



# Hastings Family Service

Providing HELP and HOPE since 1970

301 2nd Street East  
Hastings, MN 55033  
651-437-7134  
hastingsfamilyservice.org

NOVEMBER 2021



## Giving Thanks

Executive Director's Farewell  
Project Share Begins  
Gobble Gait Returns



Details inside on page 3

### 2021 Board of Directors

Michael Swanson, President   Katy Lindberg, Vice President   Pam Oeffler, Secretary  
David Fransen, Chair of Finance   Melissa Freiermuth   Peggy Horsch   Brandi Poellinger  
Tim Stanley   Dr. Nick VenOsdel   Dave Wilske   Mike Woog   Caleb Wyre

# Chris Koop Announces Retirement



**Chris Koop**  
Executive Director

When I arrived for my first day as the Executive Director of Hastings Family Service on January 10, 2005, I had no idea how my heart would be forever changed. It has taken almost 52 years to build this multi-faceted little mission on the Mississippi. Hastings Family Service had a strong foundation when I arrived and continues to build on the strength of the community and families who live in it.

Over the past 17 years, I've witnessed a community that has a culture of giving, where neighbors generously care for neighbors. Children learn early about helping their

community with coin and food drives at school or by donating proceeds from lemonade stands; churches, businesses and service organizations find a multitude of ways to support HFS, and our amazing volunteers share their time and talents to make the work happen. We are overwhelmed by the many ways people find to offer their help and support including during a pandemic when several people sent their entire stimulus check and said "We would like you to put it to good use."

I will be retiring on February 1, 2022 and my greatest hope for the future of HFS is that this community never stops thinking about how to be a good neighbor. HFS has been able to respond to changing needs within the community because you have always stood by our side making this work possible.

My heart will be forever touched by the hundreds of neighbors who needed a little help along the way, and by the community members that helped HFS provide it. My heart still aches for the homeless gentleman sleeping in his car who simply asked for some duffle bags to help him move things from the back to the front seat each night as he crawled into his backseat to sleep. My heart is encouraged by the neighbor who came in after finding a great job to share the good news and tell us they wouldn't be needing help anymore. My heart feels joy that a husband learned his wife loved broccoli, but he never knew that in 52 years of marriage until Market Cart started delivering fresh produce to them. More than anything, my heart is full because all of these neighbors live in Hastings and I was able to be a part of their journey.

HFS has a long history of help and hope, and will continue to serve the community well because of your support. I am grateful for you and proud of the work we do together to make Hastings a better place for all.

*Chris Koop*



The above mural was designed and installed on the back of the HFS building this summer by artists Daniela Bianchini and Pablo Kalaka and commissioned by the City of Hastings Public Arts Grant Task Force. The mural inspired the 2021 Gobble Gait shirt design (see back of newsletter). All are welcome to stop down and see the beautiful mural in person!



**Hastings Family Service**  
HELP AND HOPE SINCE 1970



**Chris Koop**

*Executive Director*

**Joannie Becker**

*Meals on Wheels Coordinator*

**Jessica Bierbrauer**

*Office Manager*

**Maddie Biermaier**

*Programs Coordinator*

**Kelly Carter**

*Development & Community Relations Coord.*

**Sue Hill**

*Meals on Wheels Assistant*

**Mary Kells**

*Rivertown Treasures Store Manager*

**Mary Kocak**

*Programs Director*

**Lori Mikel**

*Meals on Wheels Assistant*

**Desirée Olson**

*Programs Manager*

**Heather Rose**

**Beth Shofner**

*Rivertown Treasures Retail Assistants*

**Maria Slavik**

*Volunteer & Communications Coordinator*

**Amy Sutton**

*Associate Director*





# Sharing Help and Hope for the Holidays

Project Share holiday assistance provides gifts for children and food for the holidays for all households. The North Pole gift room is not available this year.

With anticipated supply chain and shipping delays, families are strongly encouraged to register early this year, allowing additional time for gifts to come in.

## Receiving Project Share Holiday Assistance

- Registration for families requesting gifts for children ages 18 and under is open! Registration begins online at [www.hastingsfamilyservice.org](http://www.hastingsfamilyservice.org)  
Early registration is strongly encouraged
- All households may request food for the holidays by calling 651-437-7134 beginning Monday, November 30

## Supporting Project Share

- Sign up to Adopt-a-Family at [www.hastingsfamilyservice.org](http://www.hastingsfamilyservice.org)  
All families will be adopted this year; individual toys are not needed.
- A \$30 monetary gift covers the cost of a holiday meal



Find Hastings Family Service online:  
[www.hastingsfamilyservice.org](http://www.hastingsfamilyservice.org)



@HastingsFamilyService



@HastingsFamilyService



@HFService

give <sup>TO THE</sup> MAX   
Nov. 18, 2021

### Support HFS during the Great MN Give-Together!

Please consider a donation to HFS during Give to the Max day.

Drop off your donation at HFS on November 18th or visit [www.hastingsfamilyservice.org](http://www.hastingsfamilyservice.org) to SCHEDULE your online Give to the Max day gift starting November 1st!

Online and in-person donations will be  
**MATCHED** on Nov 18th  
by generous HFS donors up to \$5,000!

Your online donation could help HFS win golden tickets of \$500 every 15 minutes or \$1000 each hour throughout the day!  
One \$10,000 golden ticket will be awarded at the end of the day.





Need help with gifts for your children or food for the holidays?

Want to share help and hope in the Hastings area this holiday season?

Project Share holiday assistance is available!

Additional details inside and at [www.hastingsfamilyservice.org](http://www.hastingsfamilyservice.org)



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301 Second Street East  
Hastings, MN 55033

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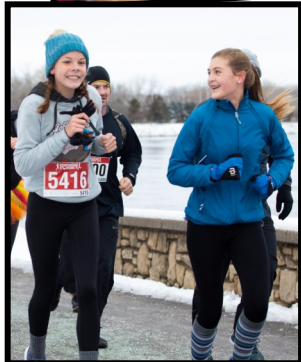
Address Service Request-

«COMPANY»

«FIRST» «LAST»

«ADDRESS»

«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»



Gobble Gait has been a Thanksgiving morning tradition in Downtown Hastings for 24 years, supporting the programs and services of Hastings Family Service.

Register to run or walk the 8K or 3K online at [www.gobblegait.com](http://www.gobblegait.com)

Presented by:

