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## A Thanksgiving Message from our Executive Director

**Hope. Hospitality. Compassion.**

Next week many of us will gather at a table for a Thanksgiving feast.

This year it is likely that our tables will not be as full of family and friends as they might have been in years past. But, for the majority of us, our tables will be as full of food as ever.

Yet, as we all are becoming increasingly aware, food insecurity is a problem that is on the rise because of the economic effects of the pandemic. And, most of us agree that for anyone anywhere to go hungry is a shame and that those of us who can help, should do something.

Because of your support, at Toco Hills Community Alliance, we are indeed doing what we can by distributing free groceries to hundreds of families weekly. What you may not know is that THCA is about so much more than food.

- It is about hope. So many of the people we are seeing now say to us that they never thought they would be in this position. We give hope that they are not alone and that someone cares.
- It is about hospitality. We serve people from all walks of life and we do our best to make all of them welcome, to alleviate any stigma or shame.
- It is about compassion. Compassion is about empathy, not sympathy, and about sharing humanity and not obligatory charity.
- It is about community. It is about all of us, coming together. It is about our diverse volunteers unified in mission. It is about all of our partners working with us. It is about how all of you support us.

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to the table where at the other end were two of our “regulars,” also homeless. As they all repacked their food so they could transport it, they shared items with one another – one didn’t care for fish so gave it to another who loved it; one couldn’t use all of the fruit so gave it to someone to share with another who couldn’t make it that day. In the process, they made this new guy feel welcomed and demonstrated a generosity that we all would do well to emulate.

**By giving to the Annual Campaign, you can be part of that hope, hospitality, and compassion. You can help us live more fully into being neighbors helping neighbors and coming ever closer to becoming Beloved Community.**

At this Thanksgiving time and always, we are grateful for you and your support.

In Gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Lisa Heilig



**THCA Executive Director Rev. Dr. Lisa Heilig**

[Please help us stock the pantry this holiday season.](#)

Our volunteers pack and distribute over 20,000 pounds of food every week. And every indication is that the need will grow in 2021. These food boxes (between 40-50 pounds of both fresh and non-perishable food) will feed a family of four for 5 days or more.

[Click here to see what goes into a typical food box .](#)

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Since the Covid-19 outbreak, we have served as many people through the end of July as in ALL of 2019. The need has doubled since March. Our volunteers are working hard to meet these needs but they need your help. **So during the month of November we're asking for your help. Please support our first ever annual campaign to "Stock the Pantry" to feed more hungry and homeless neighbors in 2021 by clicking the DONATE button below.**

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