

My People!

My youngest, Oli, attended their first Anime convention around age twelve. At its finale, Oli jumped into to our car, bubbling over with excitement and declared “these are my people!”. She had found a community of people who were as passionate about Anime as herself.

In 2000, at age 39, I found “My People”. I met Kathy Price. I was amazed by her drive, her ability to get things done, and the impact she was having by helping people without the basic necessities of life a good life including food, shelter, health care and education. It was grass roots- just Kathy donating her life to do God’s work and enrolling people to join her. This was something I could get behind and became a volunteer.

Mission of Love volunteers donate vacation time or days off to work at the warehouse, collect, or transport donations. Many are retired; finally have more time and now feel a need to give back. We love seeing families come to give together. Some support the cause with monetary donations. Some go out of their comfort zone and adventure to foreign countries, with their belongings in a backpack so their checked luggage can carry supplies for the people. Each person helps as much or little as they are inspired to do, with no pressure or commitment.

Over the years, I have noticed that when doing voluntary Mission of Love work, we are the best versions of ourselves, working without complaining, giving without expecting anything in return yet receiving more than we give. One of the benefits I receive is getting to hang out with people who joyfully give of themselves.

I have not dedicated my life to Mission of Love work, but for decades I have been fitting it into my already-over-committed schedule. I also invite others to join us; some accept the offer for one day, some hang with us for years, helping when they can.

The classic idiom says “Many hands make light work” is SO TRUE We have fun, we share, we show up, get a lot done and make a difference.

Together, we bring hope to the hopeless, homes to the homeless, food to the widows, medical care to the hurting, respect and structure to keep different cultures alive, education to children with the desire but no opportunity to learn....and so much more.

Interested in hanging with us and helping out? Right now, we need help with palletizing the school desks and equipment we got from a school closing. Contact Kathy as to when you would like to donate your time to palletize at the Mission of Love warehouse, Ravenna, Ohio our auction bought school furnishings for the Indigenous communities of our world.

Andrea Reedy

