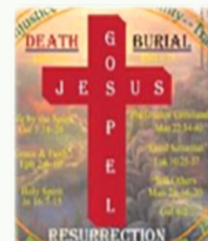




# \*\*\* THE MIRACLE NEWS \*\*\*



First Step Back Home  
PO Box 966  
O'Fallon, MO 63366

## Wars and Rumors of Wars

by Paul Kruse

### CONTACTS

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**VISIT US ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA:**

facebook.com/firststepbackhome

twitter.com/1ststepbackhome

bit.ly/fsbhyoutube

Not to be alarming, but a major war is going on right now. Not on our doorstep but there is a potential for U.S. danger of this from two of the largest countries in the world and both with nuclear weapons. We are getting warnings about the use of nuclear weapons from these two powers at the same time. As I understand it, China says don't get involved in their takeover of Taiwan or they may use nukes on us. Now Russia says don't get involved with the Ukraine War or they may start using nukes. So what a conundrum we are in! We are sworn to love each other, if we believe the **Bible**, but what do you do when someone is attacking your neighbor or you?

***There is a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:8)***

We shouldn't be surprised about this war because **God** has warned us.

***And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but it is not yet the end. (Matthew 24:6)***

We all know we will die, and the earth will burn up, but we also know that there will be a new heaven and earth for His believers, according to Revelation 21:1-4.

***Do not fear or be in dread of them, for the Lord your God is He who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory. (Deut. 20:1-4 at the end of verse 4 (paraphrased, talking about war))***

As we have seen in the past two world wars, even as we were fighting two large countries, Germany and Japan, and were the underdogs to win, **God** and we beat them both. Now here we are again with two large countries, China and Russia, threatening us. We need to rely on **God** to bring us through as He always has.

***If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peacefully with all. (Romans 12:18)***

We are trying very hard, but the non-believers won't quit attacking and killing our friends and neighbors. So, we ask **God** to be with us again and strive for victory.

***Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11)***

War is definitely caused by devilish people, who kill other people just to gain power or wealth. I am so happy I didn't carry a gun while fighting the enemy in Vietnam. Although I am not afraid of death, what good would fear do? We all helped fire one 5" gun on the naval ship into enemy territories. There is no way I could have purposely aimed and fired to kill another person face to face. I would have been killed on my first mission. Like, "Sorry guys, I just don't want to shoot anyone." Whoever would have shot me would be the one to answer to **God** for that sin, not me.

I believe my death will be the best experience of my life. Just imagine crossing over to the other side, the promise of **Heaven**!

*(Continued on Page 2)*



## **Wars and Rumors of Wars** *(continued from page 1)*

*When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to the evildoers. (Proverbs 21:15)*

These evil people know it's wrong, but they go ahead and kill the innocent anyway. Just like spitting in **God's** eyes. But it's up to believers to show and be examples of **God's** word for justice and righteousness. Because we want a life that is pure and holy and do to others as **Jesus** did and still does through us.

*Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I shall repay," says the Lord. (Romans 12:19)*

Even though **God** says he will be with us against our enemies, I think He is taking revenge on our enemies through us.

*For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. (Romans 13:4)*

That's the crux of what is wrong with these Russian murderers, they don't fear **God** and don't obey His word!

*Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called the sons of God! (Matthew 5:7)*

Hallelujah!! That's us, but seems like it takes some force to obtain the peace. Like the verse says, we are the sons of **God** and shall be victorious in times of conflict. So I am betting on **God** to win this war Putin and the devil started, and I believe **God** and the righteous will prevail!!

Amen! Amen!

God Bless You! Paul



## **Happy 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to FSBH**

Since our beginnings in March 2005, **God** has brought us more than \$2.85 MILLION to help relieve the pain and suffering of the homeless, working poor and fragile families in our region. More than 10,000 people have been served with direct client services, and through Trucker Church ministry and our ever-popular Christmas Wonderland events each year. **Jesus** said the poor would always be with us. We're grateful to have opportunities to relieve burdens and help to propel others to improvements in their circumstances.

Our public charity works hard to keep overhead expenses to a minimum. About 80% of all donations go to program service expenses such as emergency lodging at local motels, acquisition of vehicles, cell phones, rent assistance and personal needs of clients.



## Just Who Are the Homeless in Our Region?

The **Program Performance Report** (below) generated by the **Coordinated Entry** team at the **Community Council** below gives you a snapshot of our homeless population, comparing data from 2020 to this past year. The number of households served has increased, and those with disabilities have increased as well. FSBH receives vetted referrals daily from the **Coordinated Entry** team, and we supply them with cell phones and gas cards for clients they serve as well. Note that those exiting to permanent housing have a very similar racial profile to those entering the program.

### Program Performance Report with Comparisons



St. Charles, Lincoln, & Warren  
Continuum of Care

Report Period : 1/1/2021 - 1/1/2022

Program(s) : CE - Housing Prioritization - Family, CE - Housing Prioritization - Individual, CE - Housing Prioritization - Transitional, CE - Triage (HUD compliant), Coordinated Assessment, YIN Youth Coordinated Entry

<u>All Coordinated Entry Programs</u>		1/1/2020 to 1/1/2021	1/1/2021 to 1/1/2022	
Metric	Comparison	Current	Change	
#HH (Individuals) served	3960	5422	↑	
<u>Level of Need</u>				
% Entering with 0 Income (adults in HH)	45%	35%	↓	
% With disability (individuals)	26%	27%	↑	
% No health insurance (individuals)	34%	26%	↓	
% Entering program from place not meant for human habitation (individuals)	17%	15%	↓	
Average length of time homeless in days			↓	
<u>Racial profile of individuals in program</u>				
White	2801 71%	3814 70%		
African American	838 21%	1224 23%		
Multi-race	244 6%	274 5%		
Other Race	77 2%	110 2%		
<u>Racial profile of persons exiting to permanent housing</u>				
White	1349 68%	1792 69%		
African American	433 22%	612 24%		
Multi-race	155 8%	134 5%		





## St. Charles Rotary Taste of St. Charles Event

FSBH has been invited to apply for a grant from the **St. Charles Rotary** for this year's **Taste of St. Charles** event, which will take place Tuesday November 15, 2022 at the St. Charles Convention Center. Save the date and join us there! We'll have tickets to sell when we get closer to the date. Let us know if you'd like some.



In 2018, FSBH was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the event the year prior. We purchased a mobile home with those funds. This cycle we are requesting funding to help us acquire good, reliable vehicles for homeless and fragile families we serve in the St. Charles County region.



## Boeing Grant Funds Emergency Lodging Expenses

FSBH has been granted \$5,000 from the **Boeing Employees Community Fund** this year. The money will be used to provide emergency lodging for homeless people in the St. Charles, Warren and Lincoln area. About 100 nights of lodging can be supplied from this grant, usually being provided as two nights per client, for about 50 individuals or families sharing a room.

**EMPLOYEES  
COMMUNITY  
FUND  
OF BOEING**



This is the fourth time over the years that FSBH has received funding from this gracious employee grant source.

## FSBH Benefits from CREC Operation Round Up



Thanks to the generosity of members, a record-breaking year was celebrated in 2021 as the **Cuivre River Electric** (CREC) Community Trust Board awarded 263 grants totaling \$367,796.71 through their **Operation Round Up** (ORU) program. ORU funds are made possible from CREC members who voluntarily "round up" their electric bill payments each month to the next highest dollar. Over 95% of the cooperative's members participate in ORU, with the average yearly donation totaling just \$6 per member.

FSBH is one of those 263 grantees. What a blessing to have this resource in our region. The \$10K we received in 2021 was used to provide emergency lodging for homeless in St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties last year.

Three locations were used to lodge 67 client households for a total of 163 nights from March through August. **As this newsletter was being put together FSBH received a \$10,000 grant for 2022 to once again be used for emergency lodging in our service area.**

Since formed in 1997, ORU has awarded grants totaling \$6.7 million and since 2006, FSBH has received \$123,000 from this wonderful program. PTL!



## FSBH Client Services for 2021

Here's a snapshot of where your donations were spent last year. The largest services were for helping clients achieve automobile ownership, provision of emergency lodging at local motels and rent assistance. Other services not reflected in this report were rendered throughout the year as well, such as the provision of cell phones and gas cards to the Coordinated Entry Team in St. Peters for distribution to clients calling the 211 System. A total of 289 fragile families were helped, which included 387 adults, 205 children and 20 seniors.

