



A Message from Shawn

Embracing the Change

Winston Churchill once famously said, “There is nothing wrong with change if it is in the right direction”. At times, we must all face the oft-dreaded need for change in our lives. Despite the difficulties and even the disruption it may bring to our beloved routines, it is the only true and tried path for improving who we are, both our behaviors and our circumstances. It’s not that we look for change merely for change sake. Rather, we must be willing to encounter and to embrace the need for modification so that we can become a better person and one who is better positioned for whatever our future may hold.

A wise person once said, “A mandatory requirement for dealing with any challenge is your ability to deal with change. If you can’t handle changes, then you won’t be able to handle challenges either”. Perhaps you are experiencing changes in your world that are forcing you to give up your well-planned, but predictable, patterns of life. How are you doing in responding to and managing these adjustments? What outside help and additional resources have you engaged to help effectively identify and manage your new circumstances? If you were in the position to coach another, such as a peer, your spouse, one of your children or even a friend, what would you say to them? Perhaps the excellent advice we offer to others is also the best medicine for our own soul.

Each of us at some point has the need to make personal modifications sometimes; however, organizations and ministries experience variations too. These may be subtle or, at times, quite dramatic. Maybe a loved one has been lost or a talented staff member, partner, or valuable stakeholder has decided it’s time to move on. A call to reform may come in the mode of a new strategic plan complete with fresh priorities that necessitate an unsettling shift in our cherished habits and behaviors. Perhaps we’re facing a shift of place or geography that interrupts the security we have associated with our sense of permanence. Regardless of the circumstances or even the sensibility that may be associated with change, it’s nearly always a major stressor and usually very difficult to deal with.

So why all this talk of “change”? As you likely can guess, Good in the ‘Hood has been going through a bit of revisioning too. The changes we’ve experienced are good, but they are changes nevertheless. What alterations have we made? We’ve become more focused in our strategic priorities, we’ve experienced the disruptions of relocating two of our primary programs, and we’ve enjoyed the ebb and flow that is often associated with the growth and expansion of our programs and services. Despite all the challenges of place, practices, and procedures, we have landed on our feet and we’re much better for the wear. This season of transition has stretched us to become better and to find more effective ways of engaging our mission and fulfilling our vision. This doesn’t necessarily mean we would be interested in going through all of this again; however, the lessons we have learned and the benefits we have gained are invaluable and far outweigh any temporary inconveniences we may have encountered.

Change can be incredibly demanding, whether it is personal or organizational. Still, it is a necessary path that must be embraced to get better at who we are and in everything we do. A changed life can impact the world; however, the real impact first begins inside each one of us and then gradually works its way out into our attitudes, our behaviors and our practices. As Socrates once said, “Let him who would move the world first move himself”. I encourage us to purposely embrace the external challenges that help to shape us for the better. In doing so, we’ll become the kind of person that can change this broken world, one life at a time, beginning with our own.



“Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.” (Rumi)

Have a MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!

Rev. Shawn Morrison, Founder and Executive Director

Program Update: Shoe Away Hunger



CHANGE OF LOCATION:

With the generous support of Schuler Shoes, our Shoe Away Hunger program has moved to a new warehouse location. On April 1st, not an April Fool’s Day joke, we relocated to our new location **8063 Ranchers Road NE Fridley, MN 55432**. Change is never an easy thing to manage; however, with the outstanding support and hands-on expertise of the team from Safety First Playground, we were able to move all our inventory, equipment and pallet racking in record time. A great team and outstanding teamwork enabled us to quickly become operational again in our new facility. A sincere shout out of appreciation to our staff, volunteers and our partnering sponsors for the many extra hours generously given to make this come together.

Program Update: Feeding The Future

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!!!!: EXCITING *CHANGES*

BLOOMINGTON FOOD IN THE ‘HOOD PROGRAM UPDATE:

We have the following very exciting & important announcement in regard to the Food in the ‘Hood program at Cedarcrest Church:

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4 and ongoing (1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month)

Our new program partner host site location is: Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Ave S Bloomington, MN 55425

Why the change? Cedar Valley Church has a larger facility with better parking options, a larger volunteer base from which to gain support, better client guest access for those unable to manage stairs, additional support to help us sustain the costs of operating this valuable community program.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Our client choice shopping program is still from **5:00-8:00 pm every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month.**
- Sole Care for Souls will continue to offer foot care services at our new location beginning at 5:00 pm.
- The new host partner has an onsite school; therefore; this requires that the facility remains locked until 4:30 pm. Morning and afternoon volunteers please check in at door #10 to gain access.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO “THE LITTLE CHURCH THAT CAN”

