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December 2012

Dear Friends,

It's been quite a year for Mission of Hope. As I write this, I can't help but think of the numbers of those we've served. We are on target again to break **30,000** hot, homemade meals provided between our Mission and Shelter. Over **25,000** men, women, and children have been reached through our food pantry in 2012. And it looks as though we will again provide over **3,800** nights of emergency shelter, serving over **500** residents at our 24/7 facility. While these numbers are impressive, I'm also broken by them.

Every day at Mission of Hope, we interact with hurting, heartbroken people. Yes, many need food, clothing, and shelter – but often they need so much more. Some are physically disabled, some are mentally disabled, and some are addicted to drugs or alcohol – or are in bondage to some other sin. Some have just fallen on hard times due to the economy, a divorce, or a job loss or layoff. Others have served their prison or jail terms and are trying to assimilate back into society. Yet others are struggling because they're battling a disease, watching a loved one die, or dealing with losing their children. Regardless of the source of the pain, one thing is certain. All of them – as well as all of us – need the unconditional love & forgiveness that only Jesus can provide. And that's what we attempt to give them each & every day. Our dedicated & compassionate staff works tirelessly to love our friends, provide a listening ear, guide them through God's Word, extend words of hope & healing, and show patience & perseverance with those of our friends who just seem mad at the world on any given day.

We've also experienced some very hard times financially. At one point this past fall, I was confronted with the challenge of making some difficult decisions – ones that would certainly have impacted the lives of those we serve. I humbly ask you to search your heart about what you might be able to give financially to Mission of Hope. Gifts of any amount will benefit us, and we are so blessed by those monthly commitments we've grown to depend on. God has always been faithful to this ministry and to His people. We thank you for considering how to help in this area.

It's truly a privilege to witness the miracles of God at Mission of Hope every week. He is at work mending hurts, encouraging hearts, providing direction, meeting needs, revealing wisdom, renewing minds, and, literally, transforming lives. Just this past week, our friend Mike contacted us through our new website, and his words were so encouraging. He wrote, *"Thank you! You were there when I needed a place to regroup after a life-changing time. Not only did the Mission feed & house me, it gave me hope, opened my heart and soul to the love of our Lord, and started me on a true walk with Jesus, which I hope I can share with others. God Bless!"* This sums it up beautifully.

Thank you for your steadfast prayers, love, and support. We couldn't do it alone – nor would we want to. Your gifts are so very precious to us. Thank you for coming alongside as we serve His people. Blessings to you in 2013!

To God be the glory!

Tina

Tina

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me . . .
I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.
Matthew 25:35, 36, 40*