

MISSION OF LOVE CHARITIES

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021 | ISSUE 5



THE CONTINUING IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic continues to make a major impact on the operations of Mission of Love Charities.

First of all, the health, economic and social effects of the pandemic have been severe for many individuals and families. People who were making it before are now out of work and face multiple crises because they don't have enough food to eat and they cannot pay the rent and may be evicted. The result is that the number of people seeking help and support for basic needs such as food and housing assistance has increased dramatically - some days as much as tenfold.

While Mission of Love Charities continues to provide food to needy families because of the financial assistance of grants and donations from Prince George's County government, the State of Maryland and local foundations and individuals, its resources are stretched thin. However, we are committed to finding a way to provide food for the people who come to us in need.

Additionally, many individuals and families are faced with housing insecurity because they simply do not have the money to pay the rent. Again, Mission of Love Charities does what it can to help these people, but our financial resources available for housing assistance are inadequate. While we are able to help some, unfortunately, we are unable to help others. We continue to seek out financial support to help fund the assistance we would like to give these people who are faced with the possibility of eviction.

Meanwhile, the mandated restrictions of the pandemic restrict much of the in-person interaction that we customarily provide. While we do what we can outside of the facility, interpersonal activities in the facility are limited at best. We wish to follow the protocols provided by the public health officials while also protecting the health and safety of our employees, volunteers and clientele.

Needless to say, this is a difficult situation, and it appears that the restrictions mandated by the pandemic will be with us for the indefinite future.

MOLC STILL HAS THE ONLY 5-DAY-A-WEEK FOOD PANTRY IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

The major increase in the number of people who need food continues to be a big challenge for Mission of Love Charities. We have been fortunate so far in managing to attract financial assistance from the County Government, the State of Maryland, foundations and individuals that helps us meet this need.

It is so heart wrenching to see people humbled by the economic destruction of the pandemic come to our doors in need of the basics of food supplies, as well as other basic needs like clothing and housing assistance. We place a priority on making sure the Food Pantry is capable of providing food to those who come to us. But the need is great.



JANUARY IS MENTORING MONTH

January is best known for National Mentoring Month and giving your time back to those who help you. Mentoring does not only include professional development. You can also be mentored in beauty, life skills, craftsmanship and hobbies.

Launched in 2002 by MENTOR National and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, National Mentoring Month focuses national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us—individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits—can work together to increase the number of mentors to help

ensure positive outcomes for our young people. This campaign celebrates mentoring and the positive effect it can have on young lives. Its goals are to:

- Raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms
- Recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have waiting lists of young people
- Promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring.

For more information about Mentoring Month, visit: <https://www.mentoring.org/campaigns/national-mentoring-month>

PLANS FOR WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Mission of Love Charities plans to launch a Workforce Training and Education program in the year to come. Many of the people who come to us in need of food and other basic needs have lost their jobs, and the reality is that it is unlikely they will ever get those jobs back. We have determined that the best solution to their situation is to educate and retrain them for other jobs in the marketplace.

Consequently, we are launching a Workforce Training and Education program that will include training for basic skills, computers and employability, along with curricula that will train participants to become Certified Nursing Assistants and Certified Water Treatment Technicians.

Funding for these programs is a significant issue, but presently we are optimistic that we have identified sources of revenue that can support this effort.

Getting people back on their feet economically would be a great success for the participants, for the community and for Mission of Love Charities.

As a part of this Workforce Development Program, Mission of Love Charities is planning two training programs starting in February: Meetings Planning and Employee Readiness Boot Camp. See below details on both programs.

MISSION OF LOVE CHARITIES IS OFFERING A MEETINGS PLANNING TRAINING CLASS



Mission of Love Charities will offer a six-week introductory class on Meetings Planning for people who are hoping to retrain and find a new career. Starting Tuesday, Feb. 9, the classes will be presented via Zoom for 40-50 minutes every Tuesday and Thursday morning starting at 11:00.

The classes will teach the basics of meeting planning, including budget, venue selection, contracts, food and beverage planning, speakers, entertainment, décor, housing, transportation, shipping, room sets, registration, exhibits and sponsorships. Planning virtual meetings and the use of technology will be emphasized.

Managing the planning of meetings and events promises to be an expanding field for the future. Once the pandemic gets under control, there will be an explosion of pent-up demand for meetings and conferences. Learning the basics of meetings planning will give new entrants into the industry a leg-up on getting started in an exciting and rewarding career.

For more information about attending the Meetings Planning course, call 301-333-4440.

