

RIP MEDICAL DEBT

The Problem

Right now, about \$1.7 million dollars of medical debt is owed by people living below or near the poverty level in the 44 counties of our presbytery. This debt doesn't come from bad decisions—it comes from seeking life-saving medical care. With medical debt on their credit report, our neighbors can't get a job, rent a home, get a loan, or buy a car. Medical debt locks our neighbors into poverty.

A Remedy

RIP Medical Debt (ripmedicaldebt.org/) is one of several organizations started by individuals from the debt-collection field who want to forgive debt instead of collecting it. They pool money from donors to buy medical debt in large portfolios. They then contact those families and forgive their debt with no tax consequences for the donors or recipients. \$17,000 leveraged through RIP Medical Debt can wipe out much of southeastern Illinois' \$1.7 million dollars of medical debt.

Our Response

Our presbytery has decided to demonstrate Christ's love to our neighbors in a concrete way. By our May 13th presbytery meeting, we are attempting to raise \$17,000 and partner with RIP Medical Debt to wipe out most of the medical debt in southeastern Illinois. That's only about \$3.40 per member of our presbytery. By pooling our resources, we can make a huge impact on those in need in our communities and often in our own congregations.

Join Us

You can contribute to this campaign online at the presbytery's website (pseillinois.org) by clicking the "Give Now" button in the top-right corner or by mailing a check to:

Rev. Wade Meranda, PSEI Treasurer
PO Box 278
Hoopeston, IL 60942

ABOUT MEDICAL DEBT

66%

of all US bankruptcies are tied to medical debt.

25%

of all US credit card debt is medical debt.

1 in 2 Americans

don't go to the doctor when they're sick because of the high costs.

79,000,000 Americans

have to choose between paying their medical bills and basic needs like food and shelter every day.

2,030,686 Families

have had their debt forgiven through donations to RIP Medical Debt.