



## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Looking back on 2017 and looking forward to the New Year, I can't help but be filled with gratitude and hope. Good in the 'Hood continues to work with steadfast determination to offer practical support, holiday relief and essential groceries to our neighbors in need. Thanks to our outstanding staff, volunteers and partners such as you, we are finding creative and innovative ways to bring valuable resources, shoes and food to those who need it the most. Both basic poverty and hunger are real and persistent concerns in our community, but together, we have the opportunity to make a real difference in the daily lives of children, adults and seniors. Rather

than merely giving away resources, we believe the best way we can steward and help those in need is to invest into them by offering opportunities for meaningful personal engagement including volunteer opportunities. We are undaunted by the size and stubbornness of poverty because we have found a community with those who are working together for good in order to move forward in life towards a better future.

***We believe that we, along with you, our kind and generous donors and volunteers, are part of the solution. With this in mind, we ask for your intentional and continued support in the year to come.***

I invite you to read further to learn a bit more about Good in the 'Hood, some of our partners and client guests. I trust you will learn a bit more about how we're working to intentionally "influence, inspire and impact individuals, families and the entire community for good". This is our mission and it's the heart of what we're all about. Together with you, we're working to inspire intentional kindness!

***With your help, 2018 will be our best year ever!***

Rev. Shawn Morrison  
Founder and Executive Director



## 2017 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### ONE FAMILY THAT REPRESENTS THE MANY

In 2016, our Adopt-A-Family Shopping With Dignity program partnered with 5 host sites in order to serve 931 families in need. With the wonderful support of our partner, Living Word Christian Center and hundreds of very generous sponsors, in 2017, we have expanded to host our Shopping With Dignity events to 7 host sites and more than 1000 families. It's such a blessing to bring support to so many in need; however, we are continually reminded of how important it is to serve each one as if they are the only one. With this in mind, we share with you our partners, a recent inquiry for help that we received. This is merely one example of the many requests that we receive each day. We trust it will help you, as our very important and generous partners, to feel a bit more connected to those with whom we have the privilege of helping during the holiday season.

*"I am writing to see I can get help with emergency gifts for my 3 children. I don't seem to qualify for any help. I am a student going to school for social work. It has been an extremely hard year for me. I have 3 brave girls, but honestly they deserve better. In February, I was hospitalized with pulmonary embolisms and, in October, I had surgery to remove a lump from my right breast. In between that time, I've had several deaths in my family. This is really my last hope, I did not even want to write or send this email, but for my kids I'LL DO ANYTHING. And Lord knows my girls have been through a great deal." —MYLA (name changed)*



**FOOD-IN-A-BOX MOBILE PROGRAMS** launched in 2017 with 4 partners serving 125 families each month with 7 days of essential groceries:

- Bethany Int'l in Bloomington—our ongoing partner for the past several years
- Macedonia Baptist in South Mpls—new partner launched in October 2017
- Creekside Gables in Brooklyn Park—new partner launched in May 2017
- A new facility at 800 West Broadway Ave N. Mpls.—launched in October 2017
- Key Partners: St. Vincent de Paul and Hunger SolutionsMN.

### FOOD IN THE HOOD PROGRAMS

- At Beacon of Hope Church, with your help, we have served groceries to 7,561 individuals representing 3,649 families totaling 108,000 lbs. of groceries given to those in need. In addition, we have provided more than 2,800 hot meals for the hungry.
- At Cedarcrest Church, with your kind support, we have served groceries to 17,394 individuals representing 6,131 families totaling 450,000 lbs. of groceries given to those in need. In addition, we have provided more than 6,000 hot meals for the hungry. Finally, through our partner Sole Care for Souls, we offered free medical foot care for over 100 guests who are homeless, diabetic or have significant foot concerns.
- Key Partners: Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities, Eagle Brook Church, Hosanna! Living Word Christian Center, Cedarcrest Church, Hunger SolutionsMN, and Otto Bremer Foundation.

### THE WEEKEND PACK PROGRAM

- Working in cooperation with 8 schools from D833 in South Washington County, we provide weekend food subsidies (3 meals per student) each week for more than 100 hungry students
- We piloted 6-week projects for schools in Richfield and Brooklyn Park in cooperation with the Park Nicollet Foundation and Schuler Shoes
- Key Partners: King of Kings Lutheran Church in Woodbury and Eagle Brook Church.

### CAMPUS HUNGER PROGRAMS

- The Campus Cupboard in partnership with Normandale Community College offers 3 single serving Grab N' Go food subsidies for hungry students. In the past school year, we had 5,708 visits serving 589 unique students and we offered 3,038 hours of service-learning opportunities as students provided onsite leadership for this exciting program.
- Food For Thought at Metropolitan State University provided both Grab N' Go snacks and essential groceries for 16,736 students representing 4,495 households and has distributed more than 72,000 lbs of groceries. Helping students move forward towards a better future by meeting their immediate needs is just another way that we're doing good in our community.
- Key Partners: Normandale Community College, Metropolitan State University, Cedarcrest Church, and Eagle Brook Church.

