



Sharing Christ, Offering Hope, Ministering to the Needy in Crisis.

Dear SOLM partner,

October, 2011

In this difficult economy, people living in poverty are often hardest hit. In some communities, the number of Oklahomans needing assistance has increased by as much as 65% from 2010. For the more than 597,000 Oklahomans living below the poverty line, not having enough money to provide basic necessities- like keeping the utilities on- can be a constant struggle.

For many who are just getting by, there is often no margin for error. An injury or illness with unexpected medical bills, or a job loss or abandonment are not just inconveniences, but a financial crisis. We should all think about we would do if we were in their shoes, if we were unable to work due to our age, health or disability, without the safety net of family or a network of friends. Or if we were abandoned by a spouse whose income we counted on. What would we do? Where would we turn? Because of the generosity of people just like you, many have turned to Shepherds of Love Ministries where they have found relief and renewed hope in Christ, their real source of provision.

These kind words came from one of our clients after we gave assistance:

"Teresa, My family's water was disconnected due to our unpaid bill. I called SOLM at the direction of Michele at a local church. On Monday I spoke with Tom. He was very kind, encouraging and genuine. I so appreciated his ability to not measure me and my family by our financial state. It's easy for even me to begin to doubt myself and wonder if even the Lord is chastising me. Tom upheld the integrity of the Gospel and not only did his best to meet our pressing physical needs, he went beyond by offering a beautiful prayer. I was blessed and knew that I had encountered Christ's love. Thank you for paying \$250.00 of our water bill it was restored by the end of the day. I was inspired by your organization and am working towards getting on the 'giving' end very soon."

Shepherds of Love is a Christ centered ministry which assists families in crisis with unpaid utility bills. We pay the utility company directly on your behalf so you can have confidence your donation provides immediate relief. Any amount can postpone a cut off notice.

We receive calls daily from the many individuals and families who are out of resources and with little hope. These calls may come from an elderly person on a fixed income facing the possibility of the hard winter months without heat or gas, a single mom who has been left with infant children and suddenly no means of support or someone who is suddenly unemployed due to an injury, an accident, or downsizing and they are left with mounting bills and a sense of despair. Last year alone SOLM received 10,400 calls from citizens in need. Of those 1800 families received financial help, some were sent a Bible or a greeting card and all received prayer.

Many of these stories are heart-wrenching. It's troubling that so many of our elderly, disabled, single parents and families are one paycheck away from financial disaster

As our calls increase this winter, your donation can make a dramatic difference in the life of someone who needs your generosity to see them through a difficult period. Together, let's take to heart the words of our Lord and Savior, when He spoke of those less fortunate:

"... to the extent you cared for one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you cared for me." Matthew 25:40

Will you partner with us and send your most generous donation to help someone less fortunate through his or her time of crisis. If you feel like the Lord is leading you to give, just follow these simple steps: Make your check payable to Shepherd of Love Ministries. Write "For Utilities" on the memo line. We will pay the utility company directly on your behalf. Use the return envelope enclosed.

You may also visit our website: ShepherdsOfLove.org to donate through PayPal, and to see a list of "Lambs in Need"

Thank you and God Bless!

Teresa Rountree
President

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