



# People to People MINISTRIES People Caring For People

January 2021

From the desk of our Director

This past year has BEEN SO DIFFERENT than any year I can remember. It has brought many challenging months to the ministry, but through it all our staff and volunteers have risen to every occasion, putting the needs of our communities' rising number of families that have fallen on hard times first. Some alarming stats have presented themselves this year as the number of new households that have come to our facility reaches near 700 at the time of this letter. Included in that number are 99 new senior folks, and over 500 children. We have had to change the way we operate to keep everyone safe, but we have continued all through this year to provide food, clothing and financial assistance (a great rising tide of folks needing help with back rent and eviction notices). Through much careful planning, we were able to have our Back-to-School, Thanksgiving dinner box and Christmas toy projects. We consider it a blessing to be able to show the love of JESUS in our communities and serve people in need, not just with material items but by caring and listening to them and being a LIGHT to provide hope for a better tomorrow. We would like to thank you and let you know how HUMBLED and BLESSED we have been by your overwhelming support. From your prayers and material donations to the tremendous blessing of your monetary support that has not only helped us care for those in need but has provided us a great encouragement that you trust the work we have been doing. Our greatest desire is to use the resources GOD provides us through you wisely and continue to find the best ways to serve those in need in our county. We thank you so much for your generous support during these trying times. We are blessed by it, and again thank you on behalf of our Board, staff and all our wonderful volunteers. **Psalms 9:18 But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish. We will not forget that God has given us this great privilege of serving people in need in Wayne County. Serving in Jesus name, with love and grateful hearts,** Joe Szeker



**It takes a community working together to help people overcome poverty.**



From the desk of our Pantry Coordinator Theresa Markley:

I want to start out by thanking the Rotary and our schools as well as all the local businesses, churches and individuals that had food drives for us this year. I know things are very different, but during these trying times it's good to know people are still pulling together to help those in need. We have been so blessed by our communities' generosity. Our basement is once again filled with great healthy food items.

This year to make sure no family went hungry, we had many volunteers help deliver food to those unable to get to us. We had help from Ohuddle folks, and even our State Troopers helped us deliver food to shut in families.



Not only have we been able to help children get food, but sometimes a little something extra to put a smile on a child's face. We have made an even greater effort to find ways to work together with our community partners. We are so thankful for our many Church and Business partners.

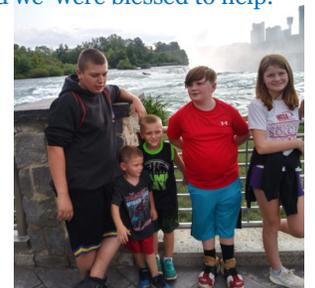
We would like to share with you some of our wonderful Partner Organization's we are blessed to work with: OHuddle, Salvation Army Wooster & Orrville, Pregnancy Care Center of Wayne County, OneEighty, Community Action,

Viola Startzman, The RIDGE Project, American Red Cross, Really Recovered Ministry, Metro Housing, Ohio State Patrol Wooster, Job and Family services- PRC, Wayne County Children Services, Wayne County Child Support, County Board of DD, County Commissioners, Wayne County Fair Board and so many wonderful Churches too many to name. Along with so many individuals and businesses that not only provide support but serve together with us helping people in need.

#### Our Staff:

- Joe Szeker—Director of Operations
- Theresa Markley –Food Pantry
- Tina Eley –Bookkeeper
- Rhonda Mease—Intake
- Sue Madick– Intake
- Janice Gard—Clothing
- Stacy Legg—Financials

**This family has come a long way and we were blessed to help.**



A great success story that spans 2 years



I would like to share with you all the blessing of a great story, I have mentioned Tess a few times in communications and with her permission we are blessed to share her story of great success. She came in today for some food assistance and also to tell me she now has a job making more than she has ever made, it has some flexibility so she is able to work and take care of her 5 children. We will be helping her with some additional assistance of furniture and houseware items as we help her through Metro to get into her own place -She said that because of "you guys" she kept going -trying harder to overcome the mess she was going through.

This has been developing for well over a year now -I have asked her to keep in touch and as she gets on her feet that she might share her story someday, and that we will continue to provide moral and every other type of support we can for her.

It was amazing to watch how our staff ladies surrounded her several times in the intake office -with comforting words and encouragement to stay the course through those hard times and that they would stay in touch and keep her in our prayers. Tess and her sweet children have been a true blessing to us.

I can only say praise GOD for HIS direction leading this ministry. Our staff agrees to be the LIGHT of hope to our community and all those who come through our doors. We are blessed to help with material things, but what we desire the most is to pass on a HOPE with dignity and respect to help people overcome the grip of poverty.

*The following are emails from Tess as she has allowed us to see her pulling away from the grip of despair that comes from life's difficult days. December 4, 2019 -An email from Tess B. - Nov 23, 2020*

- Hey Joe its Tess. I don't know if you remember me or not. but I have thought about you lately. And I want to thank you for helping me and my family. Currently I live in Canton with my best friend and all 5 of my kids. I've been working as a lead for a cleaning company out here. I'm getting a promotion come January and will begin working full time with them. Struggling a little because its holiday season, but not like i used to. Thank you again for listening to my story and helping me through my rock bottom.  
Tess B. - Dec 7, 2020 Joe —I'm far from where I want to be but all good things take time. You guys showed me something I didn't think existed anymore...genuine good people which is so rare to come across. You guys took the time to listen when nobody else ever has. That meant so much to me. ***Our true desire is to help people know they can overcome the difficult circumstances in their lives. Tess had the desire, we just provided the hope that helped her move forward.***