



“...And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8 NIV

June 2020

We have been blessed So that we can be a blessing!

Dear Friend,

I wish you could experience firsthand what God has done at the Ministry over these past few months. When COVID-19 hit, we struggled at first to reorient and begin inventing new policies, processes and ways of caring for the people in our community. Then through the courage and creativity of our staff, partnerships, prayer and the support from you shown in myriad ways, we innovated to expand our most vital programs and services.

Over the past three months, our team has been kept awake by questions like, "How do you COVID-proof the Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry and Shelter while at the same time care for the Guests who come to us for help?"

Our answers: We redesigned the way we staff the Soup Kitchen and are converting our Shelter from individual rooms to five family suites! In the Soup Kitchen we are creating three independent teams to ensure continued services and *expand* to serve hot, nutritious meals seven days a week. The economic meltdown has been especially hard on the Lawrence community, so focusing on the battle against food insecurity will continue to be a high priority.

Because of the interconnected layout of our Shelter, it is impossible to isolate Guests. To reopen safely, we must renovate the Shelter to convert it from individual rooms to five family suites, each with a bedroom, bathroom and living space. God is opening doors to create new life for our Shelter Ministry, as we open doors to welcome our Guests into an improved, safer environment - a beautiful place of healing, learning, community and dignity. Our goal is to re-open in August; until then, we will be renovating, creating new systems and protocols, and retraining staff.

Concurrent with the Shelter renovations, we are repairing and revitalizing the Good Shepherd Center, with significant enhancements being made in the Soup Kitchen. This is vital preparation to meet the extraordinary demand for food, shelter and hope that is rising in Lawrence.

Jesus taught us that the two greatest commandments are "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27). As we emerge from COVID-19, *we are preparing ourselves and our facilities to expand our love, life-giving programs and advocacy to our neighbors.*

Despite the many new faces coming to us for help, we are intentionally reaching out to our community to let people in need know that ***“WE ARE HERE!”*** Because of your past support, ***we have been blessed so that we can be a blessing in this time of crisis!*** Your support today ensures that we will continue to innovate in response to the changing needs of our community. I ask for your support.

Blessings,

Reverend Jeff Hassel
Executive Director