



The Joseph project:

Hope in Action Resource Guide



Rhema of Hope

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Our Mission:

Rhema of Hope exists to bring Christ to the hurting, empower future leaders through discipleship, and serve others with unwavering faith and compassion.



Dear Friend,

Welcome to *The Joseph Project: Hope in Action Resource Guide*. This guide is designed to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of what *The Joseph Project* is, how it operates, and the profound impact it is having on families in Southern Ohio.

Inspired by the biblical story of Joseph, who, through divine guidance, stored up resources to sustain many during a time of great need (Genesis 41), *The Joseph Project* seeks to mirror that same spirit of provision and hope. Our mission is simple yet powerful: to deliver a month's worth of groceries and essential items to families facing crisis and hardship.

What sets *The Joseph Project* apart from traditional feeding programs is our **intentionality and focus on dignity**. We don't just hand out food; we prayerfully select families based on genuine need and follow up with them to ensure they are supported, encouraged, and prayed for. This is not just a food giveaway—it's an outreach of hope and restoration that speaks to both physical and spiritual needs.

Through the generosity of our donors, partners, and volunteers, we are able to serve families with excellence and compassion. Every box that is packed, every meal that is shared, and every prayer that is spoken is a testament to the love of Christ in action.

In this guide, you will learn more about our mission, our process for selecting families, the ways you can partner with us, and the many lives that have been transformed through a simple act of giving. **We invite you to join us in this journey of hope—whether through volunteering, sponsorship, or becoming a church partner, your involvement helps us extend Christ's love to families in need. Together, we can break the chains of hunger and bring lasting change to our community.** Whether you are considering becoming a donor, volunteering your time, or simply learning more about what God is doing through this ministry, we are grateful you are here.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about *The Joseph Project*. Together, we can feed families, inspire hope, and bring the love of Christ to those who need it most—not just as a temporary fix, but as a step toward lasting change.

Blessings,

Heath R. McDowell

Heath R. McDowell

Founder & President

Rhema of Hope

Empowering the Broken. Renewing the Lost.



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Section 1: Overview & Mission

Overview of The Joseph Project

The Joseph Project is the first official outreach initiative under *Rhema of Hope*, a non-denominational, Christ-centered 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry. Modeled after the biblical story of Joseph, who was led by God to store food in times of plenty to sustain many during times of famine (*Genesis 41*), *The Joseph Project* provides a **month's worth of groceries and hygiene items** to families in crisis across Pike, Scioto, and Ross Counties in Southern Ohio.

Unlike traditional food pantries or emergency food programs, *The Joseph Project* is **referral- and application-based**. This intentional process allows us to:

- Identify families facing real hardship
- Ensure dignity and privacy during assistance
- Build meaningful relationships through prayer and follow-up

Every grocery box is filled with **shelf-stable food items, hygiene products, and a handwritten note of encouragement**, reflecting the love of Christ in both practical and spiritual ways.

Mission Statement

To bring Christ to the hurting, empower future leaders through discipleship, and serve others with unwavering faith and compassion.

Vision Statement

To see lives transformed by the power of Christ as the hurting are healed, the forgotten are found, and the next generation rises in faith—equipped to lead, plant ministries, and bring hope to a broken world, both locally and globally.

Purpose Statement

We exist to exalt Jesus, extend the Gospel, equip believers, exercise spiritual gifts, and edify one another—so that lives are changed and communities are restored.

Core Values of The Joseph Project

- **Christ-Centered Compassion:** Every act of service reflects the love and message of Jesus Christ.
- **Dignity in Every Delivery:** Families are never treated like a number. We prioritize personal care and prayerful connection.
- **Intentional Stewardship:** All donations are carefully managed. We are 100% volunteer-run and locally focused.
- **Transparent Operations:** We practice full accountability in our financial, outreach, and selection processes.
- **Local Impact, Kingdom Vision:** While we serve local families in crisis, our vision is rooted in expanding hope through the Gospel.



