



IDW Mission Grant Evaluation Report Form

Grant recipients are to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort. If this is a continuing ministry, please submit a report by January 31st of the following year, in which the grant is received. Include pictures/videos that help share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their own ministry. Final grant funds will be sent upon receipt of this evaluation.

Contact Person, Congregation, and email address:

1. **Please provide a brief overview of the effort:** The LYC (Lutheran Youth for Christ) senior high youth group wanted to serve the needs of our community by offering a 24-7 food pantry. LYC named the project "The Blessing Box" as it is their dream that the people who use the food pantry would be blessed and those that donate towards the effort, would also be blessed. "The Blessing Box" has shelving stocked with food items that people (even young children) can go and grab necessary food items.
2. **What goals were established for this effort and what did you hope to accomplish?** The goal is that NO ONE would go to bed hungry. Having "The Blessing Box" open at all times, allows for anyone to have access to food at any time.
3. **Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors?** Yes, we know for a fact that people visit "The Blessing Box" by the amount of food items that we go through and the stocking of the shelves that are needed. It has been witnessed that young children have come and received food on their own, without parents. We are 100% confident that people in need are being served.
4. **Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again?** "The Blessing Box" is an ongoing project. We will continue to shop/stock and pay for the utilities to keep it open. LYC does not want this to be a financial burden on the congregation and therefore, have funded the effort 100% (except for the food donations from individuals of the church). At this point, we will continue as is and re-evaluate if needed.

5. **What lessons were learned through this effort?** During a very, very hot stretch of weather this summer, our air conditioning unit was stolen from "The Blessing Box". This made us very sad. It had crossed our minds that maybe we shouldn't offer this type of service. It also crossed our minds that someone that was very much in need of air conditioning (maybe a family with a baby, etc) took it in dire need. We don't have an answer, but we decided to continue on. This was the first and only issue we have encountered since we opened. The devil tries to destroy our plan but we fully believe that God has and will continue to bless the efforts of "The Blessing Box".
6. **Will this outreach effort continue and be sustaining? Did a new outreach opportunity present itself?** As mentioned prior, it is an ongoing project. We always pray that someone that is in need of physical food also realizes they are in need of spiritual food as well!
7. **What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort?** Do it! Our youth heard this statement at an IDW youth gathering "if you think there is NO one going to bed hungry in your community ... you are WRONG!" We never believed it to any extent, until we began "The Blessing Box" and now we know that our efforts are truly an answer to prayers for some of our community members.