

# MISSION OF LOVE CHARITIES

## NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2020 | ISSUE 3



## MISSION OF LOVE CHARITIES IS FACED WITH DRAMATIC INCREASE IN NUMBERS OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN WHO NEED FOOD AND OTHER ASSISTANCE

Operating in the context of the government-mandated lockdown and then with a phased-in lifting of the lockdown, Mission of Love Charities has been faced with a dramatic increase in the number of individuals, families and children who need help.

While the MOLC mission has always been to serve homeless and low-income families and individuals, the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been severe on many people, including many families with children, who were and are living on the very margins of society. The result is that the number of people seeking help at Mission of Love Charities has increased dramatically because many of these people lost their jobs and have no income to cope with the everyday needs of food and paying the rent.



Most, if not all of these people are faced with food insecurity, and Mission of Love Charities seeks to provide them with food supplies that will help them during this difficult time. The Mission of Love Charities food pantry is open five days a week and provides free food for homeless and low-income individuals whose income is below 150% of the federal poverty guideline. It is the only food pantry in Prince George's County that is open five days a week.

Even though there is a moratorium on evictions, many of the people who come to Mission of Love Charities for help are faced with the possibility of being evicted because they do not have money to pay the rent. Additionally, individuals and families seeking a new place to live often need assistance with the deposit. MOLC is able to provide many of these people with emergency financial assistance, but does so with very limited funds.



## WORKING WITH THE U.S CENSUS



Mission of Love Charities supports the work of the U.S. Census and provides assistance to individuals and families who wish to respond to the queries from the Census.

The Census seeks to contact everyone via the mail and through person-to-person outreach.

Responding to the census is a civic duty. It affects the amount of funding our communities receive from the government, and it helps the various government agencies plan for the future with services that include schools, hospitals and fire departments and new housing developments. The number of seats your state and community is allocated in the U.S. House of Representatives is based on the data from the Census.

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## MISSION OF LOVE CHARITIES IS FEATURED IN NEWS STORIES ON CNN, WRC, CHANNEL 4 NEWS, AND TWICE ON WJLA, CHANNEL 7 NEWS

WJLA Anchor Alison Starling produced and reported two news stories about the work of Mission of Love Charities over the last few weeks. Both stories featured the good work that Mission of Love Charities is doing to help the people-in-need in the community.

The first story was broadcast on Wednesday, April 29 and the second story was on Wednesday, May 20. Here is the link to the story on April 29: <https://wjla.com/news/local/mission-of-love-pringe-georges-county>

The biggest surprise of the coverage was that a sponsor of WJLA, Easterns Automotive, presented a check to Mission of Love Charities for \$2,500 - which will be very helpful in funding the increased demand for food by people hard hit by the shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CNN interviewed staff and clients in a visit in mid-June, and broadcast the story featuring Mission of Love Charities on Tuesday, June 16. Here's the story: <https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2020/06/16/coronavirus-food-banks-hunger-serfaty-lead-dnt-vpx.cnn>

And WRC, Channel 4 News reporter Tracee Wilkins did a story about the great work that Mission of Love Charities is doing on April. 22: [https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=1214143942250275&external\\_log\\_id=76d23101-42e2-4b8e-b450-7372a837de6c&q=mission%20of%20love%20charities%2C%20inc](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=1214143942250275&external_log_id=76d23101-42e2-4b8e-b450-7372a837de6c&q=mission%20of%20love%20charities%2C%20inc)

## MISSION OF LOVE CHARITIES ANNOUNCES NEW SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The Prince George's County Executive has lifted the stay-at-home orders, and we are now entering into PHASE 2. The following new rules apply to the Mission. This is being implemented to address the safety of both our Mission employees and clients we serve.

