Restoring faith, hope and love

“When I got here, it was like a beacon of light.”
—Charles

Charles suffered a serious back injury after getting hit by a big rig while working on a freeway. It led to severe depression and a drug addiction. Finally after months of trying to provide the help he needed and knowing that he had to want to help himself as well, his family had no alternative but to ask him to leave their home. Charles slept on the street every night for six weeks and had nothing but the clothes on his back.

Read more about Charles and his story of hope on page 2
A message of hope from Sue Villilo

With Christmas around the corner, I find myself thinking about all the stories—and all the people—that make the holidays special across the LSS Network of Hope.

People like Charles, who reunited with his adult children after going through a severe depression and drug addiction. Stories of people finding new jobs, a new place to live after sleeping on the streets or finally getting the care they need after a healthcare crisis. Stories of families being able to put food on their tables when they couldn’t before.

These are stories you make possible through your generosity. Whether it’s through LSS Faith Mission, LSS Food Pantries or LSS CHOICES, there’s no way we could do what we do without friends and supporters like you.

I wish you could see what your support is doing in the lives of the people we serve across Ohio. These are real people facing tough circumstances and what you do truly impacts and changes lives. And at Christmas, you make it possible for our neighbors in need to celebrate the holidays when they otherwise would not be able to.

I want to wish a joyful and blessed Christmas season to you and your loved ones.

With gratitude,

Sue Villilo
Assistant Vice President of Community-Based Services, LSS

Building a future, rebuilding a family

Once he came to LSS Faith Mission, Charles received the physical, emotional and spiritual support he needed to get back on his feet. The meals and shelter your support provides gave him more clarity and more strength to overcome his addiction. He had access to doctors that helped prescribe the proper medications for his mental health issues and he also received new glasses so he could see better.

Charles said he was determined to make the most of the services LSS Faith Mission could provide. He was able to secure housing and has begun interviewing for jobs. Getting his life back on track gave Charles the opportunity to rebuild relationships with his children and grandchildren.

“They’re not just saving me, they’re saving my whole lifeline of people,” he says. “It’s very possible that I wouldn’t be here without this place.”

You are blessing lives in our community

So many of our neighbors need help during a difficult season, just like Charles. Many are sleeping on the streets and hungry, and many have lost connection with their loved ones. At Christmas, not having contact with friends and family can feel even more lonely and hopeless.

Your prayers, compassion and support have such an impact on each person who comes through our doors. It not only provides the nourishment and shelter our neighbors need after nights sleeping on the cold streets, but helps find jobs, secure housing and restore relationships.

For people like Charles, there is no better gift at Christmas than hope being restored. Your generosity makes it possible for them to open a door to a new life.

“What the donors do is a blessing,” Charles says. “All of my family would thank them. It wouldn’t be just me. I want to thank the donors and all the people who contribute.”

Photos have been changed to protect the privacy of the client.
You’re putting food on my family’s table

Teresa began coming to the LSS Food Pantries after getting hurt on the job and going on disability. She shared her story about how the food she receives through your support helps her family when they can’t make ends meet.

The LSS Food Pantries is a blessing to my family. My 13-year-old granddaughter lives with me, and if it wasn’t for the Food Pantries, there would be a lot of times where we wouldn’t have had food on the table.

I worked as a waitress and a machine operator for many years, but got hurt and eventually had to go on permanent disability. I have a roommate to help pay the rent on my mobile home, but once I’m done with my bills, it’s almost impossible to afford enough groceries to get through the month.

My granddaughter’s favorite food is tomatoes. Tomatoes are very expensive—that’s something I cannot put on the table for her. I come here every week for produce. She really loves vegetables, and the Food Pantry provides that kind of stuff that she just wouldn’t have otherwise.

You’re making a difference at the holidays

At Thanksgiving and Christmas, I always want to leave the special baskets for people that might need it more than I do. I come get the regular food items at that time—they have had a good roasting chicken that’s just as good as a turkey.

I am so thankful to the donors who give to help all the people who need food, especially at the holidays. You are a blessing to the people who receive this food.

“If it wasn’t for the Food Pantries, there would be a lot of times where we wouldn’t have had food on the table.”

—Teresa
LSS Food Pantries client

Help hungry neighbors celebrate this Christmas

Our hungry and homeless neighbors want what everyone hopes to have at Christmas: a hot meal and a place to belong.

That can be difficult to find when you’re living on the cold streets. It’s a life that can be lonely and hopeless at any time of year, but at the holidays can be especially painful.

A Christmas-season meal can make all the difference in making someone’s holiday special, and that’s why I’m hoping we can count on you again today.

Every $2.25 you give today blesses someone’s life with a Christmas-season meal and other vital care. You can show a hungry and hurting neighbor that means your support will help provide meals and shelter to homeless and hungry neighbors who come to LSS Faith Mission in both Franklin and Fairfield counties.

Thank you for providing the care they so desperately need through both your prayers and support this Christmas and throughout the year.

Please consider giving a gift today—any amount will help be a blessing to children, families and seniors across Ohio this Christmas. To make your donation today, go online to lssnetworkofhope.org/donate or send the enclosed reply slip with your gift. Thank you for your prayers and generous support!

Your compassion in action

Your support helps provide meals and shelter to homeless and hungry neighbors who come to LSS Faith Mission in both Franklin and Fairfield counties. You ensure families struggling with hunger have access to nutritious food at the LSS Food Pantries. And you bless women and men facing domestic violence with a safe, secure place to stay and heal through LSS CHOICES. If you’re able, please use the form on the reverse side to give another kind donation today.
Help Deck the Halls for families in need!

Each year, our friends and supporters like you make our Deck the Halls event one of the most special for the families we serve.

We will be having Deck the Halls celebrations at both LSS Faith Mission and LSS CHOICES. On December 1, from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., volunteers are welcome to LSS Faith Mission to help decorate the community kitchen. On December 15, from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., volunteers can wrap presents for the guests who will be at LSS Faith Mission over the holidays.

We hope to see you there! If you can’t come on December 1 or December 15, please consider donating gifts. For LSS CHOICES, we do not have volunteer needs, but are hoping for donated gifts for families to open.

Gift ideas for LSS Faith Mission:
- $5 fast food gift cards
- One-day bus passes
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Washcloths
- Rain ponchos
- Gloves
- Winter hats

Gift ideas for LSS CHOICES:
- Gifts for adult women
- Stocking stuffers for kids of all ages
- $25 gift cards for teens (Walmart, Target, etc)
- Family board games
- NEW stuffed animals
- Pajamas for kids of all ages and sizes

To RSVP or for more information, please contact McKenzie Hopkins at mhopkins@lssnetworkofhope.org or call her at 614-224-6617, ext. 2196.