AGAPE MINISTRIES, INC. NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026
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Help Staying Warm This Winter

As temperatures drop, keeping your home warm can become a challenge for families facing financial hardship. Ohio's **HEAP Winter Crisis Program runs from November 1 through March 31** and offers assistance to income-eligible households struggling with heating costs.

You may qualify for help if your heating utilities are at risk of being disconnected, have already been disconnected, or your bulk fuel supply is less than 25%. Assistance may also be available for heating system repairs, fuel tank testing, or tank replacement. Households earning at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are encouraged to apply.

If winter heating costs are putting a strain on your household budget, you don't have to navigate it alone. Contact **WOCAP** at **419-227-2586** to learn more about eligibility and how to apply.



Food Insecurity Continues to Affect Millions

Putting food on the table remains a challenge for millions of families across the country. According to Feeding America, 47.9 million Americans experienced food insecurity in 2024, including more than 14 million children. That's roughly 1 in 7 people nationwide.

For many households, rising grocery costs leave less money for necessities like rent, utilities, and medical expenses. Food insecurity affects more than meals; it can impact health, well-being, and a child's ability to focus and learn at school.

At Agape Ministries, we believe everyone deserves access to food and the dignity of knowing their community cares. Through donations, volunteers, and continued community support, we can make a difference for our neighbors facing hunger.



Christmas Open House at Agape Thrift Store!

The elves are busy at work, and something magical is coming to Agape! Our Annual Christmas Open House returns Saturday, November 7th, from 9 AM to 3 PM, and we're turning the store into a winter wonderland filled with holiday magic. From Christmas decorations and seasonal favorites to unique gifts and cozy winter finds, you never know what treasures you'll discover!

Make a day of it! Bring your family, invite a friend, and enjoy the fun of finding something special while shopping for a great cause. Every purchase at Agape Thrift Store helps support the programs that care for individuals and families right here in our community.

We're counting down the days until we can share the Christmas excitement with you. Save the date, and come see what our elves have been up to!



Agape Food Pantry News

The holidays are a special time for gathering with family, sharing favorite foods, and creating traditions that make Christmas memorable. At Agape Food Pantry, we want every family in our community to have the opportunity to enjoy those moments. As we prepare for our Christmas food distribution, we are asking for your help in stocking our shelves with holiday favorites, including hams, canned soups and vegetables, french-fried onions, pie fillings, evaporated milk, dessert mixes, and other seasonal essentials. Hot cocoa, cookie mixes, and Christmas candy are also welcome additions that help make the season a little sweeter for the families we serve.

As you shop for your own holiday celebrations, please consider adding a few extra items to your cart for a local family. Christmas food distribution begins November 20th, and every donation helps us make the season brighter for our neighbors. Whether you give one item or fill a bag, your kindness makes a real difference.

For families facing financial challenges, the holidays can bring added stress and difficult choices. Your generosity helps ease some of that burden, allowing parents to focus less on what they cannot afford and more on making meaningful memories with their children. Together, we can remind our neighbors that they are valued, supported, and part of a community that cares. Thank you for helping Agape share the love and hope of Christmas with families throughout Western Auglaize County.





Agape Thrift Store News

Fall is here, and cooler days are a reminder that winter will be here before we know it! Stop by the Agape Thrift Store to browse our selection of coats, jackets, and other cold-weather essentials to help keep you warm all season long. Whether you're looking for something practical for everyday wear or an extra layer for those chilly Ohio mornings, you never know what great finds are waiting for you on our racks.

The holiday season is also a great time to visit and see what treasures you can uncover! From Halloween finds and Thanksgiving touches to Christmas decorations, festive dinnerware, and unique gifts, our shelves are filling up with items to help make your home and celebrations feel special. Looking for something a little different? Browse our selection of gold jewelry, dresses, shoes, suits, and accessories. With new-to-you finds and one-of-a-kind pieces, there's always something worth discovering!



Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

To get everything ready for our Annual Christmas Open House, **Agape Thrift Store will close early at 1 PM on Friday, November 6, 2026.** *(Please note: The Donation Drop-Off Center and Client Services will remain open during regular business hours.)*

Get a head start on your holiday shopping and enjoy all the sights, sounds, and excitement of the season! Browse festive decorations, cozy coats, beautiful dinnerware, and unique gifts. Whether you're looking to add a little holiday magic to your home or find something special for someone on your list, there's something waiting to be discovered!

"Stay in the loop! Our ***Facebook page*** is where you'll find exciting updates and exclusive featured items you won't want to miss."

October Shout Outs

- We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Minster Fire Department for their generous donation of nearly 300 pounds of brats and buns from the Minster Oktoberfest.
- Huge shoutout to Wayne Street Church for collecting and putting together 400 lbs. of food into Hand and Heart Meal Kits for our food pantry clients.
- Thank you to Crown in Minster for holding a food drive benefiting Agape food pantry. Community helping community.
- Let's give the New Knoxville Youth Group a round of applause for collecting and donating 959 pounds of food to the food pantry. You are "Rockstars"!
- Every donation makes a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Whether it's food for a family, a purchase at the Thrift Store, or a gift that helps keep our programs running, your generosity makes it possible for Agape to continue serving our community. Together, we're doing more than meeting needs—we're sharing God's love, restoring dignity, and reminding our neighbors that they are never alone.



October Stats

- Agape Food Pantry served **413** people in **174** households.
- Agape Summer Feeding Bags were disbursed to **347** students.
- Senior Boxes were delivered to **11** people.
- Clothing vouchers were issued to **5** people.
- Household vouchers were issued to **1** people.
- Financial Aid was disbursed for **3** people.