



*'You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'*  
Deuteronomy 15:10-11

**November 2023**

## **2023 Annual Letter to our Donors and Supporters**

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It is hard to believe another year has already gone by. It does not seem like it was that long ago I was writing last year's letter. And what a year it has been.

2023 is on pace to be the busiest year in Hope In The Streets history. When this year ends, we will have given out a few hundred more meals and a much larger number of supplies. All this a direct result of your support. All the numbers can be seen below in "By the numbers".

I would publicly like to thank a young man, Liam, who chose to do his Eagle Scout project for Hope In The Streets. Liam organized, marketed, and coordinated a supply drive over a three-week period earlier this year. Liam worked with three different churches to have a drop off day at each church. This resulted in 123 coats, 110 Blankets, 89 pairs of gloves, 122 pair of socks, and 139 stocking caps. The most amazing part of his work is 90% of all the items are new. It has been wonderful to be able to provide "new" items of need to our friends on the streets.

In last year's letter I spoke about how some of our homeless like to read. One person, as best we can tell, has read over 50 books this year. She has been getting one or two books a week. She has even started returning books back to us for others to read. Her favorite appears to be suspense novels though she will read almost anything. We have found out she does not like westerns.

Tony at Firehouse Subs (our food provider) wanted to do something for the homeless in Kansas City and has been working with me to put together "Helping Feed Kansas City's Homeless One Sub at a Time" evening. This will be December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 4pm to 8pm at 2698 NE Vivian Rd, Kansas City, MO 64119 Firehouse Subs location.

Hope in the Streets will receive a donation of 15% of the proceeds. I will be on hand to answer any questions the public might have. If any of you reading this are in the neighborhood, stop by. I would enjoy meeting the people that support Hope in the Streets.

### **By the numbers – a summary of services provided this year.**

Year to date in 2023, we have served 7,586 meals to our friends on the streets. In addition, we have provided: 163 pairs of socks, 181 hygiene kits, 182 blankets, 187 Hand Warmers, and 111 pairs of gloves. Other items we also provide are stocking caps and a lot of dog and cat food. By the end of the year, we will have served about 8300 friends.

### **The Answered Prayers Grant**

2023 was year seven of our “Answered Prayers Grant” program, which is available to help those looking to take the next step in turning their lives around. Grants are awarded to those having small financial obstacles in their path to moving away from homelessness. As well as those struggling to keep from becoming homeless.

This year we did not receive any grant requests.

### **Worship Wagon Services**

Our weekly non-denominational church services have been going strong again this year, which marks our 9th anniversary. Both of our Kansas City downtown locations have been holding short services consistently each week throughout the year, and God continues to bless and amaze us with generally great weather for our Monday outdoor gatherings. We were excited to have Jimmie “The Electric Rev” Bratcher lead church under the bridge 3 times this year, blessing us with his brand of awesome music and solid teaching each month that we had a 5th Monday. We also had our first Worship Wagon wedding a few weeks ago! Two of our regular volunteers met and served together under the bridge, and that relationship blossomed into a full-scale wedding – one that Paster Bruce McGregor officiated in front of a whole bunch of Worship Wagon volunteers at a cute little church in Olathe. Last year we reported having some vandalism and theft issues with our parked trailer and van, but we are happy to report that there haven’t been any issues so far this year (and we are praying that we are done with those unfortunate break-ins). If you haven’t attended one of our Monday services before, please consider coming out so you can see firsthand just how powerful this ministry is for our homeless friends and volunteers alike.

### **Wrapping up**

Our volunteers and I have met several new friends this year with the increase in numbers. I am very blessed to continue serving those in need. This would not be possible without all of the people that support Hope In The Streets.

Hope in the Streets and those we serve thank you for your generosity. If you like what we are doing and how we are doing it, please help spread the word to your family, friends, and co-workers. With God's grace we can continue to serve the poor and those experiencing homelessness here in Kansas City.

If you would like to support our efforts, please visit our [donations](#) page.

We are proud to report again this year that there is no administrative overhead at Hope in the Streets. Every penny of every dollar we receive goes directly to providing much needed benefits to the poor and homeless in Kansas City. It is just us, our volunteers, and a passion to help those less fortunate.

Signing off, I hope this newsletter finds you healthy, ready for the holidays, and eager to continue supporting Hope in the Streets.

*God Bless and sincerely,*

**Gene Lowther**

*on behalf of the Hope in the Streets family*