Section 2: Program Overview

About The Joseph Project

The Joseph Project is a community outreach program that provides **a full month's worth of groceries and hygiene items** to families in crisis. Based in Southern Ohio and operated by *Rhema of Hope*, this ministry serves **Pike, Scioto, and Ross Counties** through a structured, prayer-led process that ensures dignity, compassion, and genuine support.

Inspired by the biblical story of Joseph, who was instructed to store food during times of plenty to sustain others during famine (*Genesis 41*), *The Joseph Project* is more than just food—it's a message of hope, provision, and the love of Christ.

How It Works

The Joseph Project operates on a **referral and application basis**, ensuring that each family served is genuinely in need. Here's how the process unfolds:

1. Referral or Application Submission

- Families can be referred by local churches, community partners, or apply directly through Rhema of Hope.

2. Screening and Selection Process

- Applications are prayerfully reviewed by our team to verify need, urgency, and household information. Priority is given to families facing severe hardship.

3. Preparation and Packing

- Approved families are scheduled for the next monthly distribution cycle. Volunteers carefully pack grocery boxes, including:
 - Non-perishable food items
 - Hygiene essentials
 - A personal note of encouragement
 - An invitation to prayer or spiritual connection

4. Distribution Day

- Boxes are delivered directly to families or picked up at designated locations. Volunteers offer prayer and spiritual encouragement when welcomed.

5. Follow-Up and Support

- We strive to maintain connections with families through follow-up calls, prayer support, and invitations to local church events or outreach programs.

Program Goals

- Provide Hope Through Action:** Demonstrating the love of Christ through practical provision.
- Restore Dignity:** Families receive assistance with respect and privacy.



Section 2: Program Overview

Continued

- **Build Community Connections:** We partner with local churches, schools, and organizations to identify families in need.
- **Encourage Spiritual Growth:** We offer prayer, scriptural encouragement, and opportunities for discipleship when welcomed.

Counties Served

Pike County, Ohio

Scioto County, Ohio

Ross County, Ohio

The Joseph Project is focused on these three counties, with the vision of expanding as God provides the increase and partners join the mission.

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Section 3: Family Selection Process

Purpose of the Selection Process

The mission of *The Joseph Project* is not just to provide food, but to **empower families with hope and dignity**. To fulfill this mission, each family is carefully selected through a **referral- and application-based process**. This ensures that assistance reaches those with genuine need while preserving their dignity and privacy.

How Families Are Chosen

1. Referral or Application Submission

Families can be:

- **Referred** by local churches, community organizations, schools, or trusted community leaders.
- **Applied for directly** through our public application form, which is available on our website and at outreach events.

2. Screening & Verification

Each submission is reviewed by our internal *The Joseph Project Selection Team*.

We assess the following:

- **Location:** Must reside in Pike, Scioto, or Ross County.
- **Household Size:** Family size and composition are considered.
- **Stated Hardship:** The application must reflect verifiable need (e.g., job loss, medical crisis, single parenthood, housing instability).
- **No Duplicate Services:** We confirm they are not currently receiving duplicate assistance from *The Joseph Project*.

Timeline for Approval:

Applications are typically reviewed within **3 to 5 days** of submission. Families will be notified promptly regarding their status, and if approved, will be contacted to schedule pickup or delivery of their grocery box.

3. Prayerful Evaluation

Our team **prays over every application and referral**, asking for God's guidance and wisdom in the selection process.

Families are evaluated on:

- **Urgency of Need:** Those facing severe financial or housing instability are prioritized.
- **Household Vulnerability:** Single parents, elderly, disabled, or large families may be prioritized.
- **Openness to Follow-Up:** If welcomed, families may be invited to connect with local church partners for ongoing spiritual and community support.

4. Approval & Notification

Once approved, the family is contacted to:

- Confirm their **acceptance** for the current cycle.
- Arrange **pickup or delivery** of their grocery box.
- Offer **prayer and spiritual encouragement** if they are open to it.

5. Follow-Up and Relationship Building

After distribution, families are:

- **Called or visited** for follow-up support.



