

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp, and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16*

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for shining your light in our community and helping us continue progress! Let's keep it going!

## **Upcoming Fundraisers**

[Dine and Donate at Texas Roadhouse in Forsyth](#): 10% of the proceeds will be donated to Willow Tree on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Simply mention us, show them our post, or show them a flyer. So easy and so delicious!

On [Facebook](#): Join our fundraiser, where you pick the dollar value of your donation \$1 - \$100 for a chance to win gift cards!

## **Building Updates**

July and August brought exciting progress in our new building. We are delighted to announce that our Trivia Night fundraiser was a huge success! We were able to meet our goal and complete the worst of the tuck-pointing and roof repairs. Additionally, with the hard work of our committed volunteers and employees, a new wall was built in the middle section; two new doors were installed; two broken windows were replaced; and the new flooring has arrived! We truly could not have done any of this without the full support of this community!

Big News: We are expecting a gift from the Ameren IL Energy Efficiency Program to cover the LED light replacement to help us reduce our energy costs. We will truly get to let our light shine!

We had a power outage at the Resale Shop on Monroe and got to test a Resale Shop at Washington! We can't wait to be open on a regular basis at Washington. Your next opportunity to shop there is coming in December with our [Christmas Pop-Up Shop!](#)

We are in need of continued financial support to keep going. We are also in need of volunteers to help us install the new flooring. Finally, we need help purchasing a used, but solid truck by December 15 to help move goods between the buildings. [Call](#) us to obtain additional details!

## **Willow "Giving" Tree Capital Campaign**

The flooring, painting, and tuck pointing are all part of our larger Willow "Giving" Tree Capital Campaign that kicked off in June. With target dates of opening the new resale shop space by June 2023 and the efficiency apartments by December 2023, we are diligently pursuing various grant opportunities and developed a Willow "Giving" Tree capital campaign to help in meeting these

overwhelming one-time costs. To maintain the historical integrity of the building, while equipping it for our purposes, and meeting life safety code requirements, at this point we estimate approximately \$422,000 in renovation costs to date. Renovations have already begun, utilizing volunteers and experts, and prioritizing the most urgent items on our to-do list.

### **Willow “Giving” Tree Support Levels**

Just as the roots, trunk, branches, and leaves work together to provide nutrients, strength, pathways, and protection to the tree, your gift will similarly impact the structure of Willow Tree Mission and its client services. Inspired by Shel Silverstein’s book, *The Giving Tree*, we believe Willow Tree can be our clients’ quiet place to rest, to climb its trunk of resources and swing toward freedom from its branches, to find solace under its leaves.... and to be at peace. Will you help Willow Tree to grow?

#### **Leaves**

Financial Contribution: \$1 - 499 and/or  
Volunteer Commitment: No minimum

#### **Branches**

Financial Contribution: \$500 - 1,999 and/or  
Volunteer Commitment: One hour per week  
(Equivalent to 4 hours per month)

#### **Trunk**

Financial Contribution: \$2,000 - 4,999 and/or  
Volunteer Commitment: Five hours per week  
(Equivalent to a group of 10 working 2 hours per month)

#### **Roots**

Financial Contribution: More than \$5,000 and/or  
Volunteer Commitment: Eight hours per week  
(Equivalent to a group of 10 working 3 hours per month)

#### **Donation Options:**

- Mail a check made payable to Willow Tree Missions to:  
100 E. Washington St., Monticello, IL 61856
  - Venmo [@Willowtreemissions](#)
  - [Facebook.com/willowtreemissions](https://www.facebook.com/willowtreemissions)
- By credit card at <https://willowtreemissions.org/capitalcampaign>

**We Are Richly Blessed**

Thank you for your support thus far! Willow Tree Missions could not exist without its many donors and volunteers. Our work is far from finished but we believe that together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. For a list of the many ways you can partner with us, give us a call or visit our website at <https://willowtreemissions.org/donate>. We'd love for you to hear from you!

## **Why Give**

Since 2007, Willow Tree Missions has offered refuge and resources to county residents who are trying to escape domestic violence. Our clients tend to have been isolated from friends and family and have little or no support system. In desperation, they often come to us with less than \$5 to their name. We would like to be able to extend that critical support beyond the crisis by offering transitional housing for 3-6 months while individuals begin rebuilding their lives.

With the purchase of the downtown Monticello building, we now have room for this housing as well as a multi-purpose space to conduct and grow community support programs. The completed renovations will also allow the resale shop to double its footprint between our current resale shop at 351 W. Monroe Street and this building. The additional revenue generated will enable growth in the essential services we are able to provide for our community's domestic violence victims and meet the annual operating budget.

We are hopeful that you will partner with Willow Tree Missions to invest in our one-time renovation needs helping us fully open this building within the next year. With your vital assistance, Willow Tree Missions can better restore hope and energy to the people of Piatt County who are desperately trying to repair their lives.