### Services by Program



St. Charles, Lincoln, & Warren  
Continuum of Care

Service Date Between: 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2021

678

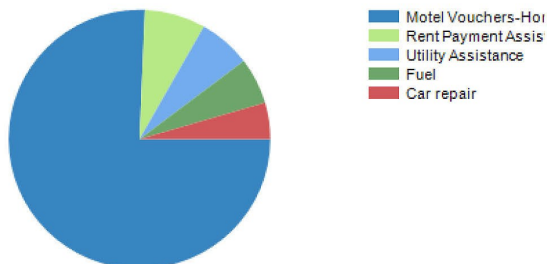
Organization(s): First Step Back Home

Select All

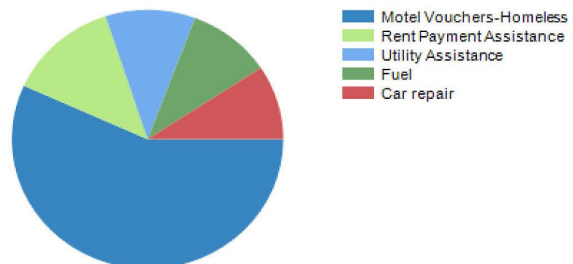
Program(s): Select All

#### First Step Back Home Supportive Services

Top 5 Services by Units



Top 5 Services by Clients



Service	Entries	Total	Clients	Families	Adults	Children	Seniors
Assistance to purchase vehicle	<u>12</u>	\$43,522.26	<u>12</u>	12	19	7	1
Car repair	<u>26</u>	7,488.26	<u>26</u>	26	34	15	0
Cell phone	<u>11</u>	510.73	<u>11</u>	10	14	11	3
Cell Phone Minutes	<u>3</u>	196.80	<u>3</u>	2	2	1	0
Clothing	<u>5</u>	567.62	<u>5</u>	4	7	3	0
Department of Revenue Payment	<u>4</u>	773.20	<u>4</u>	4	4	5	0
Food	<u>22</u>	2,122.10	<u>19</u>	17	17	6	2
Fuel	<u>33</u>	955.45	<u>28</u>	27	35	21	5
Household Goods	<u>1</u>	190.21	<u>1</u>	1	1	3	0
Insurance	<u>3</u>	175.00	<u>3</u>	3	5	4	0
Medication Assistance	<u>5</u>	363.73	<u>5</u>	4	4	5	2
Mobile Home Expenses	<u>3</u>	1,168.60	<u>3</u>	3	5	7	0
Motel Vouchers-Homeless	<u>235</u>	39,015.62	<u>159</u>	153	196	95	8
Personal hygiene items	<u>3</u>	170.45	<u>3</u>	3	3	1	0
Rent Payment Assistance	<u>39</u>	10,542.89	<u>37</u>	36	47	32	2
Rental Arrears Payments	<u>5</u>	1,475.35	<u>5</u>	5	4	5	2
Rental Deposit	<u>11</u>	2,766.00	<u>10</u>	10	12	7	0
Storage	<u>9</u>	1,243.65	<u>9</u>	9	13	10	0
Transportation	<u>6</u>	957.34	<u>6</u>	6	7	7	1
Utility Arrears	<u>15</u>	3,694.58	<u>15</u>	13	24	19	1
Utility Assistance	<u>37</u>	6,776.75	<u>30</u>	28	43	23	2
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>\$124,676.5</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>20</b>





## New Meals Coordinator Takes Reins

By Lana Kruse

After a decade of coordinating the motel meals program for FSBH, **Kim Orf** has passed her knowledge and expertise to our new coordinator, **Krista Zahn**. **Kim** had been faithful to keep our meal leaders trained and up-to-date on requirements and issues needing attention. She has been accurate in maintaining the calendar in real time on the FSBH website, as well as providing hard copies at the motel for clients to know the timing of meals to the lobby, and to collect the in-kind data tracking information needed for us.

After a very short search for a new coordinator, the Lord has supplied! **Krista** and her mother have been serving meals intermittently over the past few years and she was eager to take the reins. **Krista** works full-time remotely and is confident she can continue to oversee this vital part of our ministry in the days ahead.

We are still hoping for a “**Wentzville Community Meals**” program to become a reality, perhaps later this year, but in the meantime, **FSBH** will continue to provide meals at the **Economy Inn** as we have over the past 12 years, when willing volunteers offer their services to the ministry.

### Note From Outgoing Meal Coordinator



I am glad to have had the honor of working as the Meal Coordinator for the FSBH Meal Ministry for the last ten years.

I have enjoyed meeting many of the servers during this time, and have been impressed by the generosity of all the wonderful people in car-

ing for the families the Economy Inn and being enthusiastic about serving them, and helping to make evident the love of Jesus.

I will still be around FSBH as the Newsletter Designer, and helping in other areas as needed, such as taking pictures at the Christmas Wonderland.

