



NEWS RELEASE

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Willow Tree Missions Commemorates Volunteer Appreciation Month

Monticello, IL – Each year, April is commemorated across the country as National Volunteer Appreciation Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the individuals who give their time and talents to strengthen communities. Established in 1974, this national recognition highlights the powerful impact of volunteerism—and at Willow Tree Missions; that impact is felt every day.

“Our volunteers truly are the heart of Willow Tree Missions,” said Jill A. Maxey, Executive Director. “They are a compassionate and dedicated group of people who care deeply about those in need in Piatt County. We simply could not serve our community at the level we do without their generosity, commitment, and willingness to help.”

In 2025 alone, approximately 200 volunteers donated nearly 9,000 hours of service, assisting with essential tasks such as processing donated items, supporting fundraising efforts, and helping ensure vital resources reach individuals and families in need. Their dedication allows the organization to continue fulfilling its mission of service, dignity, and hope.

Willow Tree Missions would like to offer special thanks to the individuals and groups who have so generously supported our work in 2025, including:

- Calvary Baptist Youth Group
- Carle Nurses
- Catholic Heart Work Camp Students

- Cerro Gordo United Methodist Church
- Christ Lutheran Church
- Knights of Columbus
- Mansfield United Methodist Church
- Monticello Elementary 3rd Grade Classes
- Presbyterian Church
- Those Guys

During National Volunteer Appreciation Month—and throughout the year—Willow Tree Missions extends its deepest gratitude to all volunteers who make their work possible. Volunteers' time, energy, and compassion make a meaningful difference in the lives of Piatt County neighbors, and Willow Tree Missions is sincerely thankful for everything their volunteers do.

Volunteer opportunities at Willow Tree Missions are available for all skill levels and time commitments. To learn more about volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups, visit <https://willowtreemissions.org/howcanihelp/timeandtalents/> or reach out by email to info@willowtreemissions.org.

ABOUT WILLOW TREE MISSIONS: Established in 2007 first in Cisco and now in located in Monticello, Willow Tree Missions is a Christ centered non-profit corporation that operates resale shops that fund services for victims of domestic abuse. Family Service Center staff assist clients determined to escape abusive situations and create healthier, safer environments for themselves and their children. For victims in imminent situations, Willow Tree Missions provides emergency shelter and assistance with clothing, transportation, and household needs. The organization partners with law enforcement officials and community advocates to obtain orders of protection, safety planning, and legal referrals. To help clients move forward, Willow Tree Missions also provides ongoing crisis and spiritual counseling. Recognizing the interaction between education, substance abuse, and emotional/physical trauma, Willow Tree Missions has instituted Christ centered support programs and proactive educational outreach initiatives.

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