

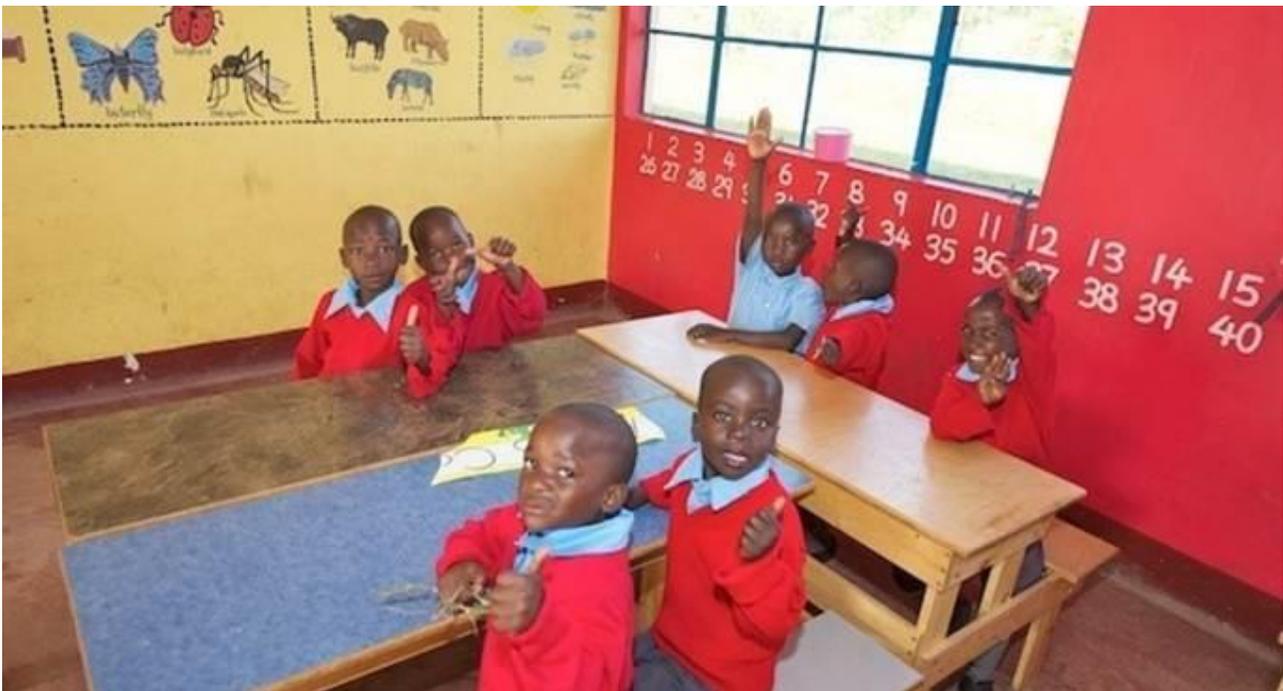
Old Columbus Middle School bleacher wood being re-purposed for Midwest Mission Distribution Center Missions

Starting at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, Oct 23, members of First United Methodist Church in Columbus, Nebraska, disassembled the wooden bleachers in the old middle school. Work was complete at 2:00 PM. Columbus Public School donated, rather disposed of, this wood. The wood will be picked up by a Midwest Mission Distribution Center (www.midwestmission.org) truck at 8:00 AM on Saturday, Oct 27, and taken to their facility at 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL. 62558 (just south of Springfield).

The “wrecking crew” included Dean Athey, Paul Badje, Dick Breuer, Jerry Fricke, Jim Hanna, Harold Henry, Doug Kallesen, Denny Kinkaid, Chuck Kinnison, John Petersen, Rocky Plettner, Red Smith, Rich Snyder, and Bob Williams.

From their website at <http://www.midwestmission.org/projects/projects> : *Midwest Mission opened for ministry in 2000. Midwest Mission collects, makes, assembles & restores supplies for humanitarian and disaster relief. The work is done by volunteers who come from all over the US to serve. The 30,000 sq. ft. facility is located on an 10-acre campus 4 miles south of Springfield, Illinois. Midwest Mission is a cooperating depot in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Relief Supply Network, & partners with Food for the Poor, Franciscan Mission Warehouse, Christians in Mission & US South Command donating supplies to humanitarian aid missions.*

Here is a picture of some desks in use:



Summarizing the process: Wood is reclaimed from bleachers being retired, hauled to MMDC. Under staff guidance, volunteers make the desks including: removal of gum, plugging bolt holes, planing, cutting pieces to size, routing, sanding, assembling, marking joints, disassembling, varnishing, and packing the pieces inside the desktop frame... a labor- intensive project but very economical.

Often the desks are requested by and delivered on the back of our military branches by ship or plane to remote areas in foreign countries in Africa and Central and South America. Besides providing materials that help these schools be able to teach their students effectively, the United States and the military receive positive appreciation for compassionate help.

MMDC is a United Methodist Church mission effort that is open to working on many other fronts (as described on the website), with one well-known service being the provision of “flood buckets” for disaster areas. nine members of the Columbus First United Methodist Church were recently at MMDC Oct 15-18 making school desks, assembling many other kinds of kits (for schools, mothers, etc.), and refurbishing treadle sewing machines for use in remote areas. While there we witnessed a semi being loaded with flood buckets and sent off to provide relief for recently flooded areas from the hurricanes.