I will miss talking to and emailing with everyone, and having the opportunities to come to the hotel and see the servers in action.

I know that Krista will be a great new Meal Coordinator and I hope she has as much fun as I have had for the past ten years!

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this such a fun and interesting job to do!

Kim Orf

### Note From New Meal Coordinator



Sending a huge thank you to all who serve. You are greatly appreciated! There are numerous openings on the Meal calendar. I encourage you to talk to your neighbors, coworkers, and friends; perhaps they would like to serve a meal. In my experience, I have

found that people want to help but are not always sure how or where to help.

Thinking outside the box and sharing ideas—perhaps different families/neighbors/coworkers want to help but do not have the time or resources to do an entire meal. Each one could do a part of the meal and work together as a team. One cooks the main dish, one provides a side, one provides a drink & dessert, and then one person serves the meal. I am open to your ideas, and focused on filling the calendar.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving—please let me know. Feel free to give my contact info as well. Thank you all so much.

636.299.0347 [fsbhmeals@gmail.com](mailto:fsbhmeals@gmail.com)  
[firststepbackhome.net/meal-calendar](http://firststepbackhome.net/meal-calendar)  
 Krista- Meal Coordinator



## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual FSBH Christmas Wonderland Blessings!

The **13th Annual Christmas Wonderland**, held December 11, 2021, happened on a very chilly and windy day at the Wentzville United Methodist Church. This year's event turned into a tailgate party as it was too windy for setting up any tents or gazebos on the parking lot for the drive through event. 548 needy people from 120 fragile families registered for this popular annual Birthday Party for Jesus celebration. In addition to the homeless and working poor who attended, about 100 people from the community contributed time and gifts to provide for the success of the event.



**Santa** and the **Mrs.** (aka **Jim & Karen Eddleman**) were on hand to wave at kiddos in their cars as they passed by his chair, and the **Youth Circus Troupe** from **Kinetic Tapestry** provided stilt walking, juggling, and clowning entertainment as cars were driving in the parking lot. Festive Christmas music was playing throughout the afternoon, thanks to local DJ, **Mike Schlipp**.

About 250 toys came from **Toys for Tots**, and 120 filled laundry/cleaning baskets were donated by ministry friends. Each family was given a new handmade quilt from the **Afternoon Quilt Guild** of **St. Paul Lutheran Church**, Des Peres, and they were also given \$25 gift cards from **Jim & Barb McCormick**, **Wentzville UMC Men's Group**, the **Lori Depp Memorial Fund**, **Mike & Kim Hud-**

**son, Bill & Kathy Schweikert** and other ministry donors.

The **Grace Community Chapel**, St. Peters, team assembled tasty holiday food treats under the leadership of **Janice & Mike O'Rourke**. The 100 teens each received gift bags including ear buds, new socks and \$10 gift cards donated by the **Tammy Stratman Brown Charity Foundation**, led by **Cheryl Russell**.

Handmade dolls were given from the **Stitches for Life** group, St. Peters. Additionally, diapers were donated by **Crisis Nursery** in Wentzville, and 270 new Bibles were given away from the **Matthias' Lot Church**, St. Charles. **Dawn Bray** coordinated all the client registration functions.

Look on the FSBH website: [firststepbackhome.net](http://firststepbackhome.net) or Facebook page for photos from the day, and let us know how you or your group would like to get involved for next year, which is scheduled for **Saturday, December 10, 2022** at Wentzville United Methodist Church. Please consider starting a laundry/cleaning basket collection project with a group you are a part of, or make plans to join us next time to help make it all come together once again.



For information contact **Lana Kruse**: [lanakruse@gmail.com](mailto:lanakruse@gmail.com) or 314-799-3694.





## Support FSBH on Give STL Day – May 5, 2022

The very popular **Give STL Day Event** will happen for 24 hours beginning at midnight on May 5, 2022. At this point, we have **\$14,500** pledged as matching gifts for this event. Would you please consider a \$10 or more gift to our cause that day, knowing your part will be matched 100% by those funds!

Here's the direct giving link, which will be open starting April 5, 2022:

[givetlday.org/firststepbackhome](https://givetlday.org/firststepbackhome)

Your donation can be made as a bank draft or a credit card transaction. Fees are less for us from the bank draft option.

Last year, more than 1,000 local non-profits participated in this charitable giving day, hosted by the **St. Louis Community Foundation**. FSBH was able to raise more than \$66,000 from friends of our ministry. Please help us be successful again this year in reaching our \$70,000 goal! Funds are greatly needed, as more than 80% of our calls are requests for COVID-related expenses.

