



Summary of October 5th Finalists

Bridges of Hope, Inc.

Blessing Bags and Beyond! supports youth and young adults aging out of Wisconsin's foster care system. Bridges of Hope provides "Blessing Bags"—rolling duffel bags filled with 64 essential household items, a \$50 Amazon gift card, and a devotional book—to help young adults establish their first apartments. Each bag costs approximately \$300, and 225 have been distributed across Wisconsin over the past two years. The bags also provide an opportunity to build ongoing relationships with former foster youth and the case workers who support them. Bridges of Hope is seeking **\$10,000** to continue the program and expand support for former foster youth in Dane County, including groceries, clothing, furniture, transportation, household needs, rent assistance, vehicle repairs, and other practical challenges. Through this assistance, ongoing relationships, and a Bible-based life-skills class, the organization helps young adults build independence, stability, and lasting support as they transition out of foster care. For more information, visit: bridgesofhopeus.org

Door Creek Church

Homeless Outreach Ministry Evangelism (HOME) serves men and women experiencing homelessness in Dane County by meeting practical needs while sharing the hope of Jesus Christ. Held monthly at Door Creek Church's Northside Campus, HOME serves approximately 25 people through hot breakfasts, clothing, hygiene supplies, food and fuel cards, Bibles, transportation, and an evangelistic worship experience with music, testimonies, a short sermon, and prayer. Door Creek Church is seeking **\$5,000** to support meals, transportation, clothing, hygiene items, Bibles, grocery and fuel assistance, worship services, and emergency hotel stays for individuals with special needs. The ministry also hopes to expand its meal offerings in 2027 with culturally featured meals. Through HOME, the church seeks to address both physical and spiritual needs while building relationships and providing a pathway toward faith and community for those connected to Dane County's shelter and homeless-service systems. For more information, visit: doorcreekchurch.org

The Dwelling

The Dwelling creates a space where people can worship, pray, and encounter the living God of the Bible. It is seeking **\$5,000** to sponsor an 11-week Alpha Course for residents of The Madisonian and the surrounding Madison neighborhood, creating a welcoming place to build relationships, explore Christianity, ask questions, and experience the love of Jesus Christ. Funding will provide meals and beverages, promotional materials, supplies, and rental equipment needed to host the course. Alpha brings participants together around a meal for meaningful conversations about faith and an invitation to follow Jesus Christ. Through the course, The Dwelling hopes to introduce neighbors to the Gospel, connect them with a local church, and develop ongoing relationships through prayer and community support.

Every Daughter

Every Daughter's **Stable Housing and Solid Transportation Initiatives** help sexually exploited and trafficked women move toward safety, stability, and independence by securing stable housing and reliable transportation. These practical supports address two significant barriers women can face as they work to establish a safe and sustainable new chapter in their lives. Every Daughter is requesting **\$7,500—\$5,500 for Stable Housing and \$2,000 for Solid Transportation**—to help meet these immediate needs. *(NOTE: Every Daughter received a \$2,500 grant in Period 2 2026.)* The organization also leverages community partnerships and other resources to meet the individual needs of the women it serves. Along with practical assistance, Every Daughter builds trusted relationships and shares the love and hope of Jesus Christ through prayer, friendship, and the Gospel. For more information, visit: everydaughter.com

Family Connect WI

Dane County Community Network connects child-serving agencies, churches, businesses, and community members to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable families through the CarePortal technology platform. Agency workers identify urgent needs, which are shared with local partners who can provide essential items and personal support directly to families. Family Connect of Wisconsin is seeking **\$10,000** to support its Dane County Regional Manager as the network expands, including the addition of approximately 150 Dane County Human Services social workers. Funding will support training and onboarding these social workers, hands-on assistance as they begin using CarePortal, and recruiting and training additional churches and community partners to respond to increased needs. By strengthening the network, Family Connect seeks to provide timely practical assistance and meaningful relationships that strengthen families, help prevent family separation, and share the hope of Christ. For more information, visit: familyconnectwi.org

Mercy Dental Missions

The **Agape Grant Program** provides compassionate, free or reduced-cost dental care to uninsured and financially vulnerable individuals while sharing the hope and love of Jesus Christ. Mercy Dental Missions' Madison clinic provides more than **3,500 care visits annually** to individuals in need throughout Dane County. Mercy Dental Missions is seeking **\$10,000** to help Agape recipients address significant dental and financial hardship and receive care they otherwise may be unable to afford. Beyond relieving pain and urgent dental needs, the program seeks to restore health, dignity, and hope. Each Agape recipient meets personally with a Mercy Dental Missions leader who listens to their story, explains the Christian foundation of the program, offers prayer, and shares the unconditional love of God through Jesus Christ. For more information, visit: mercydentalmissions.org

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