Section 3: Family Selection Process

Continued

-
- Invited to community events or church services
 - Prayed for regularly by our outreach team

The Joseph Project is about more than groceries; it's about **building relationships, restoring hope, and reflecting Christ's love.**

Confidentiality and Integrity

We prioritize the **privacy and dignity** of every family. Personal information is kept confidential and is only used for the purpose of evaluation and follow-up support.

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Section 4: How You Can Help

At *The Joseph Project*, we believe that true community transformation happens when many hands come together to serve a common purpose. There are several impactful ways you can partner with us to bring hope and provision to families in Southern Ohio.

1. Give Financially

Monetary donations are the foundation of our ability to provide full grocery boxes to families in crisis. Every dollar you give goes directly toward food, hygiene products, and distribution costs.

- **\$500—\$1,000** sponsors one family's grocery box for a full month
- **Monthly giving** allows us to expand our outreach and serve more families
- All donations are **tax-deductible** and stay **local**

You can give securely online at www.rhemaofhope.org or by mailing a check payable to *Rhema of Hope*.

2. Donate Goods

We are always in need of shelf-stable food items and hygiene products. You can help by:

- Hosting a **food drive** at your church, school, or business
- Dropping off items at one of our **Donation Stations**
- Sponsoring a **shopping list** for a family in need

We can provide printable **donation checklists** to make it easy for you to collect the most-needed items.

3. Sponsor a Family

For \$1,000, you can sponsor an entire grocery box for a family of four. Sponsors will receive:

- A confirmation letter of impact
- A list of items packed into the family's box
- The option to include a **note of encouragement or prayer card**

Sponsoring a family allows you to know exactly where your support is going—and who it's helping.

4. Volunteer Your Time

We need volunteers to:

- **Pack and sort groceries** for distribution days
 - 1 **Deliver boxes** to local families
 - 2 **Pray and encourage** recipients during pickups or drop-offs
 - 3 **Assist with outreach events and food drives**
4. Volunteer opportunities are available for individuals, church groups, youth groups, and families.

5. Host a Donation Station

Local businesses, churches, and community centers can host a *The Joseph Project* Donation Station. We provide:

- Custom signage
- Collection bins or crates
- Pickup or delivery coordination

Hosting a Donation Station allows your community to participate in bringing hope to local families.



Section 4: How You Can Help

Continued

6. Spread the Word

You can be a voice of hope by sharing the mission of *The Joseph Project*:

- Share our posts on **social media**
- Tell your church or business community
- Host a **Joseph Project Presentation** for your organization

Together, we can feed families, restore dignity, and bring hope in the name of Jesus.



Give Now Using GiveButter



Give Now Using PayPal



Give Now Using Zeffy



Section 5: Most—Needed Items List

One of the unique features of *The Joseph Project* is our commitment to providing a **full month's worth of groceries and essentials** to each selected family. This list represents the key items we aim to include in every box. We welcome donations of these items at our *Donation Stations* or during food drives.

All items should be **new, unopened, and non-expired**.

Pantry Essentials

- Rice (5–10 lb bags)
- Pasta (spaghetti, macaroni, egg noodles)
- Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, carrots)
- Canned fruit (peaches, pears, applesauce)
- Peanut butter (16–28 oz jars)
- Canned beans (black beans, kidney beans, pinto beans)
- Canned tuna or chicken
- Dry beans or lentils
- Cereal or oatmeal
- Macaroni & cheese (boxed)
- Shelf-stable milk or powdered milk
- Flour (5 lb)
- Sugar (5 lb)
- Cooking oil (vegetable or canola)
- Salt, pepper, and basic seasonings
- Crackers or bread mix

Hygiene Products

- Toilet paper (4-roll packs preferred)
- Toothpaste
- Bar soap or body wash
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products (pads, tampons)
- Dish soap or laundry pods

Ready-to-Eat Meals

- Canned soup or chili
- Canned stews or pasta meals (chef Boyardee, Dinty Moore, Etc.)
- Ramen noodles



Section 5: Most—Needed Items List

Continued

Optional Add—Ons

- Bible verse cards or handwritten notes of encouragement
- Coloring books or small toys for children
- Holiday—themed items (during Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc.)

