



Second Helping

THE HUNGER HERO UPDATE

For 7-Year-Old Austin and His Mom - You've Been a Lifeline!

It's every mother's nightmare.

Wondering how you're going to put food on the table for your child.

And this is exactly where Priscilla found herself.

She had always been proud of her ability to work and take care of herself and her son, Austin. But heart disease that caused nerve damage led to her employer letting her go.

Unable to find work because of the limitations of her illness, she filed for disability, but that's a long and difficult process. So, in the meantime, Priscilla dipped into her savings.

Month... after month... after month.

Until finally, she had no savings left and she was plunged into the depths of poverty, not knowing how she would feed Austin.

The month came when she was going to have to choose between paying the utilities or buying food. Or getting her medication or food.

But her sister sent her a Facebook post about HIM Center and everything changed. She made arrangements to pick up food at



Priscilla's smile says it all! Thank you!

the very next HIM Center Mobile Pantry.

As she waited in her car in the line, she was nervous. She'd never been to a food pantry before. She didn't know what to do, so, she just followed the cars in front of her.

She got to the front of the line. She couldn't control her shaking hands as she signed her name to register for a monthly food card. Kind volunteers put her at ease.

Continued...

PRISCILLA, Cont'd...

She exhaled in relief, “Standing here waiting definitely provides me with hope to put food on my table this week. I was not sure about being able to buy food after I paid my bills this month.”

Thanks to you, Priscilla received enough food for a month, including Austin's favorite snacks - apples and oranges.

There is hope for our neighbors battling hunger — and it's YOU! Thank you for opening your heart and showing compassion to our neighbors during their most vulnerable times.

Awesome Target Employees Spread Hope on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

We are so grateful for our Mansfield Target Store Director, Sheila Barnes and her employees who came out and helped load food on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Normally, our Mobile Pantry days are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but because of a grant from Target and the Target volunteers,

we were able to add a Mobile Pantry Day!

And that means that more of our deserving neighbors had enough food to eat and a little extra joy in January!

Just another great reason to shop at our Mansfield Target!



Employees from the Mansfield Target joined us on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to help distribute food to our deserving neighbors. Thank you, Target!

NADIA LOST EVERYTHING, BUT YOU FILLED THE GAP!

Nadia has a college degree.

She was married. Had a good job. And two boys in college.

But in the span of a month, her husband left, she lost her job because of the pandemic, and her two boys were back home because their schools were closed.

She had two more mouths to feed. No income. No jobs to be had.

She and her boys cut expenses wherever they could, like walking instead of driving.

But it just wasn't enough. Soon, she had drained her savings.

She was at the end of her rope and her pantry was almost empty.

Nadia had heard about HIM Center through her church. With no other options, she decided she would give it try.

It felt humiliating to ask for this kind of help.

"I never thought I'd go hungry. Food pantries were for 'other' people."

But Nadia didn't find judgement when she got to the front of the line to receive her food. There were no penetrating stares or personal questions. Instead, she found



Nadia has a lot to smile about.

kindness and acceptance.

"The food we received allowed me to pay other bills, lifting a tremendous weight off my mind, Nadia told us. "The food was healthy and there were many options. My sons eat a lot and the HIM Center provided balanced options for all of us."

Nadia and her sons received food once a month for about a year. She found a great job and is back on her feet. One of her sons is in law school and the other is now working.

"Because of HIM Center, we were able to keep our home and our dignity. I am so grateful. Thank you!"

What is "Food Insecurity"?

We're beginning to hear the term "food insecurity" a lot in the media lately.

At HIM Center, we prefer the term "hunger" because we feel it's the best representation of what the individuals and families are experiencing when they come to us.

Hunger is easy to understand.

"Food insecurity" is a little more complicated.

So, what does it mean exactly?

Food security is the federal measure of a household's ability to provide enough food for every person in the household to have an active, healthy life.

It is one way the federal government measures a person's risk of hunger.

This measure can be helpful.

When you hear that phrase:

FOOD INSECURITY

We want you to think about people.

Real people.

Real people who've hit hard times.

People like you.

People like Nadia and her two sons that you read about in this newsletter.

People like 7-year-old Austin and his mom, Priscilla that you read about in this newsletter.

People who need us... who need YOU.

BY THE NUMBERS: YOUR IMPACT IN DECEMBER & JANUARY



4,872 families
received
enough food
for one month



15,173 individuals
received
enough food
for one month



1,013,174 pounds
of food was
distributed to
deserving people