



St. Theresa First Fruits

*The portion of the harvest
offered in thanksgiving to God*

One of the most common questions asked about First Fruits is, "Are we helping people in our own parish?" The answer is a resounding "YES." Since the inception of First Fruits, many families within St. Theresa Parish have been helped. Some families' situations require ongoing monthly assistance, while others just need short-term assistance to get through some bad times.

Below you will see the category "Assistance to St. Theresa Families" under Current Need Disbursements. Only a few First Fruits committee members know the names and circumstances of families that are helped by First Fruits. This information is held with the strictest of confidence to guard the dignity of the families that First Fruits serves.

So if you are a parishioner that has a heart to help St. Theresa families, who are struggling financially, it's as simple as making a donation to St. Theresa First Fruits. Check the category "Current Need" on the lavender First Fruits envelope received with your tithing envelopes. Envelopes are also in the back of the church.

Through St. Theresa First Fruits, people in desperate circumstances receive financial assistance, emotional support and spiritual direction. It can be through a direct connection with a parishioner or working with St. Mary's Family Center, St. Benedict's Mission, DMARC's Compassion in Action, St. Joseph's Homeless Shelter, or assisting people who come to our Church door looking for help.

Below is a listing of First Fruit expenditures for the time period July 2006 to December 2006. Because of the generosity of many, many St. Theresa parishioners, St. Theresa First Fruits has and will continue to make a difference in people's lives. While most donations are monthly, one-time contributions are also greatly appreciated! Thank you for your past, present and continued support of St. Theresa First Fruits.

To learn more about St. Theresa First Fruits, pick up a brochure at the back of the church. You may also contact Anne Dols at 277-2465 or John McMichael at 279-4654 for more information on First Fruits. **First Fruits information is also available online. Go to www.sainttheresaiowa.org Then click on Parish, click on Social Concerns, and click on First Fruits.**

St. Theresa First Fruits Donations/Disbursements	
-St. Mary's (Utility Assistance Account)	\$3,556
-Emergency Shelter Needs (St. Joseph's Shelter/Beacon of Life)	1,304
-Refugee Assistance (St. Ambrose Refugee Program)	737
-Pro-Life (House of Mercy/St. Theresa Pro Life Committee)	464
-St. Theresa Transitional House	5,250
-Current Need Disbursements:	
Assistance to St. Theresa Families	3,504
St. Benedict's Mission	1,900
Assistance to families outside St. Theresa	1,467
DMARC Child Care Program	1,130
Compassion in Action	1,100
St. Theresa Church Walk-in Assistance Fund	800
Serve our Youth/Amanda the Panda/Newman Student Service Project	775
Chiapas Project through Catholic Worker	400
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	200
Total First Fruits Disbursements July 2006 to December 2006	\$22,587

This, rather, is the fasting I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed & the homeless; clothing the naked, and not turning your back on your own. Isaiah 58:6-7