Drop—Off Locations

You can drop off these items at any of our *Joseph Project Donation Stations* or contact us for Pick-up or direct delivery options. For a complete list of locations, visit www.rhemaofhope.org.

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of these least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” — Matthew 25 40 (KJV)



Section 6: Volunteer Opportunities

At *The Joseph Project*, volunteers are the hands and feet of our ministry. Whether you are sorting food, delivering groceries, or praying with families, your time and effort make a direct impact. Rhema of Hope is a **100% volunteer-run ministry**, which means every hour given goes directly to serving those in need.

Ways to Serve with the Joseph Project

1. Packing & Sorting

Help us organize and pack food boxes with care and quality. This includes:

- Sorting donated items
- Assembling boxes for monthly distribution
- Adding scripture cards, hygiene kits, and notes of encouragement

Packing days are scheduled regularly and are ideal for individuals, church groups, or families who want to serve together.

2. Delivery Volunteers

For families without transportation, we need volunteers to:

- Deliver grocery boxes directly to their homes
- Offer prayer and encouragement upon delivery (if welcomed)
- Handle deliveries with care, confidentiality, and kindness

This role is perfect for those who want to see firsthand the impact of their service.

3. Prayer & Encouragement Team

Some families not only need groceries but also spiritual encouragement. Our Prayer Team:

- Prays over every family that receives a box
- Writes personalized notes of encouragement and scriptures
- Is available for prayer during delivery or pick-up

Prayer changes lives, and this team helps extend hope beyond physical needs.

4. Donation Station Hosts

Churches, businesses, and community centers can host a Joseph Project Donation Station. As a host, you will:

- Set up a collection bin or shelf at your location
- Help collect food and hygiene donations
- Coordinate with our team for regular pickups

We provide signage, donation lists, and support to make it easy and effective.

5. Outreach & Community Engagement

If you love connecting with people, consider helping with:

- Community awareness events
- Church presentations about The Joseph Project
- Volunteer recruitment for special events

You can be a voice that spreads hope and shares the mission of The Joseph Project in your community.

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Section 6: Volunteer Opportunities

Continued

“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.” — 1 Corinthians 3:9 (KJV)

Ready to Volunteer?

You can sign up to volunteer by visiting www.rhemaofhope.org or by calling us at **740-202-8041**. We can’t wait for you to join the team and be part of his mission of hope.



Become a Volunteer



Section 7: Financial Transparency

At *The Joseph Project*, we believe that honoring God means being responsible and transparent with every resource He provides. We are committed to full accountability and careful stewardship of the donations we receive, ensuring that every dollar and every item goes directly to serving families in need.

Where Your Donations Go

100% of all donations—whether financial or in-kind—are used to support local families in Pike, Scioto, and Ross Counties. This includes:

- **Groceries and hygiene products** – Each family receives a full month's worth of supplies
- **Packing and distribution costs** – Fuel, packaging, and delivery materials
- **Outreach and awareness** – Community events, promotional materials, and donation station signage

Our Commitment to Stewardship

The Joseph Project and *Rhema of Hope* are entirely **volunteer-run**. This means:

- **No salaries** are paid—everyone serves out of a heart of compassion
- **No overhead expenses** are taken from donations
- **Every dollar** is directed toward food, supplies, or outreach efforts

Our ministry operates with the belief that every gift is a trust from God, and we are committed to using it wisely.

Transparency & Accountability

We provide:

- **Donation receipts** for every financial contribution
- **Annual giving summaries** for tax purposes
- **Full financial reports** available upon request
- **Impact updates** so you can see the difference your gift is making

Our financial records are available for viewing, and we are always happy to answer questions about how donations are used.

Registered 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

Rhema of Hope operates under NVIS International Ministries, Inc. which is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All donations are **tax -deductible** as allowed by law. Our EIN number and official documentation are available upon request.

