



Largest Grant Ever:

For those who recall from our August Newsletter, we referenced receiving a commitment for the **largest donation in the history of Here to Help**.

The commitment was effectuated on September 13th, and we received **\$250,000.00** to be applied to all the programs at Here to Help and including our returning citizen program!

The donor requests anonymity and as much as we would which to tout their generosity, we respect the reasons behind such a decision.

Our relationship with the donor was slowly cultivated over the past 15 months as we began our relationship by receiving small grant. We subsequently provided a detailed report with stories/photographs of those we helped from the donation. The initial grant spawned other grants and culminated into this incredibly generous donation as Here to Help, and our returning citizens program really resonated with the donor.

Here as some great stories of a few of those that we helped this past month:

Deon:

One of the beautiful things with our returning citizens program are the relationships. Many times, we are the only ones that are there for someone who may just need someone to talk with, to provide advice or encouragement and to be there when an emergency arises. Deon Jackson is a warm, kind and determined individual and has become our good friend. He has consistently advised us that if we need anything at any time, he will be there in a heartbeat. And we know he means it! Every text with him is ended with: "Thanks for everything. Have a blessed day. Love you always! Deon." Love you also Deon! ❤️



Daniel:

When one has spent many years in a cramped prison cell, the lure of the open road is very appealing upon release and many returning citizens pursue Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training so they can become a truck driver. These jobs are very lucrative, are a great career, and in high demand right now. It is very rewarding for us to have helped these returning citizens stay afloat with monthly bills, food, transportation etc. during their training program and then see them graduate, get their CDL and secure a great job. As just occurred with Daniel. Congratulations Daniel! 🙌



Khareem:

Move In Day!! The beginning of each month brings us many great stories as new rental leases begin and many returning citizens are moving into their own place for the first time in their life. And we want to make it as easy a transition as possible. So, we go 50/50 on all move in costs and deliver a bed, nightstand, lamp, couch, and dining room table/chairs and provide dishes, glasses, silverware, pots and pans, pillows, sheets, mattress pad, blanket, towels/washcloths, and pillowcases. A complete home. As we just did with Khareem, who we have been working with for many months and he has a great job and is doing fantastic. One happy and proud person as well:



Randy:

It's wonderful when we start working with someone the moment they are released from prison, and they eventually become a great success story. As it is with Randy who we met a day after his release and have helped him obtain a job, found him an apartment, and assisted with move in costs, furniture, and home furnishings. He continued to get promoted at his job and we were able to get him a car to relieve him from his daily grind of riding the bus for hours. Randy is a wonderful success story and has a great future ahead of him. Congrats Randy! 🙌😊



Shout-out time:

The success of our **Returning Hope to Returning Citizens** program would not be as great as it is without help from other resources so time to give them some recognition. First, thanks to the **Secretary of State** who, every Monday, accepts our list of those who need immediate appointments to get their State ID or License etc. And they quickly get those dates scheduled for our people. Thanks to **the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department** for being willing to interview and then hire many of our returning citizens. Shout-out to the **Fort Street Church** for helping obtain birth certificates, Social Security cards etc. Thanks to **Amazon, Temperform, Chrysler and Fed Ex** for hiring many of our men/women. Thanks to all those helping us help others! 🙌🙌🙌



Carl:

Employment is so critical for returning citizens to have any chance of success. It's not just the income which helps with their self-sufficiency, but it's also about their dignity, feelings of self-worth and pride. Numerous studies have concluded that returning

citizens make exceptional employees. All of this is so true with Carl, who we helped get a job and he is quite happy. He's doing great and we just got him into his first ever apartment and filled it up with everything he needed. A wonderful success story on so many levels. 👍



Quatrice:

“Dress the part” is to wear suitable clothes for the occasion and that's rarely an option for returning citizens as they are released with literally the clothes on their back. Prison garb. So, our goal is to immediately get them into new clothing allowing for dignity, comfort and for job interviews. A times though, at our initial meeting, a returning citizen wears clothing where they have “dressed the part” for our initial meeting. As did Quatrice, looking very professional in a nice dress yesterday. Success is on the horizon for her!



Dennis:

Sometimes everything is going great and out of nowhere one thing occurs that can change everything in a moment. We've been working with Dennis since last fall and helped him in many ways including with tools/equipment for his job in home restoration. He was doing wonderfully and had just last week moved into his own place. And then someone runs a red light, totals his van with all his equipment and he winds up in the hospital. Things could quickly go south in a hurry with no van etc. We jumped in, got him another van, helped with his damaged equipment and he was out of the hospital and back to work within a week. And he can get back to fishing as well lol (see below)!



Once again, a great past 30 days for sure and we look forward to what the next month brings.

Stay well!

All the best,

Bob Schwartz

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