

OCTOBER 2020

# FEARLESS UPDATE

**JANE DOE:**

Your personal giving info on page 10



IN MANY WAYS,  
**2020**  
HAS NOT BEEN AWESOME.  
Yet when the world seemed to encourage us to grumble and complain, Westsiders continued to choose joy and bring hope, even when life was hard! As Christ followers, we choose to **MAKE IT AWESOME!** We are **FEARLESS!**



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# A NOTE FROM EDDIE

## THE MEANING OF A PROMISE

As Moses led the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery into the wilderness, none of them knew exactly what lay ahead. But what do you think they envisioned?

Did they imagine the circuitous 40-year saga that (we now know) was coming their way? Or did they imagine a few weeks of light hiking to Canaan, followed by an effortless occupancy of the *Promised Land*?

Based on what we can read from their history, the Israelites expected *everything* to quickly work in their favor. So when it didn't play out that way, they were grouchy. They became instantly demanding and demonstrated no tolerance for inconveniences or delays.

For example, when they encountered water that was unfit to drink, they didn't reason, "If God miraculously moved a body of water (the Red Sea) to deliver us from Pharaoh's army, he won't let us die from... of all things... lack of water!" Rather, they complained and "turned against" Moses. God had made them a great promise concerning their future, but they took no comfort in it. In fact, they seem to have forgotten what a promise is.

The word *promise* is a wonderful term, but along with a guarantee of something good, there is another component to every promise: a wait.

When a parent reassures his/her first-day kindergartener, "I promise to pick you up later today," you can bet it will

happen. But implicit in the promise is the reality that the child will have to wait a while. A promise means that a good thing will surely happen – but it also means that the good thing will not happen immediately.

From where we are today, it appears West Side will occupy the final portion of our new space about a year after we initially hoped. However, as one Westsider observed recently, our leaders do not appear to be discouraged by the delay. The reason we remain full of hope is that we believe we are serving under a good Leader and operating under a promise. Jesus remains with us and will continue building his church through us. That's a great promise and, even though the timeline has shifted, the promise remains valid.

Thank you for continuing the Fearless journey with us. Thank you for maintaining your composure (and generosity) during the unexpected wilderness season of Covid-19 and the fallout from it. Even though we can't be sure when we'll exit this particular stretch of wilderness, don't lose sight of God's great, eternal promises.

Also, don't lose sight of his promise to continue leading our church toward the vision of reaching Everyone!

I love you and the mission we're on together,

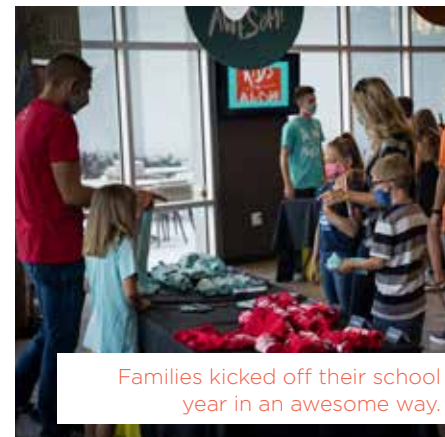
Eddie  
**West Side's Lead Guy**



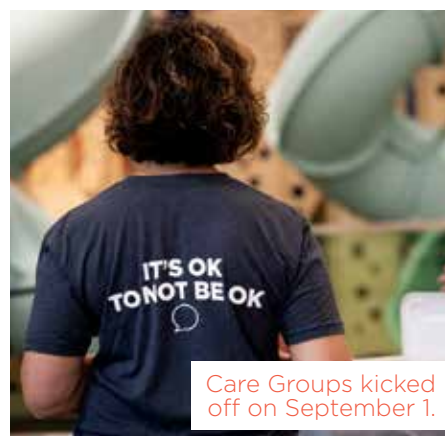
Westiders chose joy and decided to "Make it Awesome" in 2020.



Family venues were a great place for those with young kids to worship together at the start of reopening.



Families kicked off their school year in an awesome way.



Care Groups kicked off on September 1.



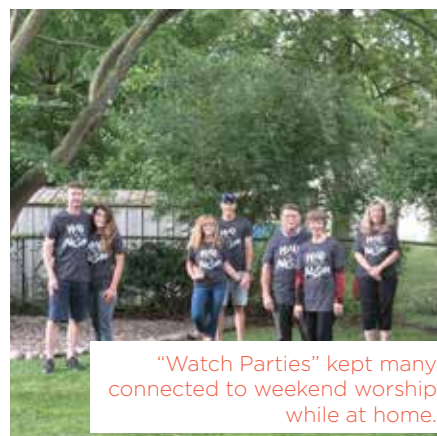
3rd-5th graders had a blast at the VIP Party.