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." — 1 Corinthians 4:2 (KJV)



Our Mission:

Rhema of Hope exists to bring Christ to the hurting, empower future leaders through discipleship, and serve others with unwavering faith and compassion.



Dear Friend and Supporter,

On behalf of everyone at *Rhema of Hope* and *The Joseph Project*, I want to sincerely thank you for your generous heart and willingness to make a difference in the lives of others.

Every can of food, every dollar given, and every minute volunteered is part of something bigger than any of us alone—it's a reflection of the love of Christ in action.

Because of your support, families in crisis are receiving more than just groceries—they're receiving dignity, compassion, and hope. They're being reminded that they are not forgotten. That someone cares. That God sees them and has not abandoned them.

You are part of the miracle.

Whether you give once, monthly, or in any other way, please know that your partnership is deeply appreciated and genuinely impactful. We pray that the same love and provision you've extended to others will return to you abundantly.

Thank you for helping us feed families, restore dignity, and share the message of Jesus.

With gratitude and blessings,

Heath R. McDowell

Heath R. McDowell

Founder & President

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Empowering the Broken. Renewing the Lost.



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Section 9: Contact Information & How to Get Involved

We would love to connect with you! Whether you are interested in donating, volunteering, or learning more about *The Joseph Project*, or Rhema of Hope, We are here to help.

Contact Us

Rhema of Hope

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Ohio Office: (740) 202-8041
Toll-Free 1-800-339-0139

E-mail: contact@rhemaofhope.org

Website: www.rhemaofhope.org

Get Involved

There are many ways to get involved with *The Joseph Project*:

- **Donate:** Every \$500 to \$1,000 sponsors a family's grocery box for a month.
- **Volunteer:** Help pack, deliver, and encourage families in need.
- **Host a Donation Station:** Churches and businesses can collect food and hygiene products.
- **Sponsor a Family:** Directly support a family with essential groceries and spiritual encouragement.
- **Refer a Family:** Know someone in need? Submit a referral form online or call our office.

Follow Us

Stay connected and see your impact:

- **Facebook:** @rhemahopeoutreach
- **Instagram:** @rhemahopeoutreach
- **X:** @rhemaofhope
- **Hashtag:** #TheJosephProject #HopeInAction

Schedule a Presentation

If your church or business would like to learn more about *The Joseph Project*, contact us to schedule a **presentation**.

"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink..." — Matthew 25:35 (KJV)



Appendix 2025: The Joseph Project: Thanksgiving Holiday Outreach 2025

“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.” – Psalm 107:1 (KJV)

This Thanksgiving, *The Joseph Project* is extending its mission of hope and provision by preparing **full Thanksgiving meal baskets** for families in need. Each basket will be delivered directly to a family’s home and will include:

- A turkey (or ham)
- Classic sides: stuffing, potatoes, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce
- Rolls & dessert (pumpkin or apple pie)
- A handwritten encouragement card with Scripture

Through this seasonal outreach, we want families not only to eat well, but also to feel remembered, valued, and loved.

Our Goal

To bless **3–5 families** across Ross County/Chillicothe, Ohio and Surrounding Counties including Scioto County.

How You Can Help

- **\$150 sponsors a full Thanksgiving meal basket for one family.**
- Donations of food items (turkeys, boxed stuffing, canned vegetables, pies, etc.) are also welcome.
- Every gift—large or small—goes directly toward putting food on the table for families who need it most.

Get Involved

1. **Give Financially** – Sponsor one or more baskets.
2. **Donate Food** – Drop off Thanksgiving staples at designated locations.
3. **Spread the Word** – Share our outreach campaign with friends, churches, and on social media.

Distribution Plan

- **Dates:** November 21-22, 2025
- **Method:** Direct home delivery by Rhema of Hope volunteers
- **Special Touch:** Each basket will include prayer cards and a personal message of hope

Learn More

Visit our website at www.rhemaofhope.org or <http://2025thanksgiving.rhemaofhope.org>

Scan To Donate



Together, we can make this Thanksgiving a season of hope, dignity, and Christ-centered compassion for families in our community.