A special shout out of thanks to the “little Church that can”, namely, Cedarcrest Free Methodist Church. This little congregation decided long ago to partner with Good in the ‘Hood by hosting the Food in the ‘Hood program to make a BIG difference in our local community. They didn’t let their limited size stand in their way of doing something significant for the benefit of others. This included embracing a modest **9-1-1** call to action-Feeding **9** families, with **1** weeks’ worth of groceries per month, for up to **1** year. Soon;



thereafter, it became 20 families, then 50. Today, we serve over 400 families each month from this host site location and have found it necessary to move to a larger facility to accommodate the needs of those around us. Together, this unpretentious congregation stepped up with a full heart and graciously allowed their worship facility to be used for helping those in need, despite the tremendous wear and tear on the facility. They quietly acted in a manner that demonstrated true worship not only reached up to God in adoration but also reached out to humankind in practical action. This concept is found in the Scriptures in places such as Romans chapter 12 verse 1 “...Which is your spiritual service of worship” (Greek “Latreia”). In the many years that they have kindly hosted the Food in the ‘Hood program we have yet to see a more selfless example of sharing. We have often been reminded by this sacrifice that the ultimate example, Jesus, was not born in a fancy hotel but in a lowly manger. Through this example and humble beginning, He became the light of the world. Likewise, the Cedarcrest Church congregation joyfully embraced a vision for using their facility to be a light to the Bloomington residents and the surrounding communities. ***Way to go, Cedarcrest Church community! Your example has blazed the trail and set a high standard for our many church partners to follow.***

A NEW PROGRAM AND TWO MORE COMING SOON....

FOODSHELF-IN-A-BOX MOBILE PROGRAMS:

We have developed an exciting Take-It-To-The-People approach to meeting the needs of those who are experiencing food insecurity. We call these programs, Foodshelf-In-A-Box. No, these are not literally in a box nor do we pre-box groceries. Rather, we use a formatted pop-up style means of serving our client guests. Each month we partner with our local food banks to deliver groceries to our local host site partners. The groceries are delivered, set up, distributed and the hosting facility is cleaned up in less than 4 hours. No overnight storage of food is necessary. At the end of the day the facility is restored to its normal function as if

we weren't even there. It's a great way to partner together to do more good. Good in the 'Hood creates and directs the program and handles all the associated costs. The local host site allows us to use their facility for at least 1 day per month at no charge and provides the hands-on volunteer support for distributing the groceries. This enables us to serve 5-7 days' worth of groceries each month to 50-100 households for as little as \$500 per month. It's working together to do something worthwhile in a cost-effective and beneficial manner. Volunteers and donations are welcome and appreciated.



(LEONA & MAYRA- Coordinators of Foodshelf-In-A-Box at 800)

The following are our **FOODSHELF-IN-A-BOX** Mobile host site locations:

- **Foodshelf-In-A-Box at Macedonia Baptist Church** 3801 First Ave South Minneapolis, MN 55409 (Every 4th Wednesday of each month from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.)
- **Foodshelf-In-A-Box at 800 West Broadway Ave N** Minneapolis, MN 55411 (Every 4th Thursday of each month from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)
- **Foodshelf-In-A-Box at Creekside Gables** 7601 Zane Ave N Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 (Every 4th Thursday of each month from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm)

- **Foodshelf-In-A-Box at Bethany Church** 6900 Auto Club Road Bloomington, MN 55438 (Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm)
 - **Foodshelf-In-A-Box at MP, Maple Pond Homes** 1854 Beebe Road Maplewood, MN 55109 (Every 1st Thursday of each month 3:15 pm – 5:30 pm)
 - **Foodshelf-In-A-Box at AIOIC Takoda school**, 1845 Franklin Ave. Mpls, MN 55404 (Every 3rd Wednesday of each month 2:00-4:00 pm)
- 2 new sites coming soon:**
- **Foodshelf-In-A-Box at PPL, Project for Pride in Living**, 2020 Elliot Ave S. Mpls, MN 55404 (Every 4th Tuesday of each month 1:00-3:00 pm beginning in June)
 - **Foodshelf-In-A-Box at Webster Elementary School** ISD 622, 2170 7th Ave E St. Paul MN 55109 (Every 3rd Thursday of each month 3:15-5:30 pm beginning in July)

Volunteer Spotlight

BEING AGENTS OF KINDNESS

Over the intense winter and holiday season, our Good in the 'Hood team and partners had the opportunity to give practical assistance to hundreds of vulnerable people in need. This included a gift of more than 500 winter coats and over 1200 pairs of wool socks for those struggling without permanent shelter.

