Jennifer’s Warmth for Winter
February 2020
KMTV Action News 3 and Godfather’s Pizza raised 416 coats for a total of 1,213 winter weather items during Meteorologist Jennifer Zeppelin’s Warmth for Winter coat drive for Heartland Hope Mission. Thank you to everyone who donated coats, hats, gloves, scarves and blankets for local families during the cold Nebraska winter months.

Fundraising Dinner
October 1st, 2020
You may have been to an escape room, but have you ever had to escape hunger? This extravagant night will begin with tours of our food pantry and a raffle with an exciting variety of unique experiences, then will emerge into lively and interactive games that will help you escape hunger. You don’t want to miss this exciting night of bizarre twists and turns. Register online today!
COVID-19 THREAT

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS

- Fever  • Cough  • Shortness of Breath

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms AND have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

We are also accepting donations of N95 masks for the VA hospital. To donate these items or to sign up to volunteer, please visit HeartlandHopeMission.org.

New Pantry Process

We are serving over TRIPLE the number of people!

With the threat of COVID-19, Heartland Hope Mission implemented our Crisis Response Plan. All of our services, except for the food pantry, have been shut down. We are serving an unprecedented number of people and anticipate this to continue with schools closed, work hours cut and overall community concern.

In order to maintain social distancing, we have moved to a drive-thru pantry process. Clients remain in their car and provide basic information verbally through their windows. Our Client Service Specialists also provide information on SNAP (food stamps), unemployment, and other community resources. Pre-packed pantry boxes are placed in the truck of their vehicles. As of today, we know we need the following items:

Cereal  Pasta  Milk  Canned Vegetables

14,161 Individuals Served
3,707 in January
3,535 in February
6,919 in March

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Students Served from Jan-March

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Hillana, 28, received her green card in January 2020. “I waited 4 years back in my home country of St. Lucia for this,” Hillana said. She and her husband, Jordayn, 27, were working as chefs at the casinos in Council Bluffs, Iowa, for only a month before the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded in March. “The very last week before we closed, it was extremely slow. Now, Hillana and Jordayn find themselves unemployed as of March 17, 2020.

Within 3 months, their new life in America had taken a turn. “We planned on saving $1,000 a month exactly. But we’ve only been able to do 2 months of that because of all of this. We have some money in our checking account but we don’t even want to touch it. We don’t know how long this is going to last.” As the couple waits to see what their status of unemployment will be, they created a plan of action. “We were like, ‘okay, we need to cancel subscriptions we don’t need anymore - like Netflix and Hulu.’ All these subscriptions can seem like $5 right now...but it is money we will need in the end. The $5 I can spend buying a lot of Ramen is worth more to me than Netflix.” What little money they have left over, they use on rent, utilities, and raising their 2-year-old.

“The diapers. The formula. They all add up,” Hillana explained. “If it was just the two of us, we would eat ramen until this ends. But now with the baby, who is transitioning from formula to solid foods, and being a picky eater, we have to change things up for her all the time. We can’t have the same thing twice – she won’t touch it. We’re just trying to stock up everything we can for Jordayn and myself here and then use our own funds to get whatever the baby needs – we’re putting her first before anything else.”

This is the first time the couple has ever visited a food pantry. “When we found out about this, we were like, “wow, this is such a great help for us! We’re so blessed for this option!” Hillana estimates spending about $200 to $500 on groceries monthly. “The food pantry is really important right now. We don’t know what the future holds. If you’re getting the chance right now, go out and get the help.”

“We’re faithful to God and we are keeping faith. But if we’re trying to be realistic, things are bad right now. It’s [important] that we remain calm, use the resources that we do have, and do our best. We’re blessed to have had these jobs. Hopefully we can go back to them once all of this is over.”

Imagine you were living paycheck to paycheck and suddenly you had no job and you had your children full-time at home. What would you do? Where would you turn? What we are doing at Heartland Hope Mission is so important. We are providing immediate food assistance to these families that have suddenly, due to no fault of their own, found themselves in a crisis. Your generous donation helps families just like these as we serve nearly quadruple the amount of people affected by COVID-19 economic impacts.

At this time, more than ever, we need your generous donations and we appreciate a gift of any amount. You can mail a check in the enclosed envelope to Heartland Hope Mission or donate online at www.HeartlandHopeMission.org/HelpFamilies.html
Thank you to everyone who supported Heartland Hope Mission during our first quarter in 2020! Your gift is making an impact in the lives of families who rely on us to make ends meet.

For many families, it has been a challenging 2020. Our numbers have nearly quadrupled during this time. We continue to serve and meet new families affected by COVID-19 economic impacts, many who never imagined they would find themselves in this time of uncertainty.

**Thank you!**

You are making a difference in the lives of so many people!

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**The Hawks Foundation**

**Did you know?**

If you itemize your deductions under the new CARES Act, you can claim more than 60% of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) if you make any charitable donation.* This makes it easier to give and save at the same time in 2020!

**Corporations: Cash Contribution**

10% Limit increased to 25%

**Individuals: Standard Deduction**

If you take a standard deduction, you can claim an above-the-line tax deduction for cash donations up to $300.

*Consult your tax adviser to find out if your donation is tax deductible.