



February 2020

THANK YOU!

We have now entered the 15th year of Hope and Friendship Foundation's outreaches and impact on needs here in Lemont. For a foundation that began with a simple invite to join in a community Christmas Dinner in 2005, we have come a very long and lovingly supportive way. I am so humbled that you have chosen to support these attempts to extend a hand to a "friend" who has been knocked to the mat with a life blow.

We have offered assistance as large as repairing a car so life can continue, paying rent to keep a roof over head while the difficulties, sickness, or crisis set back is managed.

We have hosted youth outreaches that have fed, encouraged, listened, raised spirits, and united youth from households that need, with those who are from households who can meet needs.

We have awarded scholarships to those, who without this assistance, would otherwise struggle to even consider continuing their education.

We have rallied prom dresses, shoes, coats, bikes, and school supplies, from your homes to help meet needs of the young people within our arm's reach.

Together we have put meals in homes; offered time to be listened to, loved on and guided; we have rallied support to help families get through the darkest of storms, those who have suffered the most unbearable pain of losing a loved one; we have stepped onto the property of many homes, putting hands, feet and hearts to work mowing, trimming, weeding and beautifying the home of a senior, or one who is physically or emotionally unable to complete tasks that we easily can as a team of "friends" helping "friends".

Yes, we have done much together, but there is still much to do.

Your support has allowed outreaches to continue and be formulated. Support systems to be formed and found. We are not attempting to put a Band-Aid on these wounds, but to help assist them to be healed so those we are reaching out to can, in turn, join us in assisting another, strengthening the ripples that we are creating. I am only one. I may hear the need, sit with those who are struggling, offer an immediate hug and word of encouragement, but as one I can do little. When I join efforts with many who care just as deeply for putting hope in what appears to be a hopeless situation, and offering the hand of a "friend" to those who are struggling to stand back up, WE can and will continue to do much.

I have chosen to view 2020 as the year of focus; focusing on creating solid support that can be continued no matter who leads Hope and Friendship Foundation. We are 15 years in and there is not less need, there is more. There are more free and reduced lunch youth in our school system than ever before; more battling cancer than we can even attempt to put a count on; more who are marginalized by lack of ability to both afford to keep the household functioning AND/OR afford medical, dental and emotional care; more who simply need our ability

to be a “conduit of what we can offer, as we are able”. Thank you for doing just that.

I, and so many, have been blessed by your friendship, and generosity of support to continue offering hope.

Wishing you peace and sincere gratitude my friend,

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Executive Director

Hope & Friendship Foundation

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