

Cincinnati church wipes out \$46.5 million in medical debt for 45,000 families

A megachurch in Cincinnati announced Sunday that it is paying off \$46.5 million in medical debt for more than 45,000 families.

Crossroads Church partnered with RIP Medical Debt, a medical debt relief nonprofit, to wipe out debts for people in [Ohio](#), [Kentucky](#), [Tennessee](#) and [Indiana](#). They will receive bright yellow envelopes this week letting them know the [good news](#).

"Churches are at our best when we are a blessing to real people in our communities," Senior Pastor Brian Tome told Fox News Thursday. "We're not here to just have big Sunday meetings."



Crossroads Church Pastor Brian Tome made a big announcement Sunday, helping thousands in the tri-state area wipe out \$45.6 million in medical debt. (Courtesy of Crossroads Church)

Tome told his congregation about the "opportunity to multiply our impact" during a [Nov. 23 sermon](#), "They'll get a letter that says, 'Congratulations, your debt has been paid because someone loves you and there is a God that has not forgotten about you.'"

On Sunday, the pastor read aloud a message from one of the lucky beneficiaries.

"I received this piece of mail in this bright yellow envelope and started to throw it away," the pastor

read. "But when I saw that it said your medical debt has been paid, I thought, 'seriously, wait a minute.' When I read it I got emotional – the person continued – because I have been so needing a break with getting my credit together. I really appreciate the gift."

The church wiped out debt for 41,233 households in Ohio for a total of \$42.8 million, 2,974 Kentucky households abolishing \$1.9 million in debt, 503 Tennessee households for \$1.5 million, and 136 Indiana homes for \$200,000, [FOX 19](#) reports.

For every \$100 donated to RIP Medical Debt, \$10,000 in medical debt is wiped out, according to the New York-based organization.

Crossroads Church's recent deed constitutes the largest amount of medical debt eliminated in the nonprofit's history.

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Texas church helps forgive \$10 million in medical debt for veterans, local families

Forgiveness is a central Easter theme, and for one Texas pastor, eliminating medical debt for more than 4,000 local families and veterans was the perfect way to give back.

Pastor Stephen Hayes of Covenant Church, a Dallas-based megachurch, spent 12 days in intensive care after he was struck by a car and fell into a coma when he was a teenager.

His father's church prayed around the clock for his healing. Hayes miraculously woke up from the coma but his family was then bogged down with escalating medical bills.

The church that prayed over him gathered together and helped pay that debt.

Hayes, now 34, wanted to honor that tradition and teamed up with nonprofit group RIP Medical Debt.

Covenant Church, in partnership with RIP Medical Debt, helped forgive over \$10 million in unpaid medical bills for local families and veterans in the DFW area. (Covenant Church)

The group, a debt collector turned debt forgiver, acquires unpaid medical debt at greatly reduced rates

and then forgives it. Every \$1 donated to the group translates to \$100 in debt paid off.

Hayes and Covenant Church donated \$100,000, which helped pay off a total of \$10,551,618 in medical debt for 4,229 families in the Dallas area.

“Not only is the debt itself gone and paid, but also, any negative impact that debt has had on their credit history is wiped clean,” Hayes told [The Stream](#). “It’s the easiest decision we’ve ever made.”

The church helped locate every veteran in the greater Dallas area facing unpaid medical debt, as well as individuals and families, to help them out.

Now this is how a church should behave, FIRST, take care of your congregation, then you can effectively reach outsiders!!! period.

GSDykes