



HEART OF HOPE  
MINISTRIES

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## *President's Annual Report for Calendar Year 2023*

**"Somebody Go Get Leroy"** that's the title of the message my dear friend Gloria Randle heard when she was searching for a sermon to listen to one Sunday morning in 2019. The minister was a guest pastor speaking at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. The message spoke of a deacon and his wife whose son had gotten caught up into drugs. He had been a young man raised in church to know the Lord, but had gradually been enticed into the ways of the world. The deacon's wife had stopped attending church. She told her husband and other members who inquired "Why?", I am not going back to that church until somebody comes from inside those walls and goes to get my son, Leroy! You talk about salvation and going to the lost, but I see little action. When is the talk going to become action? The story went on to share that somebody did go find Leroy. The deacon's wife, and her son Leroy, were back in church several Sundays after that. It's a message for all of us to come out from behind church walls and go find the lost.

My friend Gloria, shared the sermon with her niece, Kasandra Randle who had moved from the Quad Cities to Alexandria, Virginia for her job with the government. Kasandra had been a student of a bible study class that Lynda Sargent, and Kasandra's aunt Gloria Randle, had held several years prior. Kasandra visited Alfred Street Baptist Church and it became her home church. During the pandemic, Pastor Howard-John Wesley of Alfred Street Baptist Church had been led to begin the 'Tithe the Tithe Program' at the church. 10% of all the church tithe would be given to non-profits serving the communities throughout the world. Kasandra applied to this program on behalf of Heart of Hope Ministries. One Saturday morning in December of 2022, she called Lynda to ask about questions on the application. She asked about how much to ask for? Lynda thought maybe \$5K or \$10K? Kasandra suggested \$50K! Lynda said okay, they can always reduce that.

Several months went by, and one Tuesday morning, Lynda received a phone call from Deacon Mark Morris

from Alfred Street Baptist Church. Deacon Morris asked about how Heart of Hope Ministries was started and what services we provided to our community. He also asked about what we would do with \$50K. Lynda shared how Heart of Hope Ministries was birthed in obedience to a vision God placed in her heart and how she had followed His footsteps all along the way. The Lord had taken Heart of Hope Ministries from 5 people praying in her home to now serve the community with a weekly food pantry, clothing ministry, youth programs, a home for men returning from incarceration, and plans for a community resource center. Deacon Morris met with his committee and called Lynda back 2 days later with amazing news. He said he told his committee about her and how she listens to God and then obeys His leading. He said we aren't going to give you \$50K. We are going to give you \$75K!!! Lynda leaped from her seat in pure joy!!!

Words can't express what this divine blessing has meant for Heart of Hope Ministries!!! Because of Alfred Street Baptist Church's amazing support of our work, we were able to soar in 2023 to new heights. We can't THANK THEM ENOUGH for believing in and financially supporting Heart of Hope Ministries!!! This financial support was used in 2023, to launch our neighborhood youth programs again; purchase food for our Food Pantry growth; support our Clothing Ministry; and help us as we saw our deliveries to the elderly and disabled doubled in 2023!



[1] Gloria and Kasandra Randle

[2] Alfred Street Baptist Church





## A Recap of Special Events In 2023:

- **Hand in Hand, People with Purpose**, began volunteering bi-weekly at Heart of Hope Outreach.
- We began a partnership with **Augustana College APEP (Augustana Prison Education Program)** that will also provide student assistance with special projects.
- We did presentations at the **Fully Free Prison Program at Grace City Church**.
- We attended a special meeting at **Riverbend Food Bank** with representatives from the State of Illinois' Emergency Food Program and Feeding America.
- We began working with **Community Health Care** to offer covid-19 shots and blood pressure screenings.
- **Positive Brothers United** began partnering with us to help deliver food to the elderly and disabled throughout the Quad Cities.
- **Rock Island Rotary Club** honored President Lynda Sargent with their Community Service of the Year Award. She was escorted in a convertible during the Labor Day Parade. They also awarded their district grant to us to purchase a new shed.
- In June, we hosted a **Community Love Fest** that truly brought people from every nationality to enjoy a day of prayer, free clothing, food, a bounce house, dunk tank, and lots of FUN.
- We participated in the **Martin Luther King Jr. Family Fun Day Parade**.
- In October, we hosted our 2nd **Dinner Gala** at the Rock Island Holiday Inn.
- In Dec, we partnered with **United Way's Emerging Leaders** to host a Christmas Give-away that was complete with Santa, new toys for each child to select from, and Lots of giveaways!!!
- We began work on our 900 18th Avenue building to add a bathroom and get it ready for usage. Plans are in place to establish a Community Resource Center and work with several other area non-profits to provide needed services to the area.
- We had two additional gentleman live in our Giving Hope House.

[1] Lynda received Rock Island Rotary Community Service Award

[2] Ladies at Community Love Fest

[3] Samantha Iron Shield and her family at the Dinner Gala in October

[4] Youth enjoying our Community Love Fest

[5] Christmas Giveaway with Santa and United Way's Emerging Leaders

## Heart of Hope Ministries continues to partner with these agencies:

- **Christian Care Men's Rescue Mission** – serving at their outreach center once a month and sharing of food and clothing donations between organizations
- **Royal Neighbors of America** – they are a very supportive organization through the years, providing \$700 quarterly financial support and a \$1,000 match grant for fundraisers
- **Churches United** – Food resources are made available to us as they receive them
- **Riverbend Food Bank** – where we purchase food for our weekly distributions. We also receive a monthly delivery through the State of Illinois EFP Program.
- **Midwest Food Bank** – from Peoria, IL is a wonderful source of free food distributed monthly in our area usually at the QC Expo Center.
- We owe much gratitude to **Little Caesars Pizza in Rock Island**, and **Hy-Vee Stores on Locust Street in Davenport** for their years of donated pizzas and bread and pastries weekly.
- **'Underwear Because We Care'** organization continues to provide new underwear garments for men, women, and children twice a year.
- **The Rock Island Public Library** and **The Rock Island Rotary Club, Bettendorf Rotary Club**, have all held drives to collect needed toiletries, food items, and blankets
- **Blessings Boutique in Blue Grass** has been an amazing partner contributing wonderful clothing items for our clothing ministry and sharing their financial blessings with Heart of Hope!
- **Love Like Lorraine** has brought lovely purses filled with treasures for ladies in need.