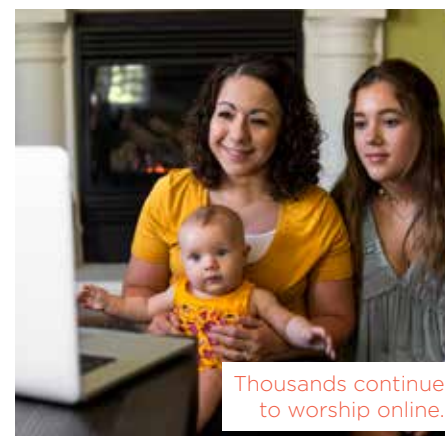
100+ students attended Night Camp this Summer.



HSM & JHM Groups kicked off in September.



"Watch Parties" kept many connected to weekend worship while at home.



Thousands continue to worship online.



Rooted began September 13.



15 High Schoolers kicked off a new Apprentice Program.



Kindergartners & 3rd graders celebrated new ministries at a drive-thru promotion party.

# BOLD DISCIPLESHIP

FUELING WEST SIDE'S ONGOING MINISTRY TO KIDS, STUDENTS AND ADULTS.

Westiders were resilient in their commitment to grow their faith during the stay-at-home order. Even so, it was **AWESOME** to be able to reopen many of our in-person discipleship opportunities and events designed to grow us closer to Jesus.



On-campus worship resumed on June 28 and grew to over a thousand Westiders in attendance by September 13. During this time, online opportunities and worship also continued to grow.

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My relationship with God is so much stronger after going through Rooted! It's now so much easier to talk to others about my relationship with Jesus, and I have invited more friends to church in the last year than I had in my entire lifetime!

- Bonnie Craig

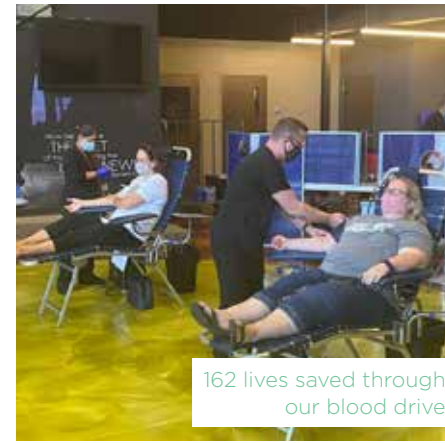


Westiders assisted with repairs, painting and landscaping at Inner City Mission and Refuge Ranch.

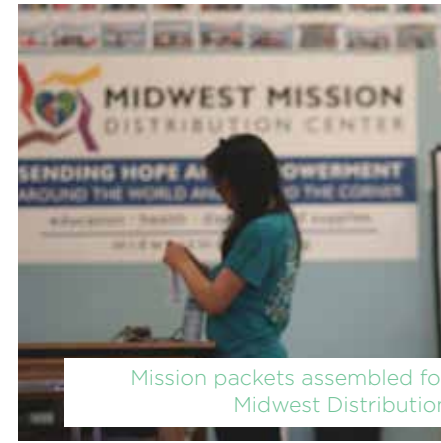
# BOLD COMPASSION

UNLEASHING A FRESH WAVE OF HELP AND HOPE THROUGH OUR LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERS

From June-October, Westiders made it **AWESOME** for others through giving generously of their time and resources.



162 lives saved through our blood drive



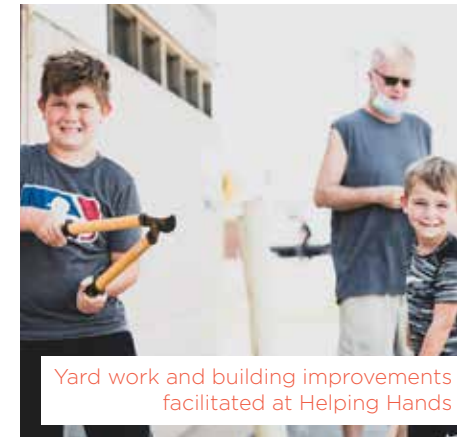
Mission packets assembled for Midwest Distribution



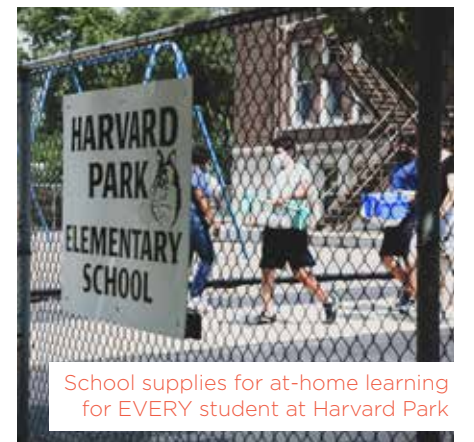
Hundreds of families fed through multiple food drives

“ Westiders have created the ideal community partnership with Harvard Park! I’ve seen it evolve over the years to become exactly what the Harvard Park community needs most. Through their gifts, time, and relationships, Westiders love Harvard Park families so well!

