

Fall 2021

The HOPE Letter

The Hope For The Future Ministries Newsletter



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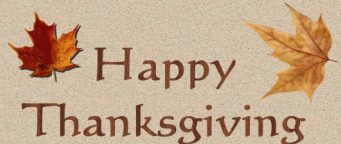
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Quote Of The Month

"Blessed is he that considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him... preserve him... strengthen him, and sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness."

Proverbs 41:1-3

A Year At A Glance



◀▼ Memorial Service for Pastor Diane at Church Without Walls in Tompkins Square Park. Outreaches continue in NYC.



◀▼ Farmingdale Outreach has doubled since the pandemic started.



▲ Martha witnessing at NYC outreach. ▼ Many return to outreach in NYC during summer months.



▼ Pastor Debbie greeting folks outside Farmingdale warehouse as Drew and the team prep for outreach.



◀▲ Training youth to have a heart for the poor. Church teams, youth groups still welcome and needed for our NYC outreaches.

THE STORY OF HOPE for Terry Vallone

Most of our newsletters feature stories of the lives affected at the receiving end of this ministry. But, the broken are not only present on the food line, but are often on the serving side as well. To appreciate what HFTF has meant to this one volunteer, one has to read this amazing story of hope...

This is Terry Vallone. She has been a volunteer at HFTF for about one year. It gave me chills to hear her story as I was giving her a ride home one evening, and I thought it would be good to share with our partners.

Life was beautiful with Terry's loving husband and son. She regaled stories of a doting husband, Carmine, whose heart was golden. In her words, "He was always doing for his family, his neighbors, a stranger in need." She continued, "I never worried about anything or thought about any stress. He always took care of everything."

Of course, no life is without its traumas. Their son, Sal, at 15 years old, was diagnosed with a fatal disease, neuroblastoma. Terry sat for 2 years next to his bedside while he went under two surgeries, radiation treatment, and chemotherapy. The doctors prepared them for the worst... either he would be paralyzed or die. She called for the priest to give last rights three times. She told of one priest that spoke with her son. When he innocently asked, "Why did God allow me to get cancer?" the priest told him that God was punishing him for his sin. Sal asked him, "what kind of sin did I commit that God would do that? The family was devastated to hear such a statement made.

By the grace of God (who was not punishing Sal for his sin) he recovered from the cancer and went on to finish high school and college. It was a few years following this ordeal when Terry experienced the heartbreak of her life. Her beloved husband Carmine suddenly died of a heart attack.

Her life came to an abrupt stop. She fell into a severe depression that began to affect her memory. In her words, "It was mind fog. I never smiled. I was just going from one chore to another so life would be okay for my son, so he wouldn't think I was so bad off. Just breathing. Waiting for my day to end so I could go into my next miserable day. That's not



◀ Terry with Joanne Ribeiro and Lucy... Partners in kitchen duty at HFTF.



▲ Terry on the Tilt Kettle. ▼ Terry with Lisa and Carole (chefs of the future) ... making new friends.



any way to live."

Then she met a friend who took her out to meet Pastor Diane after a morning of shopping. Pastor Diane encouraged her to come and help in the kitchen, and she did. "I started with wrapping food, then I was put on dishwashing." Proudly she told me, "Pastor Diane then graduated me to the tilt kettle. Cooking with the tilt kettle was a privilege! I took a picture of the two of us and sent it to my son. He texted me back, telling me to

ask Pastor if I could come twice a week! "Ma," he said, "I never saw you happier."

"HFTF saved my life. I felt as if I was dying. But after I came here, I started to laugh, to focus, I started to live. We have a lot of fun here. Pastor Diane was life! And cooking is love. I feel as if God healed me naturally, without the need for meds, by cooking for all these wonderful people. Serving the Lord here has given my life purpose. For this I am extremely grateful.

HELP MAKE THIS THANKSGIVING SEASON ONE OF BOUNTY

Thanksgiving & Christmas 2021

**We Need Turkeys, Hams
And All the Trimmings.**

Please help us make this holiday season a time of celebration for those who otherwise would not be able to afford it for their families.

For further info:

631-752-5771

Email: hopeftf@aol.com



OUR MINISTRY RELIES ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU
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Thank you and May the Lord bless you!

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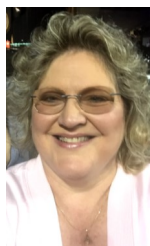
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*"For I know
the plans that I
have for
you...plans to
give you a
hope and a
future."
Jeremiah 29:11*



Dear Friends,

What a year this has been! Filled with challenges of all sorts, testing, trials and small victories, I am glad to report that the work that Pastor Diane started is still strong and moving forward. As we approach the first anniversary of her passing, I look back on the last 11 months and marvel at how God has provided for this ministry. We are extremely grateful to our ministry partners and friends who have been so faithful to stand with us during our most trying season. Though at times our staff is still feeling its way through the tasks put before us, we are moving forward with more confidence. We have seen more crowds at each outreach as things open up more and more and people are less fearful to gather together.

It amazes me also that in this digital age of social media that we are still dealing with announcing Pastor Diane's passing to someone who has not yet heard the news. It's then they begin to tell us what the ministry has meant to them, how it changed their lives; helped put them on the right path and get their act together. Week after week we have experienced this in the city, mostly, because many were dealing with so many other issues during the pandemic. We are hearing testimonies of those who just up and left the city waiting until it was safe to return. Even though repeating the story of her passing can be difficult, it makes us feel as though we are investing our lives in a work that really matters. HFTF has impacted thousands that we don't even know about and changed their lives to the glory of God.

What better time to be a part of changing someone's life than during this holiday season when many are reaching out for extra help to make ends meet. The holiday season is one where we try to do a little extra, handing out turkeys, hams and all the trimmings for a special holiday meal. We also try to distribute a hot turkey dinner for the homeless who have no place to go for the holiday, along with extra warm clothing, and for the Christmas season, gifts for families with no resources to provide for themselves. Your help this season is much appreciated. There are countless ways to become a part of this outreach. Through your financial giving, your prayers. Perhaps you can inspire your church to have a turkey drive, or a food drive, a holiday gift drive. Maybe you can come down on a Tuesday or Thursday and help us unload deliveries, prep the meals made each week, help us rotate, or clean up. Please pray about what part you can have in helping us extend hope for the future to those in need.

Thank you again for standing with us this past year with your generous support, encouraging friendship, and fervent prayers. May the Lord continue to richly bless you and yours.

Sincerely In His Service,
Pastor Deborah Mitchell