



HEART OF HOPE  
MINISTRIES

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## *President's Annual Report for Calendar Year 2021*

Another amazing year of growth and challenges in 2021! Many challenges were presented with the continuance of the Covid-19 virus and new variants. Heart of Hope Ministries, along with our entire world, faced new situations that we have never faced before. We were able to keep our doors open with new safety guidelines. In spite of these challenges, we were able to experience a great year of serving the community and advancing our vision.

Ownership of two additional properties were transferred to Heart of Hope Ministries in March of 2021. The first property is a house adjacent to our Outreach Center (top right). This house will be used for transitional housing for men. Renovations started in 2021, and are expected to be completed in 2022.

The second property (lower right) is a small brick commercially zoned building. A business plan is currently being developed for usage of this building. The goal is to bring value to the surrounding neighborhoods and to create a new stream of income for our outreach programs. We are currently working with SCORE to help develop a business plan. It is our hope to tie the transitional housing program and the business property together in greater service to our community.

These property donations and capital improvements increased our Balance Sheet Assets by over \$106,000! We exceeded our 2021 Budget for individual contributions by \$14,000, and we exceeded our 2021 Budget

for Grant Income by \$7,000!!!

Many of these were new donors and new grantors!

We ended the year preparing a Budget for 2022 that will allow the addition of a Program Director to our staff! This position will truly launch us forward in expanding our services and reaching more people with our **MISSION** of providing *Hope and Healing* to the *Hurting* as we dedicate ourselves to serving the community of Rock Island and the greater Quad City area. Our **VISION** is to *revitalize* Rock Island neighborhoods, provide opportunities that *empower* individuals to become self-sufficient, and equip future generations for success.



[1] Exterior of the Giving Hope House

[2] The Giving Hope House staircase with guest, Elizabeth.

[3] The commercial building we'll use to help raise money for our outreach programs.



## A Recap of Special Events In 2021:

- Several event fundraisers were held to generate funding for our Giving Hope House renovations. This included Birdies for Charity, Facebook Campaigns, an on-line Hope Auction, and “30 Days of Thanks” [1] through social media postings.
- Quarterly newsletters were created and mailed out with the professional services of marketing volunteer, Scott Kelty. MailChimp was used to send out emails about happening events.
- Great meetings took place with City Alderman, City Economic Development Personnel, other non-profit leaders, ministry leaders, law enforcement leaders, and business owners.
- In February, the Rock Island Public Library hosted a Community Comforts Drive on our behalf. They collected a truck full of toiletry items [2]. Channel 4 News attended the pickup of the items and showed this on their evening news.
- An Outdoor Community Showcase [3] was hosted in September which featured free food, clothing, games and prizes for adults and children. A host of neighbors and other community leaders attended.
- In September, Heart of Hope Ministries participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Fun Day Parade. We were able to enter our Box Truck [4] and Passenger Van. An information table was also set up at the MLKJ Center.
- In October, I had the honor of being presented the QC Hometown Hero Award [5] by Channel 6 News Anchor Joey Donia and Davenport business ServPro! This honor gave Heart of Hope great TV news coverage!
- Also in October, our Fundraiser Committee Chair, Meecheeca McNeal and myself appeared on Paula Sands, Channel 6 TV show, promoting our Hope Auction Fundraiser Event. This was a wonderful opportunity to expose our outreach work to a new audience.
- In December, the QC Plus 60 Club presented Heart of Hope Ministries with a check for our services to the elderly and disabled. An article about our services to the community was featured in the Sunday QC Times/Dispatch/Argus Newspaper. The article included a picture of myself being presented the check.

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

- **Christian Care Men’s Rescue Mission** (sharing of excess food and clothing donations) and serving meals and providing a chaplain once a month.
- **Christian Friendliness Youth Hope** (support of 1 youth for Summer Camp)
- **Royal Neighbors Chapter 20067** – Heart of Hope has a chapter relationship with this organization that provides \$700 quarterly for our Food Pantry and offers \$1,000 annually for matching grant fundraisers.
- **Churches United** – our Food Pantry is listed as an agency under their umbrella. Food resources are made available to us as they receive them.
- **River Bend Food Bank** in Davenport is where we purchase food weekly for our pantry. Food is purchased at a maximum price of 18 cents per pound. We currently receive (EFP) Emergency Food Program delivery once a month of free food items.
- **Midwest Food Bank** from Peoria, IL is also a wonderful source of free food distributed monthly in our area. This is picked up at the Quad Cities Expo Center and provides a great boost in food supplies for the pantry.
- We are grateful to our food pantry weekly food donors: **Little Caesars Pizza** in Rock Island, and **HyVee Food Stores** on Locust Street in Davenport that donates bread and pastries weekly. We also receive fresh eggs weekly (in season) from 2 area farmers.
- **Underwear Because We Care** organization continues to provide new underwear yearly.
- **Modern Woodmen of America Chapter 26, The Rock Island Public Library, The Rock Island Eagles Club, Rock Island High School Class of 1961, and The Rock Island Rotary Club** have all donated toiletry items and clothing items in 2021.