During one of our **Foodshelf-In-A-Box at 800** holiday events, our volunteer site co-coordinator, Mayra, stepped into the 'Resources Room' and encountered Denise (pictured below with permission) crying and thanking the staff, "Thank you for doing this", she cried out. "I was needing this help so much. My daughter-in-law recently passed away and she was only 32 years old. Now I'm responsible to take care of her 6 small children. I don't feel adequate to do this." Denise had been wondering how she might provide food, clothing, basic essentials and, of course, holiday gifts for these 6 precious little ones that had only very recently lost their beloved mother.



Mayra helped Denise with some free winter gear from the Resource Room. As they were packing up some essential items, Good in the 'Hood team member, Pastor David Glasser stopped by to drop off a large selection of brand-new toys for kids. Denise was overwhelmed as this enabled her to choose 2 gifts for each of her foster children. Pastor David, a very kind soul, immediately sensed that Denise was in over her head and feeling completely overwhelmed. He did what a good pastor always does and offered to pray for her as she needed divine wisdom to navigate through these very difficult circumstances. Prayer and genuine care were just what the doctor ordered. Resources to meet her need, a caring friend in Mayra, and Pastor David to offer valuable

emotional and spiritual comfort and support amid a tremendously challenging season. Afterwards, as Denise began walking to head for home, she kept thanking everyone and repeating out loud, "I can do this, I can do this...". She now is registered to receive groceries every month and will have a kind hand-up to help her through this very challenging season.

Our sincere thanks to each of you, our partners, for making it possible for Good in the 'Hood to change lives, families and entire communities for good each and every day. With your generous support, WE can do this, WE can do this, too!

ANOTHER AGENT OF KINDNESS

One of our amazing volunteers at the Food in the 'Hood program in Bloomington recently engaged in a conversation with a young female worker at nearby Super America store. She learned that this young lady is the mother of 4 little ones and living check-to-check, barely able to make ends meet. Our caring team member listened as this young mother shared, "I'm glad we got paid today because I just cooked my last hamburger with some Hamburger Helper."

Being a person with a GREAT BIG HEART, our team member and her husband, immediately jumped into action. "We filled a box packed with meat, eggs, milk and more from our Food in the 'Hood grocery program and brought it to our new friend in need. The look on her face said everything that needed to be said. This is why I volunteer with the food program. To be a blessing to others!!!

It's testimonials such as this that remind us to view those around us with less cynical lenses of intentional kindness. As we see the need and respond with intentional kindness each of us can follow the "4-L approach" for making a difference in our community: LOOK, LISTEN, LEARN and LOVE. If we consistently do this, we will become an AGENT OF KINDNESS in our community.

A CALL FOR COLLABORATION

In 2018, we fed over 80,000 people with groceries and essential food subsidies from 16 unique locations. In 2019, we are looking to add 3 more sites for a total of 19 food program host locations. HOW, do we do so much, we are often asked. It's simple really, COLLABORATION. We partner often, easy and very well. When we set up a food program, we have several criteria including the following 2 key criteria:

- The host site will provide the facility for free.
- The host site will provide the program lead and they will recruit volunteers to support the food outreach.

WHY is this so important? Because it enables Good in the 'Hood to operate using a highly cost-effective and sustainable model. Since we don't need to pay for facility costs nor do we typically need to have an onsite paid staff person during the client-choice shopping program, we can grow and expand our influence in the most cost-effective manner possible. Our generous donors, partners and supporting foundations appreciate this model because their donated dollar is able to stretch further and to pay for groceries rather than brick and mortar.

HOW cost effective are we? We can provide up to 7 days of essential groceries for less than \$2.50 per person (grocery cost only). This means we can feed a family of 4 every month for only \$10.... YES, this is correct, only \$10 per month enables us to feed a household of 4 people.

With this in mind, we invite you to COLLABORATE with us by becoming what we call a 10-4-1 partner.