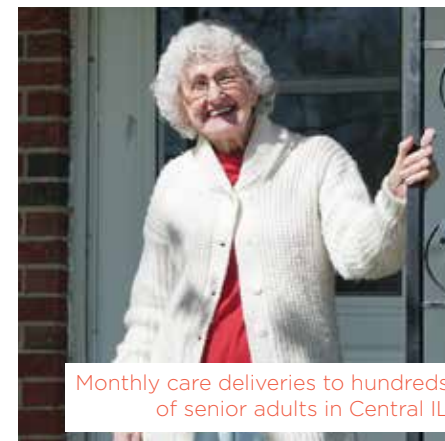
- Jim Hayes, Harvard Park Principal



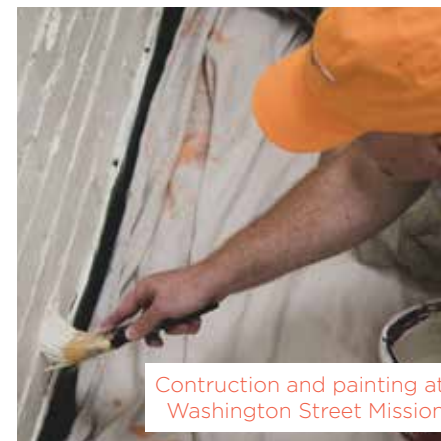
Yard work and building improvements facilitated at Helping Hands



School supplies for at-home learning for EVERY student at Harvard Park



Monthly care deliveries to hundreds of senior adults in Central IL



Construction and painting at Washington Street Mission



Landscape cleanup for Lake Springfield Christian Assembly



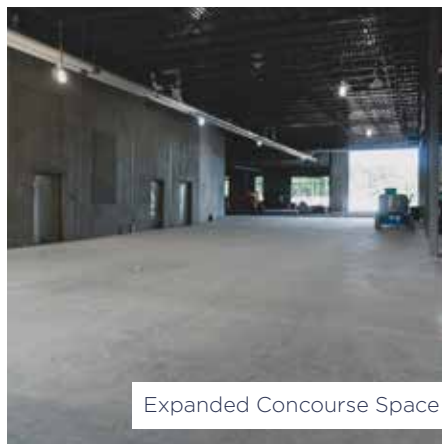
# BOLD GROWTH

EXPANDING OUR CAMPUS TO MAKE ROOM FOR **EVERYONE** WHO DOES NOT YET KNOW THE LOVE, HOPE AND FREEDOM OF JESUS CHRIST.

Construction was temporarily paused during the stay-at-home order. Thanks to the **AWESOME** generosity of Westsiders, construction resumed at the beginning of June.



New Fireside Cafe



Expanded Concourse Space



New Worship Center

“

Meeting our Fearless commitment hasn't felt like an obligation, but rather a glimmer of excitement for what God will do through our faithfulness. Everything else about this year has been so abnormal and chaotic. Keeping our Fearless commitment has been a constant source of joy and hope for what is to come!

- Rob and Betsy Cassens

## CARES Act & Your Charitable Giving

As FEARLESS nears its December 2020 conclusion, we want to ensure you're aware of a unique giving opportunity related to the annual limitation for charitable tax deductions. (This type of opportunity hasn't occurred since 2006 in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which indicates its rarity.)

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, Congress passed the CARES Act in March of 2020. While this piece of legislation is best known for provisions such as direct payments to Americans, the Payroll Protection Plan, and extended unemployment benefits, it also includes a lifting of the cap on charitable deductions and other tax benefits to those who financially support charitable organizations.

Learn more at [wschurch.org/CARESact](https://wschurch.org/CARESact)

## E-GIVING

Hundreds of Westsiders have found recurring e-giving to be a helpful tool in their generosity journey. Ready to create a more regular giving pattern? It takes less than 5 minutes and you can start and stop at any time.

To set up a recurring gift to help fulfill your FEARLESS commitment, visit [wschurch.org/enroll](https://wschurch.org/enroll).

# GIVING UPDATE

**\$29,065,548**

COMMITMENTS AND EXPECTED GIFTS

**\$21,357,848**

TOTAL GIVEN (12/1/2018 - 9/30/2020)

## PERSONAL GIVING UPDATE

Jane Doe

**\$XX,XXX**

Fearless giving to date (12/1/2018 - 9/30/2020)

If you have questions regarding your giving record, contact West Side's Director of Finance, Brenda Lavin at:

[BrendaL@wschurch.org](mailto:BrendaL@wschurch.org) or **217.793.2800**

Set up a consistent weekly or monthly giving schedule at [wschurch.org/Give](https://wschurch.org/Give)

**THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

# IMPORTANT DATES

## FEARLESS CELEBRATION | DECEMBER 6

Make plans to join us for construction tours, celebratory cupcakes, engaging worship and inspiring stories!

## FEARLESS GIVING CONTINUES THROUGH DECEMBER 31



wschurch



wscspfld



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wschurch.org/App

wschurch.org