Donations can be made online only, anytime after April 5, 2022, but would be **BEST** if they could be sent on **May 5** during the **midnight hour**, the **6 am hour**, or the **10 pm hour**. Those specific hours on Give Day will have corporate-funded bonus dollars to add to what you contribute.



Paul with John Fung,  
Development Director at  
Gospel Rescue Mission.

## Seeing How Others Do It

While on a recent vacation trip to the Arizona/New Mexico region, Paul & Lana had the opportunity to tour the **Gospel Rescue Mission** in Tucson, AZ. Thanks to a hotel facility donation to their ministry, this organization is able to provide full wrap-around services to the homeless who enter their program. It's always informative to share successes with others out there who have a heart to help those in need. FSBH is working with a task force here in St. Charles County to bring in a full-service homeless model under the guidance of the **City of Refuge** from Atlanta. Hopefully we'll be seeing more programming and services in the coming years to meet needs in St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties.

## Elementary School Creative Fundraiser Blesses FSBH Families

Gobble Grams... kinda like Thanksgiving Valentines... a creative fundraiser from **Discovery Ridge Elementary School PTO** benefitted our ministry last holiday season. Kids, teachers and parents paid \$1 each for a turkey card with a lollipop, and sent messages of gratitude and thankfulness to their classmates and friends. We were thankful and grateful for being selected as the recipient of this blessing, which amounted to \$691! Many client families were blessed from this project.







## Frigid Weather Had EWR Busy This Winter



A total of 28 nights of temperatures at 20 degrees or colder caused the St. Charles, Warren and Lincoln Counties **Emergency Weather Response (EWR)** team to activate this winter. Although there were NO dates that met the frigid criteria in November or December, the rest of the winter certainly made up for that. Several activations were held in January, February and March before the wintery blast ended.

Lodging was provided at several local churches when volunteers could be identified to serve. Occasionally some local hotels were also engaged in serving the 158 households of clients this year. A total of 935 "bed nights" of a warm place to sleep were provided. Sometimes that included cats and

dogs as well.

Each night of activation, food snacks were given out to clients, and resources for further intervention to assist 364 people in their quest for more suitable lodging were implemented.

Financially, this year's program has cost over \$25,000 to operate, with the primary expenses being hotel stays and taxis to give the homeless transportation to the specific location on any given night. The team is very thankful to individuals, churches and community groups who have donated to that cause in the past.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the EWR effort can send a check to the financial overseer of this project at LINC, 9 Love Park, Wentzville, MO 63385 and mark as a memo EWR on your check.

You can also connect with the financial leader **Kathy Thompson** at 636-332-5127 or [kathyt@lincsc.org](mailto:kathyt@lincsc.org).

## Cars for Clients

**Rickey & Suzette Gleich** are the latest clients to benefit from funding for a vehicle from FSBH. We first met this couple when they attended Trucker Church last December, after having come through the Mayfield KY tornado. They told us then that they'd lost EVERYTHING, including their car, in that storm. They had come to our area in the hopes of starting over with extended family nearby. FSBH had helped them in their recovery, with lodging for several weeks, food and work clothes. This month they found a reliable vehicle and were able to pay part of the expense. FSBH paid the rest for this 2005 Ford Escape that he had found. Halleluiah! They are doing DoorDash for income and getting enough work to meet their needs at this time.

Through the years FSBH has helped to acquire 41 used, reliable vehicles for families in our region, at a cost of \$110,000. Paul works with local car dealers to find appropriate wheels for the specific needs of our clientele. Clients need to demonstrate an ability to maintain a vehicle and be able to pay for insurance, licensing and taxes. Having reliable transportation is a must in our region, as there are very little public transportation options, only available on a limited basis in St. Charles City.





## Recent Donor Acknowledgements

We want to thank several businesses, churches and community groups who have financially supported FSBH this past quarter with these recent gifts. Some gifts have been made in honor or in memory of loved ones.