### HOLIDAY HELP PROGRAMS

- Distributed Thanksgiving grocery baskets for 4,600 families in Hennepin county thanks to our generous partner Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities
- Served holiday meals for more than 1,200 people in partnership with the Bloomington SHARING THE FEAST, Food in the Hood at Cedarcrest Church, and Our Saviors Church in Excelsior at Little Earth United Tribes



- Secured Adopt-A-Family Shopping With Dignity sponsorships for 1,000+ families with more than 3,000 children in partnership with Living Word Christian Center and hundreds of generous individual sponsors and corporate contributors
- Provided EXTREME Sponsorships for 6 families in dire need due to severe health concerns and personal crisis. Extreme recipients received gifts, groceries and several larger items including beds, washer/dryer, stove, refrigerator, and other necessary items to help them get back on their feet towards a more stable future.
- Partnership with 3 local organizations in need of gift subsidies for their holiday programs.
- Key Partners: Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities, Living Word Christian Center, Cedarcrest Church, St. Vincent de Paul, Becker Furniture, Slumberland 40 Winks Foundation, and Chick-Fil-A in Maple Grove.

### SHOE AWAY HUNGER

- Partnering with FARE FOR ALL and several other host sites, we put shoes on the feet of more than 9,000 people in need.
- Through many generous donations and with the help of our staff, volunteers and advisory team, we were able to provide food for 16,000 hungry people
- A special thank you to Schuler Shoes for the amazing support and generosity as we work together to eliminate local hunger one sole at a time.
- Key Partners: Schuler Shoes, Grainger, St. Stephen's Church, Cedarcrest Church, Eagle Brook Church, and our awesome advisory team led by Mr. David Cooper.

### BACKPACKS

- In partnership with Simon Says Give and their High 5 For Supplies, we delivered backpacks with school supplies for more than 300 students in need.
- Homelessness is a concern for our community, particularly in the winter months. Each year, we work with organizations serving the homeless youth in order to provide backpacks for youth filled with survival supplies.
- Key Partners: Simon Says Give, HEART Ministries, and Cedarcrest Church.

### FIRST STOP OASIS

- A drop-in center for the urban residents to find a place of rest and refreshing from the day-to-day grind. Every Monday and Friday afternoon we offer the community a safe place for personal connection and conversation for those in need of support. In addition to a delicious latte or cup of jo, we offer low-cost quality footwear, clothing and other practical resources.
- Each summer, we join with churches, businesses and civic groups in order to host several community BBQ cookouts. Each event offers a great opportunity to offer good food and to connect with our neighbors as we towards a build towards a better community.
- Key Partners: Lutheran Colportage Services, HEART Ministries, Cedarcrest Church, and The North Central Conference of the Free Methodist Church USA.

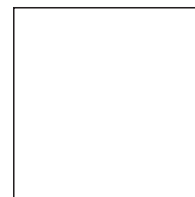
**THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS!**

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Good in the 'Hood relies on more than 2,500 volunteers each year to deliver our programs and services. A unique attribute of our programming is that nearly 50% of the people we serve also give back through volunteering. This provides opportunities to build community and restore dignity and hope to those who have suffered through difficult circumstances and food insecurity.



Kandy is a client who has been receiving food from Food in the 'Hood for more than two years. Suffering from medical complications and struggling with an addiction to alcohol, she found help and a supportive community at Good in the 'Hood. Kandy not only receives food—she quickly became a volunteer, giving her a sense of pride and ownership in the program. Now, nearly three years later, clean and sober, Kandy helps to lead other volunteers in our baked goods area and even secured an ongoing donation for baked goods.



## GIVE & CREATE JOY

We can't do any of this without the generous support of people like you. None of this would be possible without your generous donations. You can help feed people, bring hope, and create healthy communities with a gift of any size.

- \$20** *Feeds a family of 4 people for 2 weeks*
- \$50** *Provides groceries for 10 people for 2 weeks*
- \$150** *Covers the operational costs for an entire Shoe Away Hunger bus sale event*
- \$520** *Provides a family of 4 with a week's worth of groceries once a month for an entire year*
- \$1,200** *Provides for the operational costs for a full 2 weeks of our Shoe Away Hunger program*
- \$2,500** *To provide a week's worth groceries for 1000 people!*

Or designate a gift amount of your own in the enclosed envelope. You can also give online at <http://www.goodinthehood.org/Donate-Now>.

Thank you for your consideration of any size of gift. Your donation is 100% tax deductible and will make a huge impact on the children, individuals and families served by Good in the 'Hood!

**Together, we can make a difference!**

