

**Dear friend,**

I hope this finds you safe, healthy and home as much as possible. These are indeed uncharted waters, and I imagine you have experienced various emotions over the past few weeks. Please know we are thinking about you, and praying that we all get through this crazy time as quickly, but safely as possible. Let's remain strong in faith, and strive to be a little kinder and more patient with everyone.

## WHAT HAS COC BEEN UP TO SINCE COVID-19?

First, we are still here! Even though we are self-isolating, we are finding ways to help others. And it's because you have been generous with us that we can be generous with others.

## WE HAVE HELPED LOCALLY

- We paid for 2 nights at a hotel for a single pregnant girl who had just come off the streets as a prostitute, was trying to change her life, and couldn't get entrance to a shelter because of Covid-19. Others donated as well, so she had a week to find more permanent shelter.
- We gave medical supplies to a local clinic, including alcohol prep wipes, N95 masks and more. These were sitting in storage for our next TJ day trip. Thankfully we could help our local medical community.
- Our friend Hugh Margesson also donated about 350 more masks! We realized that all the masks, while new had been sitting on a hospital shelf too long, and had worn elastic. We then went on an "elastic" hunt to see if they could be repaired, and found a very short supply out there with all the "sew your own" mask craze. Unfortunately, the repaired masks did not pass the FIT test, but they will be used as surgical masks.
- We paid for 2 nights at a hotel for an elderly man in San Clemente who was denied re-entry to his care center, which gave him time to work with them to regain entrance.
- We ordered diapers and had them shipped to a local pregnancy center helping single moms with babies. They were in desperate need.
- Thanks again to Hugh, we sent washable medical scrubs to a clinic in northern California who was in dire need.
- We donated funds to a local ministry in Escondido/Fallbrook who is feeding the homeless daily.
- We helped a single mom out of work with a month of utility bills.

## SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRY PARTNERS AS THEY HELP FEED & CARE FOR THE POOR



### MEXICO-RED, ZONA NORTE TJ

Keith and Maya Durkin until last week were feeding 200 people a day in Zona Norte until it became unsafe. This was a tough decision to stop, but many were not observing the 6 foot social distance rule. The amazing thing about the Zona Norte area, is with the bars and clubs closing, things are quiet. We are praying for many in this area to not return to their way of life of prostitution, drugs and crime. The Durkins are now bringing food to a local orphanage and elderly home near where they live in TJ.



### AGAPE CHURCH, MEZCALES, MEXICO

Pastors Nacho and Mizuko, who have been church planting in their community and partnering with us for years, are feeding those who found themselves out of work due to Covid-19. Most people work in the tourism industry and live month to month. These are our partners we serve with when we go to Sayulita, and we pray people see the love of Jesus through their actions.

## VOICE OF THE BRIDE MINISTRIES

Our friend Wayne Kiger-Rice drives food from San Diego into TJ several times a week and gives it to rehab centers, orphanages, elderly homes and poor neighborhoods. We helped him purchase tarps, which many living in extreme poverty need right now to stay dry and off the streets.

We also sent funds to YWAM (Youth With A Mission) missionaries in India to help buy food for them and for the locals. [India needs our prayers...](#) COVID-19 will affect the poorest of the poor in the worst of ways.



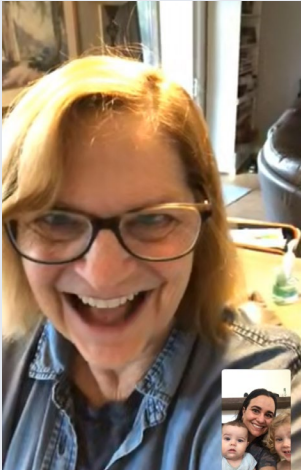
## BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY

We are not telling you all this to “toot our horn” but so that you know because you have been generous, we can help and support others during this difficult time. I know there will be many more needs ahead, in America and around the world, and we are hoping COC can help... especially with those who are most vulnerable.

## OUR THRIFT STORE

Like so many businesses, our Thrift Store in Long Beach has had to close during this time. This affects not only our largest source of income, but also the employees are now out of work. We have reached out to our long time store manager Ken Myers to see if we can help in some way, maybe with an employee’s electric bill this month. We are hoping after this is behind us we can open again and get back to serving the community.

## SMALL THINGS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Beyond washing your hands, social distancing and staying home to flatten the curve, what can we do to help?

Be the best neighbor you can be, safely and wisely. Encourage others through emails, facetime (like me and my sweeties here), phone calls, Zoom, online posting... reach out and surprise people to tell them you are thinking and praying for them.

Say “thank you” (from a safe distance) to your delivery people, your grocery care workers, your mail carrier, any and all medical professionals, government workers, anyone who is considered on the Front Line of this thing.

Love and prayers to all of you, stay healthy and be blessed,

Carol DeGraff • Executive Director

# WAYS TO DONATE

## DONATE ONLINE

Donations can be made securely online at [circleoc.com/donate](http://circleoc.com/donate)

## THRIFT STORE

New and used goods can be donated to the Circle of Concern Thrift Store. Call 1-800-499-5121.

## USED CARS

Used cars can be donated to Circle of Concern. Call 1-855-500-RIDE.

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