

HEARTSIDE MINISTRY

Sharing Faith, Hope and Life Amidst
Homelessness and Poverty.



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Dear Friends of Heartside,

Someone once said, "The trouble with being poor is that it takes so much time." I see that vividly.

A neighbor walks blocks and blocks to a clinic, then blocks more for a benevolence check as small as three dollars and then walks to the pharmacy to get essential medications to control his blood pressure, her asthma, keep his seizures at bay or her diabetes under control.

They migrate from their resting places—a mission dorm, a rented room or an overpass shelter—walking to where the meals are served, to stretch their \$270 monthly SSI check so they can hold on to their rented room or, if they are completely without income, to simply allow them to hold on to life.

They migrate like displaced people the world over, with their belongings in a bag or two. They will stand all day if necessary, and without complaining, to be cared for by a dentist or just to do any sort of manual labor for a few dollars pay. They spend hard hours doing the things most of us think nothing of—finding an open bathroom, getting a drink of water, securing their next meal, finding a place to lie down until the shelter opens up again or getting the medicine they need to stay alive, as they hope for better days.

At the center of these migratory routes is Heartside, where many find their way, not just to kill a few hours but to redeem the time they have, experience programming rich in the stuff that nourishes the soul with affirmation and acceptance, the chance to be heard and to learn ways to fare better, to be reminded of God's love that assures them they are Children of God, precious and beautiful, forgiven and healed.

Everyone is suffering during these difficult times but not everyone is suffering equally. What is new is that so many who have never felt the humiliation of poverty or the exasperation of being powerless are now experiencing these emotions. We see this time of trouble as a teachable moment.

We are reaching out to engage a broader coalition of caring people to meet the rising tide of human need. We need your help, to do this and all that we do. Your gift allows us to continue to bring God's grace, in the form of practical acts, into the lives of those who know their help is in the name of the Lord. Please help with your generous gift and know every penny is well spent.

With deep gratitude for your continuing support, I am

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Charlotte A. Ellison

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