



# THE PULSE

*Open Arms Mission*

## God's heart

I believe that God has a heart for those on the margins. As I read the Old Testament, I see that God's heart is for the widows, the orphans, and the foreigners. These groups would be some of the least of these in the Old Testament culture. He tells Moses, "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. Fear the Lord your God and serve him." It would have been hard for a widow to survive since her husband, the support of the family, died. She would have a hard time making ends meet. God told His people to do this because He knew their hardship and wanted Israel to care for them.

He also said to the prophet Isaiah, "He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." These words described Jesus' ministry and His identity as the Messiah, the Anointed One. Jesus embodied these words as He healed, feed, and taught others about what life looked like as people followed Him. Even more, He told them that, "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." He told others to go and do the same things He did and telling others about Him as we are doing it. To help those on the margins to survive in life and find hope and healing in Him!

In the last few months, Open Arms has continued to help those in need find hope and healing in the midst of their hardship. Many of these people lack the support to make ends meet. Like the widows and orphans in the Old Testament, they do not have the money to get the food their families need. Some people who come need just a little and some come needing a lot of help.

This month I have paused and been thankful for people's generosity. Whether it was a can of fruit or a significant financial donation, thank you to every who has helped provide food to those who are hungry. I want to thank you for giving a portion of what you have to help those who are in need of food.



# Being Christ presence during Covid

The phone rang at the Mission Center. When Marty picked up the phone he was greeted by the voice of a sweet elderly lady. "Hi, my name is Cindy. I live off Niagara Street and really need food. I feel awful calling you but things have gotten really tight. I just had to pay for my medication last week and the price just went up." Marty chatted further with Cindy and learned that she had worked for many years at a local factory. She became injured at work and now has several health issues, including COPD. These health issues make it difficult for her to walk, especially in the heat. Cindy went on to share that she has found it difficult in the past to make ends meet, especially when a bill came in that was unexpectedly high. She stated, "I've been on this medication for years and it just went up. I was not able to buy some of the things I usually buy like granola bars or tuna." She also shared with Marty that she felt guilty even asking for food. Marty reassured her that many others in our community struggle like her to make ends meet. Open Arms Mission is here to serve anyone who needs food and we want to do this in a way where they do not have to feel ashamed. Later that day Marty delivered two bags of groceries to Cindy and they were received with joy and happiness.

This summer Open Arms has been piloting several initiatives like delivering food to those who cannot access the Mission because of some barrier. Many people like Cindy cannot get the food they need simply because of their medical limitations. Others cannot get food because food banks are not open after work. It is the desire of Open Arms Mission to remove barriers so that anyone who needs food can get it.



O.A.M

at a glance-Food Bank stats

20%

are children

20% of the Food Bank users are children

11.5%

single parent households

The percentage of single adults with children using the food banks is 11.5%

53.1%

are single adult households

Single adult households represent 53.1% of households accessing food