1. **Food Services** providing groceries for low-income families and individuals will be on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - 12 noon.
2. **Daily Prepared Food and Meal Distribution** for the homeless will be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
3. **All Visitors and Staff Must Wear Masks.**
4. **Day Center** is still closed.
5. On **Thursdays of every week beginning June 4, 2020**, we will distribute produce from a local farm from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
6. **Rent and Utility Assistance** will continue. Please make an appointment with one of our Case Managers by calling 301-333-4440. There will be no walk-ins allowed for this assistance.
7. **No Laundry Services**
8. We can continue to assist with **SNAP applications** via the telephone. Interested applicants should call 301-333-4440 and ask for a Case Manager.
9. **Furniture Distribution** will be by appointment only.
10. **No Clothes** will be available until further notice. Once we are open for full services, in order for us to accept these donations, clothing must be cleaned and presented with a proof of a laundry or dry cleaning service.

## MISSION OF LOVE CHARITIES BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, AUG. 17; FREE FOOD AND FREE BACKPACKS ARE AMONG THE TREATS FOR THAT DAY



Mission of Love Charities is once again planning its annual Back-To-School Community Event. Monday, Aug. 17 is tentatively scheduled for that exciting day, subject to change as the community learns to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic in the months to come.

Traditionally, 100s of children and families come to the Mission of Love Charities facility on that day to enjoy the free food, pick up a free backpack for back-to-school, get a wellness checkup, maybe play at a gaming trailer, or get a facial or their hair styled. Mostly, it is a day for children, who are able to pick up a new backpack for school, along with a variety of school supplies, all of which will make going back to school a lot less stressful.

If all goes as planned, parents will be able to get a health check up at the mobile checkup truck provided by Doctors Community Hospital, and several of the Moms will be able to sit in the stylist's chair and get their hair done or maybe get a free facial.

## MAJOR GIFTS BESTOWED ON MISSION OF LOVE CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY: \$50,000 FROM SAM BRIN, THE BROTHER GOOGLE FOUNDER SERGEY BRIN, AND \$12,000 FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM

Sometimes good things come to Mission of Love Charities.

In February of this year, Sam Brin, the younger brother of Google co-founder Sergey Brin, contacted Mission of Love Charities and sent \$50,000 to be used in support of the Mission's food pantry. Sam is a native of Prince George's County and is a graduate of the University of Maryland and Eleanor Roosevelt High School. He learned about Mission of Love Charities through a referral from the Prince George's County Executive Office.

Also unsolicited was a gift of \$12,000 in March from the University of Maryland Medical System/University of Maryland Capital Region Health. That gift was also made in support of the Mission's food pantry.

Everyone at the Mission is very grateful for the generosity of these two donors.

Maybe the word is getting out that the Mission of Love Charities is doing extraordinary work providing assistance to the desperate low-income and homeless people of Prince George's County.

"We hope to keep building on that credibility," says MOLC CEO Deborah Martinez.



## PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR'S BUCKY TROTTER HUMANITARIAN AWARDS DINNER

Mission of Love Charities plans to hold the 15th Bucky Trotter Humanitarian Awards Dinner in the Spring of 2021, if the Covid-19 pandemic has subsided enough to allow such a gathering.

Unfortunately, the Bucky Trotter Dinner we thought we were going to hold in May of this year had to be canceled as the region and the nation struggled to cope with a lockdown situation in the face of the pandemic.

Traditionally, the Dinner is a very important event on the Mission of Love Charities calendar. It is our annual fundraising event, and the revenues generated by the Dinner are a significant and vital source of financial support for the Mission of Love Charities operations.

The Bucky Trotter Humanitarian Awards recognize individuals, groups or organizations that have exemplified Mission of Love Charities' mission through their outstanding involvement and dedication to the health, welfare, safety and quality of life of disenfranchised members of our community. The awards honor the late State Senator Decatur "Bucky" Trotter and is designed to recognize outstanding humanitarian service to the community that was exemplified by Senator Trotter.



With the help and generous support of many friends, foundations and government agencies, Mission of Love Charities has persisted in its commitment to provide assistance to disadvantaged, low-income and homeless individuals and families in Prince George's County and nearby communities in Washington, D.C. for the last 29 years. That is something we all can be proud of.

We will keep you apprised as we move forward in planning specific details for the Dinner in 2021.

Thank you for your support.

