

A Final Report of the Erasing Medical Debt Project
The Contagion of Stewardship

Terry McGinley, Generosity Task Force

The number was announced at the February Presbytery meeting, and it was significant. In our Giving Tuesday commitment, **John Knox Presbytery raised and sent \$14,245.25** to our mission partner RIP Medical Debt. The result? **The forgiveness of \$1,925,734.76 in medical debt for 2,594 families.**

A few years ago, you—John Knox Presbytery—created a Generosity Task Force, to invite all of us to think about our stewardship of God’s generosity to us. In this work, your work, we found ourselves talking with five pastors from Winona, including Rachel Rosendahl from Grace Presbyterian Church there, and from them we learned about medical debt relief. And we asked, what about us?

Raising money for the forgiveness of medical debt also fell right in line with John Knox’s commitment to be a Matthew 25 Presbytery. Medical debt is a uniquely American problem. Through no fault of their own, often because of an accident or simply getting sick, people’s lives can be turned upside down by medical debt. Not only does it become a source of stress in their lives, quite often those with medical debt avoid regular visits with their doctor or stop taking their medications.

In choosing this ministry, John Knox Presbytery sought to take a first step to address a form of systemic poverty. And you all stepped up in a big way, raising more than \$14,000—which our partners at RIP Medical Debt turned into nearly 2 million dollars in debt relief. You gave over 2,500 families a second chance. Isn’t that what forgiveness is all about? Isn’t what God has inspired us to do worth celebrating?

So again, thank you for your generosity. Thank you for living your faith in a generous, and dramatic, way. Let’s keep doing that together.

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