



Missouri Women's Prison Pack

2,000 requested versus 1,160 shared in 2017

\$10 | Estimated Pack Value

It was a warm, sunny December afternoon when our group of volunteers entered the Vandalia Correctional Facility to host the annual Christmas service. There were no decorated trees, lights, or presents to be seen. There was no snow on the ground or carols being sung to set the mood. It wasn't the Christmas most of us experience, but the spirit of Christ was present.

In the chapel we were greeted by two women who were eager to attend the service. They sang worship songs as we set up and prepared our speaking parts. Women started to trickle in and join in song. One woman asked our team if we had the music to go along with "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High." Unfortunately we did not, but she was not discouraged. She went right up to the stage, gathered everyone's attention, and started singing acapella. She had a beautiful voice and a natural ability to lead.

During the next hour, we took turns sharing the story of Christmas and singing traditional carols. The women shared their prayer concerns and joys and we expressed how many people around Missouri were thinking and praying for the women to have strength, courage, and hope in the wake of a new year.

Again this year, we invite you to fundraise money (\$10 per pack) and send it to the Festival office. We will buy the supplies in bulk and you can come assemble the packs in our warehouse. This new way streamlines the process and ensures the correct items are included in the packs. This pack goes beyond providing basic hygiene items; it is tangible love and hope for these women who are facing a challenging time in their life.



If you are unable to give financially, we ask that you please join us in the following prayer for these women.

Prayer Written by Sidney Owens

"Dear heavenly Father, There are individuals in facilities across Missouri who are struggling to fit the pieces back together. We pray you walk alongside them with your love and healing hands. We can't imagine the paths that have lead them to this point, but surround them with your grace and mercy. Help them to know we are thinking of them and sending words of encouragement. We pray for their family members and for those working in the facilities. May healing begin today and continue throughout all the days of their lives. Amen."

