dish soap, hair spray

Clothing needs:

16 year old: size large; pants size of 32x34 or 34x34. He likes vintage stuff like printed tees, corduroy pants and "ugly" sweaters. He loves prints. He also likes plain hoodies. He's not super into sports stuff or logos.

10 year old: loves sports stuff. He is a size 10-12 and could use all kinds of clothes but especially pants. He prefers athletic type pants rather than jeans. He prefers darker colors and loves anything soft or fuzzy.

Janelle: is a women's size large or 14. She hasn't had any new clothes in a long time and could especially use some new jeans and maybe a nice sweater.

Gently used clothing donations are welcome, as are gift cards to clothing stores that would meet the above needs like Kohl's, Target, or Wal-Mart.

Thank you again to everyone for your help in getting this family financially stable and able to meet their own needs again.