

Summer 2024

# The HOPE Letter

The Hope For The Future Ministries Newsletter



## In This Issue:

In Loving Memory	2
Special Call To Prayer	3
Web Site & PayPal	
Word From The Pastor	4

## Closing Credits:

### **Publisher and Editor:**

Rev. Deborah Mitchell

### **Assistant Editor:**

Drew Block

### **Article Interviews and Stories:**

## ***Instilling Hope For The Future With Holiday Success***



◀ Members of the Farmingdale Breakfast And Lunch Rotary Club came bearing gifts of Turkeys from Stew Leanards and the Rotarians . (From the left: Kathy Firetog, Trevor Firetog, John Cuccia., & Pastor Deobrah Mitchell.

## Welcome Summer!



► Christopher and Lewin of Tiny Fiber, Inc. who generously donate a truck full of Turkeys every year . ► A special thank you to Tiny Fiber's Team.



## Quote Of The Month

"If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he does, it must be by what he gives."

—Robert South



◀ Thanks to our donors, Hope For The Future distributes extra food, including Turkeys with all the trimmings, clothing, toiletries, and gifts for families with little to nothing during each holiday throughout the year.

## You've Met Louis Guzman Deleon Before

You've Prayed For Louis Before  
He Needs Your Prayers Again



◀ *Louis knew Pastor Diane during the beginning of Hope For The Future's years on the Lower East Side. He was there when the riots were taking place and the homeless had turned Tompkins Square Park into 'Tent City.' For many years he heard the gospel preached and was fed a hot meal. But after a while he left the area.*

▲ *Through a course of events he came back to the City. Pastor Diane welcomed him back with open arms. But after a while he left again... until he heard that Diane had passed away. As soon as he heard it he took a bus from upstate NY back to Long Island. He has been helping us at every outreach and the warehouse ever since.*

◀ *Now Louis is in need of our prayers. He has had to have surgery. The doctors have found a spot on his lung and have determined that it's cancer. He is undergoing treatment as of the writing of this newsletter. Please add him to your prayer list as he fights this battle. Let him know he is not alone in this fight.*

## In Loving Memory Of One Of Hope's Angels



Josephine Winkle (1937-2023) was a devoted Christian who loved this ministry and prayed without ceasing for it. Every newsletter that was mailed out to our partners and friends was thanks to this lovely lady's labor of love. She would meticulously labor over the folding and labeling, and see to any errors on the mailing list, bringing them to my attention with each mailing. Pastor Diane used to say of Sister Josie, "She is one of my angels," and that would describe Josephine to a tee. Pastor Diane would love to

quote one scripture in particular at every funeral she ever preached. Revelation reads 14:13, "I heard a voice from Heaven saying, 'Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. ' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them." Her labor of love to Hope For The Future, as well as her church, Love & Mercy Fellowship of 31 years has followed her indeed! While earth has gotten a little more lonely with her absence, Heaven has indeed grown a little richer. Josephine, thank you for giving to the Lord. Many lives have been changed because you gave.



# ***Special Report ...***

## ***NYC Outreach Needs Your Prayers***



As many of you have seen on the news, NYC has experienced an influx of migrants that have crossed over our borders and were bussed up to NYC. This has put a strain on many government agencies that help the poor and needy in the city. More than ever the kindness of churches, ministries, non-profit agencies along with public assistance is being heavily relied on to assist with meeting the needs of these migrants. We had received a report from one of our volunteers that witnessed two well meaning ladies from a church group handing out sandwiches from their car trunk and were 'bum rushed' to the point where the police had to be called. For this reason we thought it best for the sake of our team, to cancel March's outreach.

But as things have began to settle down, we headed back out in April only to encounter a slew of men rushing over to us towards the end of our service and outreach asking for some fruit that we were distributing. Some of the men I spoke with were beautiful believers fleeing religious persecution in Africa. We earnestly covet your prayers and support. If you have ever had the desire to help the needy, to be an extension of God's heart please consider coming out with us to Tompkins Square Park. This park has had the presence of HFTF's outreaches since the mid 80's and by the grace of God it will continue to have our presence and influence for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Please consider joining us.

OUR MINISTRY RELIES ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU  
PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN...IN JESUS NAME...  
THANK YOU!



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*Thank you and May the Lord bless you!*

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131 Verdi Street  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Phone: 631-752-5771  
Fax: 631-752-3814  
Email: [help@hopefft.com](mailto:help@hopefft.com)

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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,

The summer season has arrived and we are facing that dreaded time of year that every church, or ministry faces. Vacations. Graduations. Down time. Summer. It's the time of year when many are spending their extra finances on that long awaited and much needed vacation time. I'm grateful for the beautiful turn of season. But I also spend these few weeks 'white-knuckling' it through due to the expected drop in donations (as do many pastors). People get busy and forget. I am very grateful for our faithful volunteers who regularly give without missing a beat.

Believe you me... we are very grateful for you.

I first came to this ministry as a volunteer and a friend to the founder, Pastor Diane, when HFTF relocated from Glen Cove to Farmingdale, Long Island. That was over 31 years ago. Never in a million years would I have imagined being CEO (I prefer CES- Chief Executive Steward) of such an amazing ministry. All I ever envisioned when I started here was to be an armor bearer. But the Lord had other plans!

By the grace of God, this ministry has continued to move forward with it's vision, which is to meet the immediate needs of the poor and those down and out; to give them a helping hand as they get on their feet until they are able to stand on their own. For many this ministry has literally been a crucial life-line, when providing food meant they would not starve. For the homeless it meant somebody really did care about their plight. For the single mother it meant her children would be nourished and able to concentrate in school instead of suffering from hunger pains. For the senior citizen it meant not having to choose between using their meager monthly SS check for food, or for medicine and rent.

But none of this work would be possible without generous people such as yourselves to help support HFTF during this special season. Believe me, your support speaks volumes to all those we serve. I know that since the pandemic in 2020 we have seen some lean times, but I am asking our supporters to make a sacrificial effort to help us get through these lean summer months. Will you help us by considering a special offering? Your gift this month will help us provide enough groceries for families that don't have enough to feed their own children.

Thank you in advance for helping us work towards this goal of feeding the hungry as well as keeping our doors open, and our vans running. Every gift, no matter how large or small makes a difference. And there is also another way you could give. You could give of your time. We need drivers to do food pick-ups (no lifting involved), as well as help with sorting and stocking food in the warehouse. We are always looking for volunteers for our kitchen prep and cooking detail as well. So please pray about how you can be a part of this work and help us continue reaching the least, the last, and the lost with a hope for their future.

Sincerely In His Service,

Pastor Deborah Mitchell