



AUGUST 2026

WELCOME TO THE
**COMPASSION
BEAT**
we're so glad you're here!

Mission Trip Participants Serve Alongside The Compassionate Way



On July 27 and 30, seven youth and seven adults from Willmar and Austin Presbyterian Churches served alongside The Compassionate Way. While they helped sort clothing and prepared blessing baskets and blessing buckets, the greatest gift was the opportunity to spend time with people who are so often overlooked or forgotten.

Mission participants shared conversations, smiles, and moments of genuine connection with residents at Good Samaritan Society–Woodland, Breath of Life, and Creekside Community. It was a joy to watch relationships begin to form as they offered the simple yet powerful ministry of compassionate presence. The group also toured Lighthouse Beginnings and learned more about its ministry and mission.

This experience served as a "pilot" mission trip, and the group indicated it was a meaningful and rewarding experience. My hope is that other churches and groups will consider serving alongside The Compassionate Way. There are countless opportunities to share Christ's love through acts of compassion, listening, and presence. Sometimes the most meaningful mission work begins with simply taking the time to see and value another person.



Ministry Moments

As the missionary leader of The Compassionate Way, I have the privilege of participating in nearly every aspect of the ministry. Some of that work is visible, distributing items from the Compassion Closet and preparing and delivering blessing bags, blessing baskets, and blessing buckets. These tangible gifts are meaningful expressions of God's love and compassion for individuals facing difficult circumstances. Yet these visible ministries represent only a small part of what The Compassionate Way is all about.

At its heart, this ministry is about relationships and sharing the hope of Jesus Christ. Each week I lead three worship services, three Bible studies, and three Compassion Connection Circles. I also spend time providing one-on-one spiritual care, listening to people's stories, praying with them, and walking alongside them through life's joys and challenges.

Proclaiming the Good News is central to everything we do. Whether through worship, conversation, Bible study, or acts of compassion, our desire is to help people know they are deeply loved by God and to encourage them to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

One of the unique blessings of The Compassionate Way is the opportunity to minister across generations and in a variety of settings. I currently lead worship for older adults, adults living with diminished cognitive abilities, and children. Although each gathering is different, the message remains the same: God's love is steadfast, God's grace is abundant, and every person is created in God's image and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging.

It is a joy and a privilege to witness lives being touched by Christ's compassion. Week by week, conversation by conversation, and relationship by relationship, God continues to remind us that even the smallest acts of compassion can become powerful expressions of the Gospel.

What Creekside Has to Teach Us

I continue to marvel at Creekside Community. It is an amazing place filled with remarkable people who are intentionally creating a place where everyone belongs.

Recently, we hosted a Connection and Compassion gathering for the residents of Creekside. I was deeply grateful for everyone who attended and for the assistance of the mission trip participants. Yet what touched me most was not simply the gathering itself; it was the way the residents cared for one another.

Several individuals prepared plates of food for neighbors who were unable to attend, making sure they would not be forgotten. Their actions were a beautiful reminder that compassion is often expressed in simple, thoughtful ways. They saw a need, and they responded with love.

Creekside Community has much to teach all of us about what it means to be neighbors. Day by day, they model Jesus' command to "love your neighbor as yourself." Their care for one another is not merely an ideal; it is woven into the fabric of their community.

It is a privilege to witness God at work at Creekside, building a beautiful community one relationship, one act of kindness, and one expression of compassion at a time.



Thank you for your generous donation of household supplies! Your support helps our participants settle into their new homes with the basics they need and the encouragement they deserve!

Sincerely,

Hope Housing Staff at Lutheran Social Service

Support The Compassionate Way

Your generosity helps make The Compassionate Way possible. Every gift supports worship, Bible studies, spiritual care, Compassion Connection Circles, and tangible expressions of Christ's love through blessing bags, baskets, and buckets and the compassion closet. Donations may be mailed to:

The Compassionate Way, 7761 Excelsior Road, Baxter, MN 56425. Checks should be made payable to *Lakes Area Presbyterian Church*, our fiscal agent, with "The Compassionate Way" in the memo line. You may also contribute online at <https://lpchurchbaxter.org/give-on-line-here/>. Thank you for partnering with us as we share Christ's compassion and hope with our neighbors.