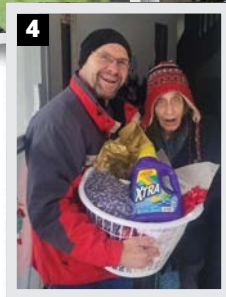
# Reporting on our 2023 Efforts

**FOOD PANTRY:** In 2023 our Food Pantry served 4,266 visitors at our Thursday evening drive through Food Pantry. This was an **increase of 756 visitors** from 2022! These visitors represented 17,107 individual family members receiving food from our pantry! And this is an **increase of 3,788 individuals** receiving food from our Thursday evening distribution from the 2022 records! In 2022, we delivered to 1,765 elderly and disabled residents throughout the Illinois Quad Cities area. **In 2023, we almost doubled that number with 3,506 deliveries to the elderly and disabled** every Friday morning! **A total of 20,613 individuals received food from Heart of Hope Ministries in 2023!**

**CLOTHING MINISTRY:** Thousands of clothing items were distributed in 2023. This included clothing for men, women, and children. We were able to provide brand new clothing donated by the Silvis Walmart; new underwear from 'Underwear Because We Care'; blankets from Bettendorf Rotary Club and other caring individuals; and warm coats, boots, gloves, hats, and scarves. We held a Love Fest in June that distributed many of these items, and a Christmas Give-away in December that partnered with United Way's Emerging Leaders to give new toys complete with Santa's presence.

**YOUTH OUTREACH MINISTRY:** Neighborhood youth stop by daily to receive snacks and words of encouragement. Three of our team members go weekly into the Scott County Juvenile Detention Center and minister to troubled youth. Some of these young people have connected with us after leaving the detention center. Our staff have come alongside them with financial support to purchase items needed to help them with school or job opportunities. School supplies have been distributed. A few of the young people worked on craft projects that were given to Veterans for Veterans Day. Plans are in place to grow this portion of our outreach by adding after school tutoring and weekend educational and recreational outings in 2024.

**ADULT OUTREACH PROGRAMS:** We continue to network with other community organizations to expand our services to those in need. Excess produce or other food items are shared with Christian Care Men's Home, Nest Cafe, Westwood Terrace Senior Living, and The Rock Island Academy school. Community Health Care has partnered with us in providing blood pressure screenings and will be providing new health care services in 2024. Some of the organizations that send volunteers or other support to us include Transitions Mental Health and Hand in Hand People with Purpose. Several local churches bring food and toiletry donations to us frequently.



[1] Director of Operations and Outreach Coordinator, Celia Rodriguez, with neighborhood youth receiving food

[2] Healthy food options

[3] Families receiving food at our Thursday evening distribution

[4] Food Pantry Coordinator, Troy Scott, delivering food to the elderly and disabled

[5] Racks of new clothing items being distributed

## Church Mission Support:

We are eternally grateful for **Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia** for being the DIFFERENCE MAKER in the work we were able to achieve in 2023! This historically African-American Church began a Tithe-the-Tithe Program during Covid to come alongside organizations that were serving those in need throughout the world. We are a recipient of their AMAZING GRACE that launched us into new territories of serving, through their grant of \$75,000!!!

Other local churches that we also salute with THANKSGIVING are **River City Church** in Moline, **Bridge Cities Church** in Bettendorf, and **Riverside Foursquare Church** in LeClaire. May God richly bless each of you!!!

We are thankful for every ministry or organization that came alongside us in some way!!! **We can't do what we do...without YOU!!!**



*Two young boys showing the world love at the Community Love Fest*

## Grant Awards in 2023:

- **Mark Mayeski Family Grant**, \$250
- **UnityPoint Health - Trinity Rock Island**, \$1,500
- **Greg & Joanne Conroy Family Fund Grant**, \$3,000
- **Alfred Street Baptist Church**, \$75,000
- **Roy and Janet Wennlund**, \$500
- **Rock Island Township**, \$2,000
- **Tazewell County Health Dept**, \$500
- **Junior Board of Rock Island**, \$500
- **Rock Island Rotary Club**, \$4,500
- **Walmart Stores - Moline**, \$1,000
- **United Way FY 24 Grant Award**, \$13,561.61
- **Doris & Victor Day Foundation**, \$5,000
- **Rock Island Community Foundation**, \$2,000
- **Rauch Family Foundation 1**, \$2,000
- **Bechtel Charitable Trust**, \$40,000
- **Moline Regional Community Foundation**, \$2,500
- **United Way African American Leadership**, \$2,500
- **Better Health Foundation**, \$25,000
- **Bettendorf Rotary Club**, \$3,000
- **Linda Newborn Family Foundation**, \$5,000



Lots of wonderful things are already happening in 2024! We look forward to expanding our vision of REVITALIZING Rock Island neighborhoods, providing opportunities that EMPOWER individuals to become self-sufficient, and EQUIPPING future generations for success!

**In sincere gratitude for your continued support!**

*Lynda J. Sargent*

*Lynda Sargent, Heart of Hope Ministries Founder and Board President*