

Messages of Hope

Going through a time of crisis can be challenging for even the most resilient person. Sometimes all we need is a few words of encouragement to lift our spirits and show us that we are not alone. Here are a few of the encouraging words sent during last year's campaign.

"We want you to know that there are many of us in the community who truly care about your well-being."

"The great thing in this world is not so much where you stand, but what direction you are going."

"I know how difficult this time is for your family, and I know how hard you are working to make things better. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Don't give up hope!"

Thank you to everyone who sent these "Messages of Hope." It might seem like something small, but a kind word goes a long way.



Staff members at our Family Housing Program take the pledge!

An Update On Families Served

Last fall, we came to you with a challenge. We asked you to make a difference in the lives of families struggling with homelessness.

We were blown away by the tremendous outpouring of responses we received. Individuals, groups and local businesses came together to help us reach our goal of raising \$50,000 in one month. We not only reached this goal but exceeded it, demonstrating that our community is invested in helping vulnerable families recover their independence.

Over the course of the year, our programs for families were able to serve 238 vulnerable families in Lane County. Our "I ShelterCare about Homelessness" campaign played a large part in enabling us to reach so many families in a range of ways.

Funds raised were used to pay late rent payments, enabling families to stay in their homes. For example, a single mom with three children had received an eviction notice due to late rent. The family was assisted with \$356 that allowed them to remain in their home and not become homeless.

In addition, we were able to pay deposits on new apartments for families transitioning back into stable housing. Recently, a family planned to move into a subsidized apartment and needed less than \$100 to help cover their costs. With our assistance, they were able to accept this subsidized apartment.

Finally, these gifts helped keep emergency shelter units open for families with nowhere else to go.

Your Gift Multiplied

You cared. You gave. You inspired. Raising \$50,000 in one month was a tremendous accomplishment, but what if I told you that \$50,000 turned into \$150,000?

The generous gifts we received in October inspired a \$25,000 challenge gift from a major donor, bringing the total to \$75,000. The outpouring of individual contributions and business sponsorships in turn enhanced our request to the City of Eugene for support for homeless families. The city matched your support dollar-for-dollar, bringing a total of \$150,000 to work for families who were homeless or at risk of homelessness.

You set the spark by sending the message that together we can create the community we've always envisioned: a community where everyone can thrive.



Thank you notes made by children living at our Family Housing Program.

Shared Gratitude

The work we do would not be possible without you. We wanted to share some of the heartfelt thanks we have received from the families we have served through our Homelessness Prevention Program.

"I want to thank you for all you have done for my family. Your encouragement and support has made it possible to chase our dreams. The work that you all do here is nothing less than miracle work. You give families the hope and ability to make good choices. Without ShelterCare, without you angels behind me, I couldn't fly. So thank you for giving me wings."

"I felt compelled to write this letter to thank each person involved with helping me and my family. Not only did your assistance take care of funds for us to remain in our home, but your continued assistance allowed us to gain a foothold and maintain our fresh sense of security. Without you we would be homeless."



A mother entertains her children at our Family Housing Program.