## WASHINGTON'S URBAN INVESTMENT PARTNERS DONATES \$250,000 WORTH OF FURNITURE TO MISSION OF LOVE CHARITIES

Faced with a dramatic downturn in business for its downtown Washington hotel, Hotel RL, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Urban Investment Partners Companies, Inc., decided to convert the hotel to condominiums. And then they decided to give all the hotel's furniture to Mission of Love Charities, furniture that is valued at about a total of \$250,000.



Mission of Love Charities has long accepted donations of furniture, which it then gives to the needy families and individuals who come to its facility looking for help.

"This extraordinary donation of more than 90 rooms of very nice hotel furniture – beds, sofas, dressers, tables, chairs, refrigerators, hair dryers, ironing boards, lamps, microwaves and linens – will be

a Godsend for many of the people we serve," says Deborah Martinez, CEO of Mission of Love Charities.

"These families are hard pressed to come up with the funds to cope with a security deposit and the rent, let alone finding the money to pay for furniture. This is simply wonderful, and we are extremely grateful to UIP for this donation," she says.

Urban Investment Partners Companies, Inc., (UIP) is a real estate investment, asset and property management company specializing in multi-family properties exclusively in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Since 2001, UIP has provided quality housing that satisfies the most discerning residents and investors.

## MISSION OF LOVE CHARITIES WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM PREPARING FOR MORE SESSIONS THE FALL



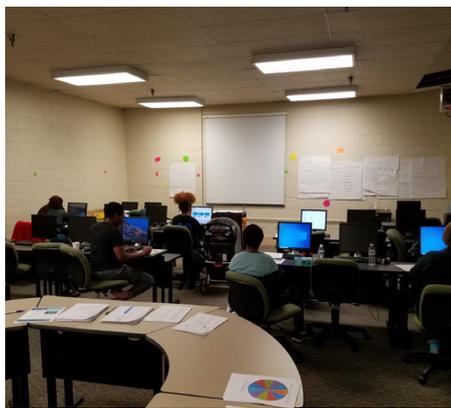
The Mission of Love Charities Workforce Development program was enjoying considerable success in placing its trainees in jobs until the COVID-19 pandemic closed everything down in the early months of 2020.

However, the Workforce Development training sessions are tentatively projected to resume in September.

The sessions combine classroom instruction with technology learning experiences, and they include a focus on how to create and utilize technology to enhance and stay connected with the demands of the workplace. Computer skills, financial health and budgeting, goal setting and how to dress for success are also covered in the instruction provided.

Other learning activities such as individual action plans, self-assessments, self-reflections, getting things done and thinking outside the box (confronting problems, thinking creatively and freely, and encouraging to stay focused) helped with life skills coaching.

The Workforce Development program has placed several women who have taken the training provided in jobs that pay anywhere from \$22/hour to a high salary one woman got of \$72,000/year. More than 20 women from the program have secured full-time, part-time and seasonal employment.



Mission of Love Charities staff supports the program by providing food and snacks to the participants, books to help the participants' children stay occupied during the classes, toys at Christmas for the participants' children, and standard office equipment, software and supplies for in support of the teaching operations. Staff also clean the classroom area regularly, and

## AMERICA LUCERO JOINS THE STAFF AS A NEW CASE MANAGER

America Lucero has been appointed Case Manager, and has joined the staff of Mission of Love Charities effective Monday, June 1.

As Case Manager, Ms. Lucero will work with Yessica Molina, Lead Cases Manager, in the tasks of interviewing and qualifying applicants for assistance, and providing guidance and other counseling in efforts to help the applicants.

Ms. Lucero will graduate from the University of Maryland this July with a Master of Social Work degree. Her previous work experience includes work with children and multicultural youth centers, as well as internships with the Maryland Office of Public Defender and the Central Union Mission.

identify and provide clothing to participants who are preparing for job interviews.

Anita Mwalui, a certified Workplace Excellence Facilitator, teaches the classes, which meet in the evenings three times a week, in three-week sessions. Ms. Mwalui says, "It's very gratifying to see these women learn, realize their abilities and gain the confidence to get back on their feet and be self-sustaining."

Mission of Love Charities operates the Workforce Development Program in collaboration with United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP) in Capitol Heights. It is funded by Block grants from Prince George's County, and it focuses on homeless women.