

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance". "Blessed is the man (and woman) who perseveres under trial because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those that love him".

James 1:2-3 and 12.

These words ring especially true these days as we all cope with previously unknown trials, inconveniences, aggravations, and frustrations. But consider the single parents we support who struggle even more, with day care, jobs, confining restrictions, and the threat of drying up support. We are especially pleased that our support for our clients during the Spring quarter was very strong, due to unprecedented contributions in cash, grants, food, time & talents, and in-kind services. God has truly blessed us this quarter with added support during these times of added difficulty. Despite our premier fundraiser event being postponed until probably the fall (as well as our annual breakfast), our generous contributors have helped us avoid being in a month to month financial crisis and our support for our clients has not suffered, while our single parents continue to achieve success. In fact, we hope to be adding 2 more families to our life plan program next quarter as we strive to get to our current goal of 30 clients. These would be added to our current 14 families (24 children), and our 2 food pantry clients (7 children).

We want to publicly acknowledge the following grants that were received during the COVID Crisis:

One Cares - Community Foundation of Louisville, \$20,000

Women 4 Women, \$10,000

Kentucky Colonels, \$16,000

Delta Dental, \$5,000

Target, \$ 2,500

Also helping was the SBA Loan to cover 8 weeks of payroll and rent, an EIDL loan and many individual checks from people who sent part of their stimulus checks.

Additionally, Next Door Middletown and Anchorage Living really took us in and made many donations. Katie Allison with All's Well Photography did the Front Step Photos and earned over \$1700 for S-H. The G4C Group from NE Christian Church brought in many needed cleaning, personal care, and food items for the pantry, including snack packs for our kids. Laura Wingfield's BNI group kicked in significantly with some in kind donations

and funds. Jordan, with Transworld Business Associates sent us another significant donation, as well as Mike Grine with Millenia Cleaning. One interesting story was about the man sent to us by Marty Leanhart (Britt Weatherby of Weatherby Rubs & Sauces). He was just going to help us out by transporting a donation from Michael's. Once he delivered it and looked around, he felt moved to kick in a bunch of Rubs & Sauces to our Food Pantry. Louisville Floorcare also donated by cleaning 6 of our client's floors!

Sean Lohman, (Lohman Law Offices and raised by a single mom), launched a new Facebook page, and donated \$5 for each "like" he received from S-H supporters, which translated into \$2500!

We also raised over \$6000 on Kentucky Gives Day on 5/12/2020. Response to our face book page and Web site has continued to increase, especially during these days of the COVID Crisis as people reach out to see in what ways they can help.

Also, we just received a \$10,000 donation from ADT Louisville for COVID Relief. Thanks to Josh Walker and Charley Jackson for nominating SPARC Hope!

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose". *Romans 8:28.*

As we look to see what "good" God is going to make of the current situation, we feel we can already point to several things that have happened to boost our mission and help make us more viable.



SPARC HOPE
Single Parent Resource Center
Formerly Men's Closet Resource Center

FIRST QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

We are pleased to welcome our first Single Dad to SPARC -Hope: David Sharar and his 11-year-old daughter, Kaylee. When we first considered a name change for our organization over a year ago to broaden our message of hope, we included the term SPARC for "Single Parent's Assistance Resource Center", so that we could include Moms AND Dads in our programming. David learned of SPARC-Hope through a fellow employee where he works. She previously went through our life plan under our "Mom's Closet" moniker. David had sought help in the past from several organizations for 8 years but was turned down because they did not accommodate single Dads. So, we are particularly pleased to be able to help David out currently. David is in school for Computer Numerical Counting Machinery and helps with instruction at Jefferson Community and Technical College.

David says, "this time last year, I was working nearly 7 days a week as I didn't know whether I would have gas money or not". One time his daughter came to him and said "Daddy, I know you need to work, but we both need a day off". She often came to work with him on weekends for many months, which never gave them a chance



to sleep in.

"Since being a part of the SPARC-HOPE family, Staci and the crew have helped with taking the "edge" off daily struggles. I have even found myself being humbler towards others. SPARC-Hope has reminded me that the community really does care about its own and I've found myself making an extra effort to go out of my way

to help others out as well". David appreciates the pantry as it really helps supplement his budget; to the point where he has a balance in his checking account now. He plans to use the help of SPARC-Hope to transition into his career while he attends JCTC. As a bonus, David feels his daughter will benefit from less stress, but also can get some "female advice" or help from the employees and volunteers at SPARC-Hope.

We also want to celebrate with Megan. She passed her school exams and passed her licensing test on June 16 and already has a job lined up. Congratulations Megan!! You are what SPARC-HOPE is all about.

Volunteers continued to show up to contribute a couple hours here and there as a product of their heart and of more free time on their hands. We ARE taking volunteers back. Just call the office or e mail. We can accommodate you serving alone, with a couple or small group. We are taking proper precautions with sanitation and mask wearing (Courtesy of Kristen White & Phyllis Huffman).

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

This quarter we spotlight TWO volunteers, Carson and Colbey Stout. They are 17-year-old twins who are home-schooled and attend Eagle's Wings Home School Co-op. They volunteer each Tuesday morning and are key characters in unloading and stocking Dare to Care food deliveries (They have been certified in Food Safety at Dare to Care). They both like sorting out of date and damaged items and organizing the pantry, overall.

Carson enjoys fishing, hiking and roller skating. Colbey favors reading, traveling, fishing, biking, taking care of the dog and just being outside. Both are involved in ballet and are currently in a summer intensive program with the Louisville Ballet and have participated in the Nutcracker in the past. Carson is anxious to get past the pandemic, graduate from high school and become an EMT. Colbey is setting his sights on surviving high school and making college plans.

They both offer the following advice for teens looking to volunteer. "Volunteer someplace that you like and find a place that appreciates your work and contribution".



Volunteer

Call our office or go to:
sparc-hope.org/volunteer/



BE on the Watch for the following make-up event dates:

Annual Breakfast
(rescheduling)- August, TBD

GIVE FOR GOOD
LOUISVILLE- 9/17/2020

Cocktails and Collections
Event- September, TBD

Annual Gala (Moved to the
Fall) possibly October, TBD

Restaurant Nights (two left)
Grassa Gramma
& Village Anchor

www.sparc-hope.org/events