



January 13, 2023

*"But the Lord is the one who is marching before you!
He is the one who will be with you! He won't let you down.
He won't abandon you.
So don't be afraid or scared!"*
DEUTERONOMY 31:8



Donate



2022 has come to a close and on behalf of the VIS board of directors and staff, we want to say **THANK YOU** for your generous support. Without partners like you, we could not carry out this important work.

We continue to be amazed by the many ways that God provides just what we need when we need it, and we give God all the glory for what we are able to accomplish through Him. Everyday volunteers from churches say "yes" to loving and serving people for the purpose of building Christ's kingdom here on earth. We are excited to see how God will guide us through 2023 to touch even more lives in the name of the Lord. Thank you again for partnering with us.



"God has given me such a wonderful gift through *Volunteers In Service*. Sandy, who is her Friendly Visitor, and I, are a perfect match! We

touch base on Sunday by email and choose the day that is best for her to come. She is coming once a week for 2-3 hours now, and her friendship has become the **sunshine of my week**. Thank you for your part in making this happen!"



Housing Simulations

VIS and Degage' ministries partnered in hosting housing simulations for the students of Grand Rapids Christian High. Students took on the role of a homeless person and walked through the steps of what it takes to get housing. This experience helps students recognize the challenges in Kent County with affordable housing and homelessness.

Student Debriefing:

What did you do a lot of?

1. Waiting in line.
2. Filling out the same paper work.
3. Stolen from

Facts:

- #1 reason for homelessness is relational poverty. No support networks.



- Average time to get housing in Grand Rapids is 18 months.
- #1 thing a person experiencing homelessness needs is being noticed and treated with dignity.



Can You Help?

VIS receives many serving opportunity requests. If you are able to assist with these requests, please let us know.

1) Laundry

Jo is 88 and needs temporary help with laundry. The volunteer who is helping her will be on vacation February through April. Jo has a washer and dryer downstairs.

Location: Near 44th St. and Byron Center road in Wyoming.

(Contact Rosemary at rtymes@visgr.org or call 459-7500 if you can help)

2) One-Time House Cleaning:

Several VIS Friends do not have the physical capability to clean their house or apartment. Volunteers are needed in all quadrants of Grand Rapids. This is a great opportunity for a team of two people. Generally two hours or less is needed.

(Contact David dlundberg@visgr.org, or Rosemary rtymes@visgr.org or call 616 459-7500 if you can help)

3) Transportation: URGENT

Due to a decline in both funding and manpower for community services, VIS is getting an increasing number of requests from people who need help with the following errands:

1. Driving them to and from medical appointments
2. Picking up and delivering pantry items
3. Bringing them to the grocery store

The majority of our VIS Friends are independent in the store. We have volunteers who can help with this already, but because of the higher demand, we need more.

If you are able to help, please contact David dlundberg@visgr.org, or Rosemary rtymes@visgr.org or call 616 459-7500



Donate

Visit our website