



Hope starts with you

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Stuart ♦ Hobe Sound ♦ Indiantown ♦ Jensen Beach



Thank you:

“I had been struggling with some major health issues and depleted my savings. ... I received \$400 so that I could pay my overdue rent and not be evicted. I felt like I could breathe again! The \$400 felt like \$4 million.”



Startling truth:

20,400 Martin County residents live in poverty.



We are careful with your donations:

89 cents on every dollar is devoted to helping people in need in Martin County.

Dear Friends of House of Hope:

As the primary safety net agency for Martin County, House of Hope has been on the front lines of local residents' growing distress during the economic crisis.

People come to House of Hope's four locations across the county to ease the pain of hunger ... to request help with rent, medicine and clothing ... to connect with other vital services ... to seek hope.

House of Hope has existed for 27 years to help people bridge periods of crisis in their lives. During the recession, however, these crises have become deeper, longer and more complex. People who come to us requesting food usually have significant financial, medical and family challenges.

To respond, House of Hope has expanded its efforts to gather and give away food, and it has opened an umbrella of care called Project HOPE (Helping Others Progress through Empowerment). The program includes financial assistance to help pay for utility bills, rent, prescriptions and transportation. But because people's problems don't go away with a simple check, House of Hope offers case management, in which our social workers offer guidance to help people bring economic stability to their lives through planning, training and other community resources.

In the past year House of Hope served about 165 individuals with \$400-\$600 each in financial assistance. This is a significant amount, but requests for assistance show that Martin County residents face an unmet need of about a half-million dollars.

Conditions will only continue to worsen as more and more families reach out to House of Hope as they struggle with unemployment, low wages or fixed incomes.

Imagine having to make a choice between buying food or paying your electric bill; between paying your rent or buying needed medicine. Imagine not having enough food to feed your children. Think of how desperate you would feel. This is the reality thousands of people in Martin County face every day.

You can help. The vast majority of House of Hope's support comes from people like you – those who generously and thoughtfully help charities that make a difference.

As you approach this season of giving, please imagine what a tremendous impact you can have on your neighbors in Martin County by making a donation to House of Hope today. Also, consider giving to House of Hope in the name of someone on your holiday gift list. It would be a present truly in the spirit of the season.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Barbella
Chief executive officer

Frank Doyle
President, board of directors

In 2008, we were astounded to announce that House of Hope food pantries had given out 90 tons of food – enough for about 141,000 meals. This past year, we have provided about 179 tons of food, the equivalent of about **280,000 meals**. The supply and demand has doubled. And it is still **not enough**.