

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
- \$250** Covers the operational costs for an entire Shoe Away Hunger bus event
- \$520** Provides a family of 4 with a week's worth of groceries once a month for an entire year
- \$1,500** 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 1,000 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 a gift of any size. 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!

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: WHAT IS OUR SOMETHING?



Have you ever encountered someone in dire need, perhaps even in crisis, yet felt completely powerless to do anything practical to help them or find the necessary support?

Many years ago, on a dark and very cold Christmas Eve, I was getting ready to head home following a very busy day at our church office. For several weeks I had been inundated with numerous holiday-related obligations. Exhausted and ready to finally go home to enjoy the holiday with my family, I had visions of warm smiles, laughter, and sugar-plums (or at least a delicious cup of hot chocolate) dancing in my head.

As I was locking up and putting on my winter coat, I heard a knock at the front door. Underneath the dimly lit awning, huddled together, stood a man and a young woman. I opened the door and invited them inside, momentarily losing my breath from the icy cold wind that bit into our faces.

Following brief introductions, Harold and Cindy shared their story. They were family, a father and daughter. She had a winter coat on that she was unable to zip closed, but not because the zipper was broken. Cindy was 7-months pregnant. And completely terrified with the thought of raising a child as a single parent. Circumstances, including boyfriend abandonment and job loss had left them without regular income or a home. They were completely broke, hungry, cold, scared and living in an old station wagon car. With the temperature hovering near zero, they needed immediate shelter. With head bowed in apparent humiliation as he stared at his feet, Harold mumbled, "Can you help us?" Cindy quickly blurted, "Please, ANYTHING at all. We don't know what to do".

My mind raced as I considered what I could do, particularly on the eve of Christmas. An overwhelming sense of helplessness moved into my soul. Should I simply offer a prayer for them? This seemed so lame, so empty. As a man of Christian faith, I had always believed in acting charitably towards others. Now, in the very spirit of the season, I had my best opportunity to do something impactful, yet, I felt absolutely powerless to offer help in any meaningful way. It was as if Joseph and Mary, the mother of baby Jesus, had come to my own door and here I was about to tell them, "Sorry, there's no room at the inn". Ugh! I felt distraught and disappointed in myself. This wasn't some swindler, this was a real life need and I felt miserably unprepared to handle it.

As I contemplated what to do a familiar quote by Helen Keller suddenly flashed into my mind: "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something...". The overwhelming burden of trying to be the hero, of feeling the obligation to do everything immediately lifted. Yes, they needed long-term care and support; however, this was an immediate crisis. What could I do this very moment?

Although it wasn't "Everything" I determined that my "Something" would be to provide a couple nights of lodging at a local motel, some food, and gas for their vehicle. Later, after the holiday, I could connect them to the local emergency services agency. Equally valuable; however, was the opportunity to intentionally listen to them and to be emotionally present in the moment. The offer of immediate support and emotional care seemed to lift their spirits. As I helped them get settled into the motel, there was renewed energy in their voices and I even noticed smiles crossing their faces, possibly for the first time in a long while. They expressed sincere gratitude and relief to be able to have a warm place to celebrate the Christmas holiday. This was their proverbial manger and when we prayed together the words didn't feel trite or empty.

As I fast forward to today and reflect back on that encounter, I'm tremendously grateful that we have become better positioned to help those, like Harold and Cindy, who may cross our paths. Most are not homeless, yet, many are hungry; not merely for food but hungry for genuine hope. Through Good in the 'Hood, we are now well-equipped to help those in need by offering groceries, meals, footwear, backpacks, internships, a drop-in center, winter coats and wool socks for people experiencing homelessness, valuable referrals and, of course, Holiday Help programs. We're still not able to do "Everything"; however, we are doing a significant "Something" for those in need.

The story I share is no longer an anomaly. Sadly, we receive similar calls, emails, texts and other communications almost daily. These days we're better prepared; however, we're no longer helping just one family. Rather, we are offering support to hundreds of broken and hurting people who live and stand in the cold right outside our own front door.

What will your "Something" be? Who is standing figuratively at your front door? How might you offer a coat or a bit of money or simply a willing ear to listen?

Your "Something" means so much and can make a difference in the lives of others, just like Harold and Cindy, who are struggling to find hope. Will you consider giving a generous year-end gift and partnering with us for 2019? *We cannot do this alone. We need your help and valuable support.*

Thank you so much and have a wonderful and blessed 2019!

Reverend Shawn Morrison

2018 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ONE FAMILY THAT REPRESENTS THE MANY

These are just a few examples 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 year.



"I am very ill and I'm losing my home and I am not sure of my future. Is it possible to receive help for myself and son for Thanksgiving and Christmas? I am very scared. I have a 14-year-old son. Thank you."
—Andrea

"I am 39 years old and have three beautiful children ages 14, 11, and 3. I'm under doctor's care and have not been able to work due to a massive heart attack followed shortly thereafter by another heart attack. I'm in recovery and I'm very blessed to still be in the land of the living. I thank God every day for sparing my life. I'm just praying and hoping somebody can help our family during the holiday season. Thank you and may God bless!"
—Jenny

Your donation provides families with food, gifts and hope for the holidays! Thank you!