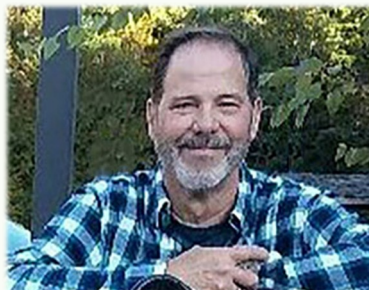
- \$5,000 – **Boeing** Employee Community Fund (Story on Page 4)
- \$2,000 – **Central Presbyterian Church**, Clayton
- \$2,000 – **Vermeer Sales & Service**, Chesterfield
- \$1,500 – **Element Church**, Wentzville
- \$1,200 – **Mission Financial**- St. Peters
- \$1,000 – **St. John United Church of Christ**, St. Charles
- \$1,000 – **Grace Community Chapel**, St. Peters
- \$ 780– **Home Maintenance Solution**, Wentzville
- \$ 691 – **Discovery Ridge PTO** Gobble Grams Fundraiser, Lake St. Louis (Story on Page 8)
- \$ 600 – **Wentzville United Methodist Men's Group** for gift cards at Christmas Event
- \$ 575 – **PEO Group**, St. Charles Christmas Donation
- \$ 500 – **Warrenton Christian Church**
- \$ 500 – **Mary Martha Thrift Shop**
- \$ 448 - **Thrivent** Choice Dollars as allocations from **Dennis & Donna Hall, David Nickel, Anita Peetz, and Susan Bauer**
- \$ 375 – **Chapel of the Lake**, Lake St. Louis
- \$ 210 – **Make My Donation**
- \$ 178 - **New Life Nazarene Church** – Christmas Eve Offerings
- \$ 155 – Memorial donations in honor of **Bill Marler** from **Negwer Materials, Inc., Barbara Majino, David Baker and John King** (Story below)
- \$ 130 – Memorial donations in honor of **Glen Thornell** from **Alice Wood, Venson & Barbara Jennings, and Gary & Barbara Riepl** (Story below)
- \$ 100 – Memorial allocations for **Mrs. Lori Depp** (long time volunteer and supporter of FSBH who died Oct. 10, 2021) from **Nancy Acord and Bayer Inc.**
- \$ 59 – **AmazonSmile** donations
- \$ 50 – In honor of **Antoinette Gibson** from **Rod & Catherine Graumaud**
- \$ 55 – **PayPal Giving Fund**
- \$ 15 – **AT&T** corporate match for employee gift

**We are so very thankful to all of you who think of donating to our public charity when opportunities present.**

Two faithful FSBH supporters have recently gone on to Gloryland, and designated FSBH for memorials. We have been blessed to have known them in recent years.



**Glen Thornell**, Lake St. Louis, died on November 11, 2021. A member of Wentzville United Methodist Church, he supported our Christmas events in the past and was a friend to all of us.



**Bill Marler**, St. Peters, died January 19, 2022. We first met him a few years back after he'd made a donation to FSBH. That sparked a special friendship and he helped us put together the playground set at one of our mobile home parks and connected with clients and other ministry volunteers.





## Donation Methods to Support FSBH

We want to remind you that your tax-deductible charitable donation is a great way to support the ministry. We are a public charity per IRS Regulations of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations will be receipted for tax-deductible documentation purposes. Here are several options to consider:

- **Corporate Matching Grant Donations**
  - Some matching grant companies are **Industrial Ally, AT&T, Wells Fargo, Monsanto, Boeing, MasterCard, Pfizer, VMWare, and Thrivent Financial Services.**
  - Boeing and perhaps other corporations offer **volunteer time grant matches.** If you volunteer 25 hours with our ministry, Boeing will send a \$250 cash gift.
  - If you work for a company that offers match gifting, please initiate the paperwork for this to be done, and we'll complete the required elements so you and others can participate.
- **Write a Check payable to "First Step Back Home"** and send to the following address:  
First Step Back Home, Inc.  
Paul Kruse  
PO Box 966  
O'Fallon MO 63366
- **Log onto our ministry website and click PayPal** for direct donation via your credit card. There is a small fee charged to the ministry with this option: **firststepbackhome.net**
- **Thrivent Members** can create an "Action Team" and receive \$250 "seed money" twice per year for charitable causes. Details can be found at this link: **thrivent.com/actionteam.**
- When you shop online, use **Amazon Smile** and choose **First Step Back Home** as your charity. They will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Use this direct link to our page: **smile.amazon.com/ch/20-8676289**



## STL Food Bank Supplies Needs in Wentzville Monthly



Leftover food boxes and fresh apples from the monthly **St. Louis Food Bank** distribution at **Wentzville United Methodist Church (WUMC)**, taken to clients at local motels. Lots of happy faces receiving these tasty and nutritious gifts. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this outreach, just have them show up at 10 am on the 2nd Monday of the month at WUMC 725 Wall Street, Wentzville. Here **Paul and Pastor Mark Dumas** load up our vehicle for location distribution.