EMPLOYEE READINESS BOOT CAMP

Many of the individuals served by Mission of Love Charities these days have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic. For most of them, those jobs will never come back. So, they need to retrain and learn new skills so they can find a new job.

Mission of Love Charities is committed to helping these people get back on their feet and become self-sustaining economically. A first step toward that goal is the organization's Workforce Development Program's Employee Readiness Boot Camp. The Boot Camp will help out-of-work people reset their approach to getting a job, while learning how to be better prepared and ready for a new job.

The Employee Readiness Boot Camp will teach basic skills, computer skills and employability skills. The five-week long Boot Camp goes from Tuesday, Feb. 9,

to Thursday, March 11, every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10:00 to 11:15. Sessions will be held remotely through digital connections. All participants will be required to have their own device for connecting to the Internet and their own connection to the Internet. There is a fee of \$25 for enrolling in the class.

The classes will cover: Temperament Assessment, Strategic Thinking, 7 Habits of a Highly Effective Person, Racial Sobriety, Situational Leadership, Developing High Performance Teams, Group Development Process, Conflict Resolution, Decision Making and Meetings Management.

Click on this link to register for the Employee Readiness Boot Camp: <https://www.molcinc.org/employee-readiness-boot-camp/>

JANUARY COAT DRIVE

On Friday, Jan. 15, Mission of Love Charities had another Coat Drive event, distributing dozens of coats to needy families who do not have the funds to buy coats to deal with the cold temperatures of winter. As usual, the demand for simple basic needs like a coat in January was very high, due to the pandemic.



REPORT ON 2020

Mission of Love Charities persists in its commitment to serve the most needy people of the Prince George's County, Maryland, community. Our mission has always been to serve homeless and low-income families and individuals, but with the health, economic and social effects of the coronavirus pandemic, the deleterious impact 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 – almost tenfold. Mission of Love Charities is working aggressively and has had some success in attracting and securing financial resources needed to meet this increased demand. However, the need still exceeds by far the resources we have available.

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.

Additionally, 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.

Mission of Love Charities programs and services address the issues contributing to homelessness and help individuals and families by providing basic needed items and support. Our basic needs, crisis assistance and homeless services programs help low-income or homeless individuals and families stretch limited household incomes by providing essential items such as clothing, furniture, food and rental or utility assistance. We also provide employability training and computer access, as well as a day center with a washer and dryer so people can launder their clothes. Additionally, we provide mental health and behavior health referrals. We also provide education about the benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) Program provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, otherwise known as Food Stamps, and we help clients complete and submit applications for food assistance. A strategic priority for the future of Mission of Love Charities is developing and restarting its Workforce Development Program. Many of the people who have

lost their jobs due to the pandemic may not ever get their jobs back. And providing them with the training to get back on their feet economically is perhaps the best long-term solution to their situation. The trouble is that it is tough getting back on your feet when you are homeless and broke. It is especially difficult to get together enough confidence and skills to qualify for a job and get hired. Recognizing these barriers for homeless and very low-income people, MOLC plans to implement a Workforce Development Program in 2021. The program will provide training that includes how to address the causes of lack of interest and confidence in getting a job, basic computer skills, financial health and budgeting, goal setting and how to dress for success – as well as specific training to become a Certified Nurse Assistant or a Water Treatment Technician. More than 100 women have attended these classes in the past, and many have gone on to secure full-time and part-time jobs.

Mission of Love Charities, Inc., was founded in 1991, and since its inception it has provided services to more than 350,000 individuals and families in our community. Over the years, it has expanded its programs and services to fill gaps in services needed in our community. Our programs and services focus on providing basic needs and crisis assistance to low-income individuals and families who meet or are below the 150% federal poverty guideline and are either homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

The Mission of Love Charities food pantry is supplied through the generous donations of food and finances from several sources in the community. Additionally, the finances needed to help people with housing rent and deposit are supported also by financial donations – although the current need for housing assistance far outstrips the resources we have.

However, because of strategic and targeted external relations, marketing and promotions, grant applications and other fundraising efforts continue to produce results. Given the record of the last 12 months (FY2020), Mission of Love Charities expects to continue its momentum for the indefinite future of being able to not only sustain its current level of operations, but also explore opportunities to grow and enhance its impact on the people we serve.

A high priority in our current fundraising is to find the financial resources to replace the van that was vandalized a few weeks ago. Our best guess is that \$20,000 more or less would buy a used van that would serve our purposes. Or perhaps someone with a van would donate it to MOLC.