WHAT is a 10-4-1 partner? It's someone who has embraced our vision to eliminate local hunger in the most cost-effective manner possible and has joined us as a \$10 per month financial partner. Our vision for 2019-2020 is to feed 100,000 people through our 19 FEEDING THE FUTURE host site programs. To do this, we need to raise at least \$250,000. Your help is essential for us to fulfill this vision. We're looking for 1000 people to join us at \$10 per month recurring financial partners. \$10 per month is only \$120 per year. If we have 1000 people join us, we will raise nearly ½ of our \$250,000 goal without even breaking anyone's proverbial piggy bank. Please watch our brief [10-4-1 video \(http://goodinthehood.org/donate-now/\)](http://goodinthehood.org/donate-now/) to learn how you can make a BIG difference with a small recurring monthly gift.

Thank you so much for being willing to lock your hearts and your strong arms with us as we work together to eliminate hungry from our community!

SPONSOR A SHOE AWAY HUNGER EVENT

We're very grateful for each one who partners with us at \$10 per month. Perhaps; however, you are interested in having an even greater impact. If so, we invite you to consider sponsoring one of our shoe bus events. During each event, we offer affordable shoes and boots to those in need, including several public schools, shelters, food shelves, etc. **Your \$250 support will cover the operational cost of an entire shoe event that reaches up 100 households and children who may be without a quality pair of shoes or boots.** During the shoe event itself, every contribution we receive from our guests in exchange for footwear is used to pay for groceries at one of our FEEDING THE FUTURE programs. A \$250 sponsorship allows us to bring quality footwear to those in need AND helps to support our food programs too! It's a great fit, food, and shoes, as we work together to eliminate local hunger one sole at a time.



Please see the **Shoe Away Hunger** page on our website to check out our new video and learn more about this important program and how you can help by sponsoring an event.

<http://goodinthehood.org/our-programs/shoe-away-hunger/>

Volunteer Needs

We have 3 categories of volunteers: **FLASH** or 1-time event volunteers, **PROGRAM REGULARS** who help us by providing consistent support for a particular program, and **ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** volunteers who assist us by leveraging their experience, wisdom and resources in order to grow, strengthen and help our organization to be sustainable. We invite you to contact Shawn or Jamie at info@goodinthehood.org to learn how you can partner with us in making a difference in our local community.

This coming month we are especially in need of qualified bus drivers, shoe sorters and shoe event associates for our Shoe Away Hunger program. We also need someone who is interested in 5-15 hours per week as an Administrative Assistant. AND, we always need a few extra hands and smiling faces on deck to serve with one of our nine unique Feeding the Future programs or one of our Holiday Help outreaches. It's easy to become involved. Simply call us, email us or register to volunteer for any of our events listed on our website: www.goodinthehood.org.

Thank You to Our 1st & 2nd Quarter Donors!

Thank you to all of the donors, sponsors and funders who have generously contributed to our programs in 2019. We are very grateful and truly humbled by your kind support. Recent grant awards include:

- Schuler Shoes
- Eagle Brook Church Woodbury
- Peace Shalom Foundation
- Bloomington Noon Rotary
- Hunger Solutions MN
- Altar'D State at the Mall of America
- Richard A. Schulze Foundation
- Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
- Emmaus Lutheran Church
- Antioch Church
- St. Michael's Lutheran Church
- Chef Jeff
- Bethany Church
- The Grove United Methodist Church
- Smoke Signals

How Can You Help?

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

At Good in the 'Hood, we believe in doing with people rather than merely for them. Our programs are intended to engage people in relationships that build trust and healthy community for both our guests and our volunteers.

Volunteer in one of our many programs and services (**Flash, Regular** and/or **Organizational Development**)

Adopt a family during the holidays

Host a shoe drive for our Shoe Away Hunger program and/or sponsor the cost of a shoe bus event for only \$250

Share our mission and website with your employer, friends, family and networks

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Invite us to speak with your church, business, school or community group

Donate funds securely online or by check

Sponsor a family in our 10-4-1 giving campaign. \$10 will pay for the cost of groceries for 4 people for 1 week. We need at least 1000, regular \$10 per month supporters to reach our food programming goals.

Please visit our website for more information.

Thanks so much for your kind support as we work together to influence, inspire and impact individuals, families and entire communities for good!



“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.” -- Vincent Van Gogh

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