FOOD PROGRAMS

Feeding the hungry is an important priority for our organization. Each of our hunger relief programs is designed to meet the needs of those suffering from hunger and food insecurity. Eliminating local hunger enables individuals and families to move past the immediate crisis and to gain life stability and the capacity to focus toward a better future.

FOODSHELF-IN-A-BOX MOBILE PROGRAMS Launched in 2017, with 5 partners serving 300 families each month with 7 days of essential groceries. Partner sites include: **Bethany Int'l, Macedonia Baptist, Creekside Gables, 800 West Broadway, and Maple Pond Homes.**

FOOD IN THE 'HOOD PROGRAMS

- At **Beacon of Hope Church**, with your help, we have served groceries to 4,583 individuals representing 2,033 families totaling 102,403 lbs. of groceries given to those in need. In addition, we have provided more than 1,870 hot meals for the hungry.
- At **Cedarcrest Church**, with your kind support, we have served groceries to 45,334 individuals representing 13,886 families totaling 716,465 lbs. of groceries given to those in need. In addition, we have provided more than 6,000 hot meals for the hungry, and through our partner Sole Care for Souls, we offered free medical foot care for over 100 guests with significant foot concerns.

THE WEEKEND PACK PROGRAM

- Working in cooperation with **9 schools from D833 in South Washington County**, we provide weekend food subsidies (3 meals per student) each week for more than 140 hungry students.

CAMPUS HUNGER PROGRAMS

- 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. 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 11,627 students representing 3,519 households and has distributed 52,631 lbs. of groceries.

BACKPACKS

- Homelessness is a concern for our community, particularly in the winter months. Each year, we work with organizations serving homeless youth to **provide backpacks for youth filled with survival supplies.**
- In partnership with Simon Says Give and their High 5 For Supplies, we delivered backpacks with school supplies to **more than 750 students in need.**



HOLIDAY HELP PROGRAMS

- Served holiday meals for more than **1,200 people** in partnership with Bloomington **SHARING THE FEAST**, Food in the 'Hood at Cedarcrest Church, Grace Church and Pearson Vue at Little Earth United Tribes.
- Distributed Thanksgiving grocery baskets for **4,500 families** in Hennepin county thanks to our generous partner **Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities.**
- 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 8 families** in dire need due to severe health concerns and personal crisis to help them get back on their feet towards a more stable future.
- Partnered with 5 local organizations and schools in need of holiday gift subsidies for their holiday programs.

SHOE AWAY HUNGER PROGRAM

- 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.
- Through many generous donations and with the help of our staff, volunteers and advisory team, **we were able to provide food for 20,000 hungry people!**
- Partnering with **FARE FOR ALL** and several other host sites, **we put shoes on the feet of more than 9,000 people in need.**
- Partnered with **Health Partners** who hosted shoes drives at **50 sites.**
- The **YMCA** hosted shoes drive collections at **25 Twin Cities locations.**
- Provided **NEXT S.T.E.P.S internships**—a personal development platform for those who are interested in growing and gaining experience and life skills.

FIRST STOP OASIS

- A drop-in center for urban residents to find a place to rest and refresh 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 to host several community BBQ cookouts. Each event offers a great opportunity to offer good food and to connect with our neighbors as we build towards a better community.

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

Schuler Shoes, St. Stephen's Church, St. Vincent de Paul, 2nd Harvest, The Food Group and Hunger Solutions MN, Eagle Brook Church, Hosanna!, Cedarcrest Church, King of Kings Lutheran Church in Woodbury, Simon Says Give, The Grove United Methodist Church, Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities, Living Word Christian Center, YMCA, River Valley Church, Safety First Playground, Lutheran Colportage Services, Otto Bremer Trust, Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, March Family Foundation, and our many other supporters, funders, partners, volunteers and friends!

JOIN THE TEAM AND BECOME A 10-4-1 OR SHOE AWAY HUNGER SPONSOR!

10-4-1 SPONSOR

To reach our very important goal of feeding as many as **4,500 hungry people every month**, we need **1,000 new donors** to become a **10-4-1 monthly partner.** It only takes **\$10** to feed a family of 4 with essential groceries for 1 week. Learn more and watch our video here <http://goodinthehood.org/donate-now/>.



SHOE AWAY HUNGER EVENT SPONSOR

Did you know we have two **Shoe Buses** that are on the road hosting events several times each week to bring quality footwear to those in need? These mobile shoe stores enable us to bless our community and to provide affordable quality footwear for those who are economically disadvantaged. In addition, it helps us to raise the important dollars we need for our food programs. A gift of only **\$250** will cover the operational costs for an entire event impacting as many as **100 households.** Learn more and watch our video here <http://goodinthehood.org/our-programs/shoe-away-hunger/>.