

H.O.M.E. Inc.

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"Serve First Those Who Suffer Most"
Proud Member of Emmaus International

Fall Appeal 2017

Dear Friend,

A young volunteer wrote to us about a time she sat at a water fountain in New York, the kind that children throw change in and make a wish. This time, she wrote, the story was a little different. Instead of the child throwing change into the fountain, she watched as the seven-year old rolled up her jeans and waded in the water collecting the change. At first she thought the child was simply 'being a kid', making a wish. Instead, the child counted a handful of shiny coins and put them in her pocket. The volunteer was saddened by this image, a tradition we're all familiar with, disrupted by poverty. Not everyone has spare change to wish upon...

H.O.M.E. welcomes families who are forced to forego *their* wishes in order to provide for their basic need for food and shelter. Men and women, suffering with mental illness and/or addictions, who have become more and more marginalized over the years. Angry adults, needing to heal while learning how to be part of our communities. People fleeing abuse, others who simply made bad decisions and need to start over, and some of our veterans and seniors, stumbling around in poverty within a system that doesn't offer reprieve. This doesn't begin to cover all of the people who knock at our doors.

H.O.M.E. is at the frontlines of the basic needs system, where needs are not met by jobs, transportation outreach, or safety net incomes alone. Since January of 2016, 125 people have moved from shelter into permanent housing, during that same time, twenty-five more people came for emergency shelter than the previous year. The food bank provided 35 more food boxes in January of this year than during the same time last year. H.O.M.E.'s back to school program, met an increase in need from 45 back packs in 2016, to 81 back packs for the current school year. That's why, we're writing to you. We simply can't do this work without you.

I ask you for more of your financial support. We continue to rely on private funding in lieu of costs not covered by government support, *still* needing to reach one-half of our annual operating budget. And all we can really offer you is our commitment to stay on the frontlines, to continue to respond to an increasing need for help.

Thank you for your support!

Tracey Hair
Executive Director

"We must realize the truth of ourselves --- we are one human family. One a part of the other. My old work horse Teddy and the fancy registered horse visiting us had no trouble eating out of the same dish. We must discover the same." - Lucy Poulin