



# PROJECT HOPE

**H**elping **O**thers get **P**ast **E**mergencies



## COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

### Rent and Utility Subsidy

**Fund goal: \$15,000**

All of our tenants are low income individuals, including adults with developmental disabilities who are amongst the lowest income populations in the country. They have no resources to draw upon when life hands them unexpected challenges. Even the tiniest unexpected bill can become what seems like an insurmountable financial obstacle. The fear of becoming homeless is always present. The rent subsidy fund would solve this problem by providing help with rents in times of emergencies.

Utility deposits and payments are frequently a challenge for individuals with incomes of only \$700 per month and poor credit histories. Residents unable to obtain utility service, or who are cut off from utilities, face eviction. Project HOPE will supply the funds necessary to help with utility deposits and payments.

### Rent Deposit Assistance

**Fund goal: \$5,000**

Rent deposits are a barrier to housing that confronts individuals who are either homeless or near homeless. Rent alone is challenging. Frequently the rent deposit is an overwhelming obstacle to finding a place to live. The rent deposit fund would solve this problem by eliminating this barrier to housing.

### Resident Retention Project

**Fund goal: \$10,000**

Low income residents that have a shaky rental history often have barriers that prevent them from maintaining housing. This project seeks to identify the barriers and find solutions so that residents avoid eviction. Prevention from being homeless.

### Emergency Fund

**Fund goal: \$15,000**

Even the smallest unexpected expense can be an overwhelming burden for low income residents. The emergency fund is intended to help people meet life's financial challenges. Whether it's a major hardship or a smaller financial obstacle, the emergency fund is there to help.

### Breath of Fresh Air

**Fund goal: \$5,000**

Everyone needs a stress break; a time to escape from life's pressures; a time to do activities many other segments of the population take for granted. This is especially important for the teens and siblings of the developmentally disabled who struggle with feeling normal while trying to survive in very difficult situations. A simple pass to go to the movies, a chance for the family to go swimming, a chance to see the ocean for the first time or the dream of summer camp can provide a welcome relief and a breath of fresh air. The breath of fresh air portion of the HOPE project makes these dreams a reality for people who no longer believe that dreams are possible.

## Real Stories from our files.....

*The Biggs family of four was helped out of homelessness by a church program that funded their rent. And then, unexpectedly, the church elected to stop the rental assistance program. The only option left to the Biggs family was to return to homelessness.*

*During a recent cold winter utility bills doubled for residents. Unable to pay the higher rate, most were in danger of having their power cut off and faced the possibility of eviction. Thanks to the generosity of Selco Credit Union, emergency funds were found and the crisis averted.*

*The Smith family was homeless and, after a long struggle, finally saved enough to rent an apartment. Unfortunately they were denied utilities due to their poor credit record and lack of funds for the utility deposit. Unable to pay for utilities, law required that they be evicted. They were back on the streets after only one month of housing.*

**Project HOPE will help keep people in their homes, with the lights on.**

*George, a man with developmental disabilities, lost his wife and was struggling with grief and depression. After his wife's death, his family income was reduced to \$5,000 a year, forcing him to stop many of his favorite activities that provided opportunities for him to socialize with others. Help came from a gift of money to join a bowling league. He was put on a team with his former case manager who understood his needs. The simple act of bowling and the chance to have a positive social experience helped him face the extreme challenges that life had placed in his way.*

*Sometimes a simple experience makes all the difference. Daniel, diagnosed with autism, rarely tried new things. One day he and his sister were treated to an afternoon of horseback riding. With his sister's help, he and his sister had a wonderful day.*