



# Nickels and Dimes Newsletter

WINTER 2020

## Countdown

As I write this letter to you all, this year I am aware that many of you are on a countdown to get through this year, to get to Christmas, to get to some vacation time or maybe it's just a countdown of things you need to do today. I go through certain steps each morning, and I find when I get out of my routine that I forget something. The other morning, I set in my car in my driveway before I left home counting down all the things that I do each morning to make sure I remembered them all and didn't have to run back home. Last week we counted the days until Thanksgiving to celebrate with family and eat some awesome food. I have been counting down to Christmas because I need to mail Christmas gifts this year to our kids. Each year many of us have New Year's Eve parties counting down time until the new year starts. I'm sure many of us will really be ready for that this year!

As I started on my new Bible study, I realized that people were basically doing the same thing then, counting days to get back to their homeland, crying out to God for a new king, when God alone can be our King. They wanted for God to take away pain, famine, and to save them from their times of trial or testing, without seeking what God was trying to teach them or how He was shaping them. They were just counting down their days or time or going through motions, when we know each day God has a purpose and a plan for each and every one of us. No, I don't know the answers to "why", but I know He holds the answers to my "whys". I don't know about you, but I do not want or desire

to live in survival mode or in fear. I want my life to count for something for the Lord and the work He has called me to do here in this community. I want to work and live in the moment with a heart of gratitude and the joy of the Lord overflowing from me.

Will you join me in this wonderful Christmas time in looking around outside of our personal life and joining in this work to make sure that others see Christ as Our Redeemer and Savior? Will you pray for NECO and our staff as we try, like you, to balance all the new ways of working with the current restrictions to keep everyone safe while trying to maintain an open and caring atmosphere for all that we interact with daily? Will you pray for God's continued provision for all our needs, that we wouldn't be short of funding, or food and toiletry items?

My prayer for you is that you see that God is indeed good to us, that you allow Him to direct your every step. Let Him guide you with the list you need, "not my will, but thy will be done", that you live, and I mean truly live, in the moment He has for you!

I remain forever grateful to each and every one of you for your faithful support by prayer and giving. It is an honor and a privilege to serve with you in this community.

**Merry Christmas!**

Denise Butler  
Executive Director



# Greetings from Client Assistance

This year has been different for many of us for sure and we have really had to get creative with helping families, while working to keep families safe. We learned this year that we could do more assistance through our online database for families which kept them from having to come inside our offices and also that we could easily do curbside groceries for all in need.

We have helped 1518 families with food for \$127,901, financial needs of \$40,954.81 and some other miscellaneous needs of \$8,126.

We are so grateful for your help in doing all of this, as the challenge to purchase supplies and food items so that we can help others has been extremely difficult. Our orders for food at the beginning were cancelled and with so

many restrictions of how much you can buy and shelves empty we have shopped two to three days a week to try and keep food on the shelves. The biggest blessing came when we decided to just let all of you know by way of Facebook and I mean the items you all were able to bring in, when we hadn't been able to get it was just amazing!

So many of you have helped others and with extra food truck distributions around the county people in the community have been taken care of. However, we are seeing and hearing from more families now, as I'm sure you are aware that many have lost some of the added benefits and we expect those numbers to rise from here on out.

## Pantry Needs

Soups-Healthy Choice,  
Low Sodium and Tomato

Toilet Paper

Pasta Sauce

No Salt -Carrots and  
Mixed Vegetables

Pinto Beans

Boxed Cereal

Boxed Oatmeal  
(Variety Pack)

Shampoo

Ladies Deodarant



## Opportunity to Give

Please use this donation for

Food Pantry \_\_\_\_\_ Client Assistance \_\_\_\_\_ General \_\_\_\_\_

Building Program \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_ or

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_



# Thrift Store Happenings

We had a great beginning in the store this year and even had a hard time keeping donations into the store as you guys were shopping so very much and we thank you for shopping as well as donating, since this is the largest form of funding for us, we really appreciate you all so very much.

In March we closed the store prior to receiving orders, to protect everyone here as well as each of you. This has put a strain on the ministry as we ended up being closed for about 2 and a half months and the revenue from that is hard to not have and keep everything going as well, but let me tell you all that God has indeed protected us at every turn through it all.

We did some curbside sales which was actually hard work but fun, and if we had a regular store with consistent merchandise it would be easier, I am sure. We have learned so much through this time that we believe will help us to grow stronger in the future.

We had the store stocked so full when we opened and many things that were sorted and ready to go into the store but there was no more room to put it all. We already knew that we needed a bigger store building and we still do but the generosity of some wonderful donors blessed us with some beautiful new shelving and display capabilities that increased our space greatly. We are so thankful to the Hoffman family with Retail Fixture Solutions!

We still would ask that you make sure when you donate that all items come to us clean and ready to be used by others and that you not bring items from storage unless you go through and clean them all. Since we are still working with limited staff and volunteers. We also ask that you check our Facebook page or website for acceptable items. This will help us on our trash situation and time.

Thank you all so much!

## Volunteer Opportunities

While so many of you have contacted us with an offer to help us out by donating time, please understand that with all the restrictions and limits on numbers in the facilities we will not be allowing anyone extra on the premises at this time. Thank you for your hearts to serve, we appreciate it so very much!





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