



# Nickels and Dimes Newsletter

WINTER 2021

## Letter from the Director

...and He shall direct your paths.

All of us have been on a journey this past year and some of the paths we are on have not been easy or even desirable. However, my favorite path has been the one where God has asked me to stop, be still, and learn to abide in Him. To really rest in his presence, linger for a while, and focus on Him and His Word. For those of you that know me well, this is quite hard for me to do. I know how important it is to spend time with Him and I know God designed rest for our benefit, but sometimes our servant heart struggles to be still. This has really helped me to find joy, and the strength needed to be able to keep serving. As I was on a short, refreshing, trip a few weeks ago, I began to think about the path we were continuing on at this time. Needless to say, I am amazed at the number of bridges we are crossing. Some of those bridges seemed rough, some were so long, but the thing that really struck me was that to get where I was going, I have to cross them. Then God reminded me that I never had to do it alone He is always with me and will never leave me. What a promise He has given us!

We have had to change a lot of our procedures for serving our clients in order for us to protect our Senior Citizens and families on permanent disability. While doing things differently isn't necessarily difficult, we have formed such a relationship with many of them. As a result, not having them in the physical office is hard because our staff, and our clients miss the interaction so much. Purchasing groceries to keep the pantry stocked while being restricted on what you can buy has been a little difficult as well. However, your faithful support has kept supplies coming in, limiting any disruption to

our ability to serve and provide for the families we assist.

Our old building in downtown Red Oak sold. We are working towards the plans for a new building here on our current property to provide more space for the Thrift Store. This will be another path to walk down but we know that God will provide the necessary funding as well as direction for this project. We want to be sure and plan for our current needs as well as more growth in the future. So many of you are asking where we are on this process. Until some of the construction material costs drop down to a more affordable level, we will wait so we can make the wisest use of our funds. The other issue we have is that we are now at max capacity here in the office and food pantry so we need to ensure we are ready for growth in that area as well.

So, remember that whatever path you are on that God is with you. Also, always remember that we are so grateful to each and every one of you for your love, generosity, and compassion towards those we serve here at NECO. If your path seems more difficult than you can handle on your own, will you call us and let us pray for you? We would like to partner with you. Also, if while you are praying, God brings us to mind, will you stop and pray for us? We would so appreciate it!

Prov. 3:5-6 says, Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.

Love and prayers for you all,  
Denise Butler



# Greetings from Client Assistance

Greetings wonderful community! So far this year The North Ellis County Outreach has been able to help 2,195 families with food in the amount of \$120,000 and assisted with financial needs of \$35,451.31. We were also able to help many of our clients with clothing for just under \$3,000.

We have had a large influx of calls for assistance due to some of the unemployment benefits ending. While many of our Senior Citizens have dropped from our Senior program, we have added several new Senior's and feel like that will increase through the winter months as well. The number of families on disability is staying pretty steady. We are also assisting some other families in our area we have never served before.

NECO is in need of more organizations and churches to partner with us for our Adopt a

Shelf program. Each organization "adopts" a shelf of items needed and delivers them to us. (Usually on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis) This program is a simple way for the community to participate in helping our pantry stay stocked. If you are interested in being a part of this program, please give us a call so we can get you more information and get your church/organization signed up. I know that in my own, personal, experience, (my church participates in this program) the adopt a shelf program is very helpful because I know which item(s) my church has adopted. I can easily go grocery shop for those items and take it to my church to be dropped off or bring the items when we meet together. However, if you enjoy being spontaneous, please just feel free to jump on our North Ellis County Outreach Facebook page and see what our current needs are as they are listed weekly.

## Pantry Needs

Laundry Detergent 30-40 loads

Toilet paper

Dish Soap

Razors

Shampoo

Evaporated Milk

Small size tea bags

Saltine crackers

Canned Green vegetables

Canned Beef Stew



**Thank you all for making sure we have what we need in the pantry!**

## 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 work so hard processing donations in order to stock the store each day. Many days there are so many shoppers there is not even enough parking spaces available. Our recycling and trash bin stay full. In fact, you might find one of us in the dumpster trying to stomp trash down to get more in. We might make Mike Rowe proud! We love and appreciate your support, and we enjoy all our shoppers and donors. Seeing someone find a good deal in our thrift store is so much fun. My staff ask daily have you seen this client or that, and we pray for you daily.

The store has been incredibly busy with a massive number of donations coming in. So many of you have spent time at home preparing donations. While we are grateful for your donation's, PLEASE be kind and

make sure the items you bring are clean and in reusable condition. If you wouldn't give it to your best friend or buy it yourself then we can't use it either.

We have such a disposable society where it is cheaper to buy new than get parts to repair what you have. We recycle all that we can, but you should know the devastation on other countries as well as our own, from the volume of unusable items. Please feel free to call if you are unsure about what we accept or don't however, you can find a current guide on our website or Pennies from Heaven Facebook page. **Thank you for partnering with us to make our thrift store a great place to shop!**

## Volunteers!

If you are interested in joining our team of excellent volunteers please go online to our website [www.necoutreach.org](http://www.necoutreach.org) and complete the volunteer application. Current volunteer needs would be for the Thrift Store. At this time we are limited to individual volunteers and not scheduling any group activities.





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