



Festival of Sharing 101

What is Festival of Sharing?

Festival of Sharing is an ecumenical response to poverty, hunger, and injustice. This means we are a variety of denominations (approximately 30!) working together. Our goal is to promote and support projects and programs by providing funding and resource goods. This often equates to gathering packs and kits for agencies like food pantries, foster and adoption programs, and more.

What is a Sharefest?

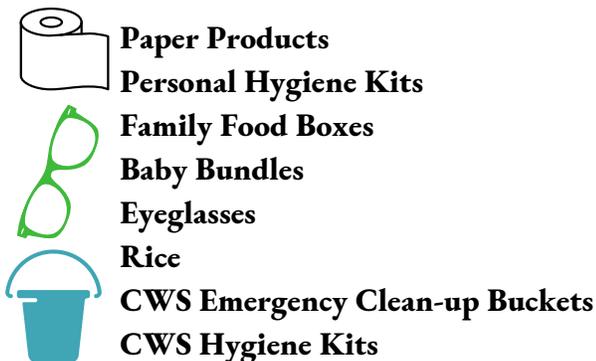
When you hear the term "Sharefest," this refers to events we have, at which we collect the packs, kits, and funds recognized in the booklet. We take this time to engage in service, worship and fellowship with our neighbors. These events are open to the public and held in partnership with local churches across Missouri. We have a variety of ages and abilities who join us at these events.

What is the Quilt Auction?

Another big component of who we are is the Annual Quilt Auction. We use this event to raise awareness and support for the Church World Service Blanket Program, which helps people rebuild their lives after disasters. For every \$10 we raise, a blanket can be donated to someone who has just experienced a house fire, flood, tornado, or other disasters. More information can be found at festivalofsharing.org/quiltauction.

What are packs and kits?

Below are some of the items we collect at our Sharefests. Our most needed items are paper product packs, personal hygiene kits and family food boxes. In a paper product kit, you will see 12 double rolls of toilet paper, two rolls of paper towels and two boxes of facial tissues. Its estimated value is \$16. Some of the items are used with particular groups. Backpacks of Love and youth personal care kits are for children and youth in foster care, seeds are sent to community gardens, eyeglasses go to the Merida foundation and three kits are sent to Church World Service (CWS), a larger disaster relief organization.



What is Sharefest's history?

In 1974 it began as a call-to-action to address hunger and poverty for United Methodists in Missouri. The event was held at Trowbridge Arena on the University of Missouri-Columbia's campus and it was a big day filled with live animals, clothing drives and other kit donations. In one of those early years, the convocation invited Minnie Pearl to be a guest speaker. She was an active United Methodist Woman and shared her story about faith and entertainment.

A few years later it became ecumenical and other denominations joined in the sharing. It moved to the Sedalia Fairgrounds and was held on the third Saturday in October because of its proximity to World Food Day. There were many group activities, including the packing of rice and beans, worship and the Quilt Auction. Youth would come on Friday night for an overnight experience of worship and fellowship.

In more recent years, there began discussion on how to make the resources from the Festival more accessible and affordable for agencies across the state. This is when the idea of the Sharefest came along. The first two were held in 2016 in the NW Region in Cameron and the St. Louis Region in Ferguson. In 2018, we fully moved to the Sharefest model and have seven events across Missouri in Cameron, St. Louis, Kansas City, Macon, Tipton, Republic, and Dexter.

Who are the agencies?

The agencies we partner with vary in who they are and who they support. They are sometimes food pantries, foster and adoption programs, pregnancy resources centers, community action centers, or refugee services. To be approved with us, they must be supported by other sources in their local communities. When applying, they provide us a list of financial information and governing board members. We also learn about the types of educational classes they offer, such as cooking demonstrations or money management classes. In 2019 we served 113 agencies across the seven Sharefests, those agencies in turn worked with over 60,000 clients each month.

How can I participate?

There are many ways to use your time or talents!

- **Pray for our volunteers, agencies and resources.**
- **Visit our warehouse and work on a project.**
- **Take a booklet and collect different items to assemble kits.**
- **Support a Sharefest by coming to volunteer, help plan the day's events, or share information in your community.**
- **We accept monetary donations which can be designated for certain kits or projects. If you have a special calling towards education and want funds to be used to assemble reading and writing kits, we can make that happen.**
- **Join our Coordinating Committee. This is our governing board who helps provide vision and help make decisions for our overall goals.**

Questions? Contact Sidney Everhart at festival@socket.net or 573-474-3332.



@FestivalofSharing
festivalofsharing.org



FOOD BOX CHALLENGE

Sharefest 2020

This year we want to celebrate Sharefest season with a new way to raise awareness about hunger and poverty. We are inviting you to participate in a Food Box Challenge. Put on your best thinking cap and tie on your favorite apron, it's time to use all these extra hours at home to get creative!

The challenge is to create a food dish using mainly items from our Missouri Family Food Box. These food boxes include shelf-stable food items and are shared with a variety of agencies around Missouri who provide them to their clients. You can submit a breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snack idea you have created by yourself or with a team (safely, of course!).

Below you will find a few steps on how to participate starting on September 1st. When you are done cooking, snap a picture, write a description, and send it to us @FestivalofSharing on Facebook, Instagram, or email-festival@socket.net to enter the challenge. After entries close Sept. 25, we will post the pictures and recipes to our website (festivalofsharing.org) and voting will open for people vote on the tastiest dish! The winner will receive a pizza party for themselves or their group who helped create the recipe and Festival of Sharing will donate five Missouri kits to an agency in their area.

