



STORIES of HOPE

You bring warmth and joy to many
Fall 2021



SHARE THE WARMTH THIS WINTER

Can you feel it in the air? The changing of the seasons, the cool evening breeze, and the smell of home-cooked meals lingering in the house. It's a time of year that many of us look forward to. For some, though, this time of year can be a harsh reminder of cold and wet living conditions.

You can change that for someone in your neighborhood.

You can share the warmth with those who need it most. Sharing the Warmth is about providing basic needs such as a warm place to sleep and a blanket, but it is also about sharing the warmth in your heart with people who often feel invisible.

These are men like Alonzo (pictured above), an Air Force veteran who, at 70 years old, found himself with nowhere to go. Your kindness

showed him that there are people who still care about him, and that his life still matters. Now, he has thick new gloves to keep him warm when he rides his bike and a reminder that you are watching out for him.

Will you share the warmth this winter with more neighbors like Alonzo?

For \$18, you can provide warm gloves, quality socks, and a hat to your neighbor in need

“

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”



It is difficult for many of us to imagine that a veteran would ever struggle with homelessness. Unfortunately, it is a story that happens all too often.

Marette was working in law enforcement after leaving her career in the Army. She was living what she calls the American dream and was successful in her personal and professional life. Unfortunately, her mental health continued to deteriorate, and she turned to alcohol in order to cope. She eventually lost everything.

Although hurting, Marette was strong enough to ask for help. She worked her way through rehabilitation programs and found housing and work through VOA. Through her job, she is now able to give back to a community that is very special to her: the U.S. troops. In her current position,

Marette gets to assemble care packages for those serving overseas. It is especially meaningful to her because she knows from experience how much those care packages mean. She says, **“I am just trying to move forward and make positive steps, doing something that is meaningful.”**

Marette is thankful for people like you who have given her the opportunity to gain her life back. She recently celebrated 6 months of sobriety and is looking forward to what life brings. Thank you for believing in Marette.

**You can help a veteran like
Marette with a gift of \$64**

YOU ARE FEEDING HEARTS WITH **LOVE** AND BODIES WITH NUTRITIOUS MEALS.

Thanks to you, 50,000 meals a month are served to those who are hungry.

During this season of giving, gathering, and gratitude, we want to remind you of the impact you have on your neighbors in need. Your support allows us to deliver an average of 1,600 meals a day. Three delicious meals each day, coming out of the kitchen, packaged and delivered in vans, showing people that you care about them. Three meals that not only nourish the body but also nourish the soul, reminding men, women, and families that they are not alone in their struggles.



But it's not just about the meals--**you are helping people like Dustin re-discover their self-worth through employment and training.** After going through a VOA shelter himself, Dustin now gets to be a part of this growing, commercial kitchen and has the responsibility to feed people who are in similar situations. He now has years of cooking experience working full-time for VOA. He is earning a living while gaining work experience and invaluable life skills.

The home-cooked meals you provide are not only putting food in the bellies of hungry people but are giving individuals like Dustin the ability to provide for themselves. Your generosity is changing lives, from full stomachs to full-time work experience. Thank you!



**Your kind donation of \$84 will provide a full week
of delicious, nutritious meals**

YOU HAVE GIVEN ROGER HOPE

After rotating between rehab, hotels, jail, and recovery programs for 6 years, Roger was fed up. He showed strength when he walked into the shelter at VOA, where you gave him a second chance at life.

Roger felt at home at the shelter, and for the first time in a long time, he is excited about where he is in life. He has a good job, is currently in school, and is reconnecting with his self-worth and finding his path to purpose. Roger has re-established relationships with his adult children who are proud of where their dad is now.



He is thankful for you and says that you made a big difference in his life just by believing in him. Because of you, Roger has moved from the shelter into a house, where he has his own space and his own room. He says, "When I do the right thing, good things start happening. So I guess I need to keep doing the right thing."

Thank you for showing compassion and giving Roger a second chance at life.

Give \$35 to help a friend like Roger start over with a night of rest.

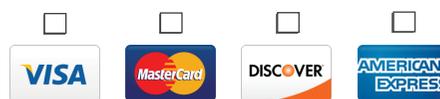
You share warmth with your love and kindness toward people like Roger, Dustin, and Marett every day. Thank you for believing in the resilience of the human spirit.

YES! I will share the warmth and help my neighbors get back on their feet for life.

- \$18 will keep a veteran like Alonzo warm with winter items
- \$35 keeps a friend like Roger indoors during the cold weather
- \$64 helps a veteran like Marett with employment counseling
- \$84 fills the bellies of those struggling with homelessness for a week
- \$_____ will change the life of a man, woman or family facing homelessness

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
EMAIL _____
PHONE _____

I prefer to charge my gift to:



CARD # _____
EXPIRATION DATE _____
CVV _____

Please call Ana Bankert at (916) 705-4641 about: A gift of Stock or a QCD