**FOOD PANTRY:** In 2021 our Food Pantry served **3,072** visitors to our pantry, and made **1,461** deliveries to the elderly and disabled. This totaled 4,303 people served, and represents an *increase of 230 from 2020!* These visitors reported **9,515** family members in their households. **Over 226,000 pounds of food was given to these needy families.** Since opening our Food Pantry in May of 2014, we have served 17,744 visitors, representing 60,144 family members! Another amazing fact is that we reduced our cost of food purchased by \$1,878 and were able to distribute healthy meats, produce, dairy items, canned and boxed food items, and toiletries, for only \$.56 per individual served!!!

**CLOTHING MINISTRY:** Pre-Covid 19, our clothing ministry had an average of 25 visitors per month, estimating about 300 visitors per year. We learned to be innovative, and put our clothing and small household items outside on Thursdays, allowing food pantry visitors to select clothing when they came for food. Hundreds of clothes were given away, and they came from an abundant supply brought in from numerous donors. Neighborhood youth were able to select school clothing items, including shoes, socks, underwear, coats, gloves, and hats.

**YOUTH OUTREACH MINISTRY:** Due to the continued impact of Covid, we haven't been able to restart our neighborhood youth program. But we *have* been able to give food and clothing items directly to many of the young people who live near our Outreach Center. Many of these young people are from large African families, refugees to our communities, and have very limited financial resources.

**ADULT OUTREACH PROGRAMS:** We are a member of *Quad Cities Advocates for Second Chances*. This organization partners with other nonprofits to maintain programs offering a hand up to those who have been inmates in the criminal justice system. The organization meets bi-monthly, and networks to strengthen our resources offered to these returning citizens. Our computer lab has been used by individuals to look for job opportunities, type up resumes, and search for information. We have seen some of our frequent volunteers obtain employment due to these resources.

[1] Volunteer Michael Bryant serving the Food Pantry visitors.

[2] We are lucky enough to partner with suppliers so we can offer our guests nourishing, healthy fruits and vegetables.

[3] We also know that good quality protein is essential for good nutrition, and we are fortunate enough to receive donations that make this possible.

[4] We adapted our Clothing Ministry to the realities of Covid by bringing clothing and small household items outside for food pantry visitors to choose from.

[5] We were able to provide food and clothing to an African family that visited.





## Church Mission Support:

- We are grateful to **Word of Life Christian Church** and **River City Church** for continued monthly financial support.
- **B'Nai Temple Emanuel Women's Club** gave financial donations as well as clothing and food. Their youth planted beautiful flowers in our Outreach Center Flower beds!

## Grant Awards in 2021:

- **Amy Helpenstell Foundation** - \$40,000 - 2-year grant, with \$20,000 awarded 2020 and 2021
- **United Way Quad Cities** - \$11,250
- **Bettendorf Rotary Club** - \$2,500
- **UnityPoint Health Trinity** - \$2,000
- **SBA EIDL Grants** - \$5,000 and \$10,000
- **QC Community Foundation** - \$1,500
- **Doris & Victor Day Foundation** - \$5,000
- **Rock Island Community Foundation** - \$1,000
- **Royal Neighbors of America** - \$1,000
- **Rauch Family Foundation 1** - \$2,000
- **QC Plus 60 Club** - \$1,500
- **Genesis Philanthropy Foundation** - \$3,000
- **Greg & Joanne Conroy Family Foundation** - \$3,500
- **Hubbell Waterman Family Foundation** - \$60,000 - 3 year grant awarded for 2022, 2023, and 2024



We look ahead to continued serving in all these areas in 2022, and plan to expand services as we get our Giving Hope House renovated for transitional housing for men, and our donated Business property at 900 18th Avenue ready to create a new income stream for Heart of Hope!

**As always, so very grateful for your support!**

*Lynda J. Sargent*

Lynda Sargent,  
Heart of Hope Ministries Founder  
and Board President