After you've created your recipe and feasted on your masterpiece, take a few minutes to debrief with yourself or group by using the outline provided with this announcement.

FOR THE CHALLENGE

Step 1: Choose any number of these items from the food box:

- 3 cans of fruit: pineapple, pears, peaches, fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges.
- 3 cans of vegetables: green beans, corn, carrots, potatoes, peas.
- 3 boxes of macaroni and cheese.
- 1 pound of pasta.
- 1 can of pasta sauce.
- 1 jar of peanut butter.
- 3 cans of chicken.
- 3 cans of tuna.

Step 2: Choose three supplemental ingredients from this pre-approved list:

- Milk
- Baking powder
- Flour
- Egg
- Hot Sauce
- Sugar
- Butter
- Vegetable Broth
- Rice
- Salt
- Parsley (dried)
- Garlic Powder
- Pepper
- Oatmeal
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- Cinnamon
- Mayonnaise

Step 3: create your food masterpiece!

Step 4: Take a picture, write a brief description and send it in to festival@socket.net, [Facebook at /FestivalofSharing](https://www.facebook.com/FestivalofSharing) or [Instagram @festivalofsharing](https://www.instagram.com/festivalofsharing).

Step 5: From Sept. 25-30, logon to festivalofsharing.org and vote for the tastiest recipe! Encourage your friends and family to vote as well. Winner will be announced Oct. 2.

FOOD BOX CHALLENGE DEBRIEF

While this was a fun activity to engage your brains and challenge your cooking skills, hunger and poverty is a real concern for many families in Missouri and across the world. Here are a few facts for you to review with your group and some questions to discuss the impacts of poverty and hunger.

Facts & Definitions

- About 786,000, or 13%, Missourians live in poverty.
- The term “food insecure” means over the last 12 months a household has not been able to afford an adequate diet at all times.
- 12% of Missouri’s population experience food insecurity.
- Opposite of that would be food security, where all people at all times have access to enough food for an active, healthy life.
- There are many barriers to nutritious foods, including a household’s low income, the affordability of food in the community, or location of where the family lives (like whether they have a grocery store in their town).
- Without nutritious food, people are at a higher risk for diseases or other health concerns and may have trouble concentrating at school or work.
- One step to alleviating hunger is to develop strategies that raise the income of families.
- Communities can support this by providing access to job skills training, encouraging businesses to provide living wage jobs, promoting local industries/business and more.

Discussion Questions

- What was challenging about this activity? How did you overcome the challenges?
- What did you learn about yourself or a group member during this activity?
- Have you talked about hunger or poverty in other situations? How was this experience similar or different?
- What is one way you could impact hunger or poverty in your community?

Want to go deeper?

One of the agencies you have the option to support through the Festival of Sharing is the Society of St. Andrew (SOSA). SOSA is a food rescue agency, which means they partner with churches and groups to glean, collect leftover crops after harvest, and distribute them to people experiencing hunger. In September, SOSA celebrates Hunger Action Month and offers many free resources to learn about and raise awareness for hunger and food insecurity. You can learn more at endhunger.org/ham/.

DO GOOD, SHARE GOOD

A BIBLE STUDY

discern

There is a lot going on in our daily lives: work, school, chores, sports, etc. How do you keep track of all the things you need to get done in a week? As things get busy and important tasks fill up your daily to-do lists, do you ever have trouble remembering things? Sure, you can use fancy notebooks or tech alerts to keep you on track for work, school and bills, but there will likely be some things that fall through the cracks. If you aren't intentional about those things that are not as time sensitive as bills, it is easier to push them to the bottom of the to-do list.

What about the reminders to do things that God teaches us in the Bible? The book of Hebrews enables Christians to grow and mature in our faith by walking in Spirit and truth. Living for God and withstanding the distractions of society is a daily practice. We can look to Hebrews 13 for reminders of our Christian conduct and the ultimate example in Christ. It is important for us to remember that we show the love of God through our actions.

How often do we write reminders to be more Christ-like? To do good and share with others? It may seem weird that we would have to remind ourselves to do good, but we are all human and have many things that pull from our energy and focus. Luckily, there are many ways to show the love of God and to be His hands and feet in this world. For some, acts of physical volunteering such as cooking a meal at a homeless shelter, cleaning up litter in a park, or unloading donations at a Sharefest are very tangible way to do good for others. For some, a special skill such as painting, singing, or being a listening ear allows you to be of service to your community. Whatever your talent may be, we challenge you to write yourself a note this week. Whether it is on your phone or on a sticky note on your mirror, give yourself a reminder to do good and share with others.

As you move through your to-do lists, think about how you can intentionally incorporate these actions to be a natural part of your daily or weekly routine.



HEBREWS 13

thoughts

questions

How can you show the love of Christ in your daily life?

When is it challenging to do good for or share with others?

When have you seen someone else doing good or sharing with others this past week?

How can we help each other overcome these challenges?

Dear Gracious God,

We thank you for this day and the opportunity to meditate on Your reminders to live a Christ-centered life. There are many distractions in our lives and we sometimes fall short of Your glory. We rejoice in knowing that we can always come back to You and that You provide many opportunities to show love to our neighbors and our world. We ask for Your strength, courage, and wisdom as we seek to intentionally do good and share with others. In Your name we pray, Amen.

prayer
