

2022 A Year of Growth

Where do we start? So many changes. So many increases.

As we continue in our mission to advance the lives of others, and our goal to meet the under met and more often unmet need for personal care, baby care, and household cleaning products, to alleviate the shame and desperation that often accompanies hygiene poverty--the inability to afford basic non-food goods such as shampoo, deodorant, body wash, diapers, dishwashing detergent, and laundry detergent, we start with you, our donors, product suppliers and volunteers.

Our donors, those who continue this journey with us, and those who have joined us in our mission, the foundations, businesses, and individuals. We are grateful to all. Our continued supporters, to name a few, Forest County Potawatomi Foundation, Otto Bremer Trust, Racine Community Foundation, Grand Foundation, the continuing businesses, and individual supporters (who prefer to remain anonymous), and those who have joined with us in 2022; the foundations, businesses (rpm Bodywork), nonprofits, (Hmong American Friendship Association), and individuals both one time and monthly supporters. Understand, you are our starting point, without you, we do not move forward.

Our product suppliers, again a few. Our continuing relationships with Walmart and Festival Foods. Our new relationship with HDI Wholesale and Jake's Network of Hope. Thank you for helping to increase the impact of the generosity of our donors through your product availability and pricing. The effects of Covid-19 and its variants are still apparent throughout the supply chains, but you, our product suppliers, continually provide the needed products.

It all comes together because of our committed volunteers. Volunteers who faithfully, load, unload, and sort product to assemble boxes filled with personal care, baby care, and household cleaning products for our Racine and Milwaukee County residents in need. They faithfully show up rain or shine to serve, distributing hygiene boxes during community outreach events, and packing individually requested hygiene boxes for delivery through our new relationship with DoorDash. One of the largest hurdles we have recognized for those we serve is the accessibility to transportation, that is why our community outreach events accommodate both drive through and walk-up provision of hygiene boxes, and why individual requests are delivered by DoorDash (within a specified distance).



In order to better facilitate the ever-increasing need, we moved from a 3,600 square foot garage to a 133,000 square foot manufacturing facility where a footprint of 5,000 square feet has been carved out for us, enabling us to load, unload, sort and package out of the elements. This is simply the tip of the iceberg, the support within the facility is overwhelming. We are so grateful!

Since 2017 we have served over 3,078 individuals and families over 28,927 personal care, baby care, and household cleaning products throughout Racine and Milwaukee Counties. Secondly, we support our communities through the provision of clothing, housewares, bedding, bath, school supplies, toys, and much more. We continue, and have increased, our collaborations with other nonprofit and government organizations to serve their clientele, to confirm continued need, and identify new areas of need.

Why do we do what we do? "The programs most commonly used by low-wage earners to help pay at the grocery store--SNAP and WICC--do not cover hygiene supplies . . . Progressives agree that food, housing, and health care are rights. It is not that policymakers are opposed to putting hygiene in the same category--it is just that they don't think to, because cleanliness is such an ordinary, baseline thing . . . so much is unknown about how hygiene poverty affects their neighbors, because almost no one is researching it. People need to get past the giggles and the silence, and instead start talking, asking questions, and searching for solutions." [1] Through our donors, product suppliers, and volunteers, we are one of those solutions. We believe this seemingly simple provision of products will give hope to their recipients; exemplifying help without judgment and help at the time of need. Hoping the recipients will realize with a little help, poverty does not have to continue to be their reality. PEOPLE DO CARE.

Source: [1] <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/americas-unspoken-hygiene-crisis/>

