



Hastings Family Service

Providing HELP and HOPE since 1970

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

NOVEMBER 2019



Project Share: The gift of Hope for the Holidays



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Building Happy Stories



Chris Koop
Executive Director

This year marks my 15th holiday season at Hastings Family Service, and I continue to be amazed at how the simple things can make all the difference.

In those 15 years, stories of generosity have touched my heart and I am in awe of how you carefully select gifts for someone you don't know or how you involve your grandchildren in shopping for your Adopt-a-Family gifts so they can learn about the joy of giving.

The stories that resonate with me most are the stories of strength, survival and victory. Like the story of a single dad who apologized to me because he had to sign

up for Project Share this year. His work hours have been dramatically cut and he said, "I don't know what I would do if I couldn't count on HFS at times like this. I just want the kids to have a Christmas like other kids. Thank you." I assured him that is why HFS is here and that someday when he is back on his feet again, he can be there for someone else.

Ann is a great example of giving and receiving. She remembers growing up and getting their holiday meal and gifts at HFS. As we visited, she painted a picture of what it was like growing up in a household with four girls and how the turkey dinner they made and the gifts that they opened made life feel normal. She said, "For a moment, we weren't the ones who had to go without." With tears in her eyes she told me how her family struggled to make ends meet, saying sometimes there was not even enough money to buy toilet paper, and that is why she donates mega packs of toilet paper whenever she is back in town. *Ann* said, "I don't ever want families to go through what we went through."

The simple pleasures of making and sharing a holiday meal, having gifts under the tree, or having a bathroom stocked with toilet paper are all things I take for granted. Your kindness in participating in Project Share might be the thing that keeps someone from giving up. Thank you for sharing hope and for bringing their stories moments of relief and happiness.

Wishing you a holiday season filled with love and peace.

Chris Koop

The Hastings High School Class of 1969 donated \$1,250 to Hastings Family Service after being challenged by a classmate to give \$50 to HFS in honor of their 50th Class Reunion.

THANK YOU!

Do you have a Thrivent Financial policy or product?
If yes, YOU HAVE CHOICE DOLLARS TO GIVE AWAY!

Please consider designating them to Hastings Family Service.

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Hastings Family Service

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Find Us Online:



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www.hastingsfamilyservice.org

Project Share Registration

Need help with gifts and food for this holiday season?

In-person registration appointments are available as follows:

Families with Minor Children

Call today—we are currently scheduling appointments

Adult-only Households

Call beginning December 2 to schedule an appointment

Gifts and groceries will be distributed December 11th-13th and 17th-19th

Call 651-437-7134 to set up an appointment.

Families are strongly encouraged to register early to participate in the Adopt-a-Family program.

Visit hastingsfamilyservice.org for more information.



How to Share *Help & Hope* for the Holidays

- ... **Adopt-a-Family**— Get together with your family, friends, co-workers, and groups to provide gifts and/or food to make a family's holidays a little brighter.
- ... **Volunteer**— Help distribute food and gifts for Project Share! To see a list of opportunities and sign up, visit hastingsfamilyservice.org.
- ... **Join the HFS Turkey Team**— Donate \$30 to cover the cost of a holiday meal!
- ... **Host a Gift Tree**— Have members, staff or customers purchase gifts to donate to HFS.
- ... **Donate Food & Gifts**— Choose from our list of most needed items on the website and bring it to the HFS Donation Center.

For more information on how you can help, visit hastingsfamilyservice.org.

Your support is deeply appreciated!

Volunteers Make it Happen: HFS Donation Center and Rivertown Treasures Thrift Store

Thanks to the generosity of the Hastings Community, the HFS Donation Center is a busy spot in downtown Hastings. Have you ever wondered what happens after clothing and household items are donated? Follow along below as our volunteers move a donated item through the Donation Center, warehouse, and Rivertown Treasures Thrift Store.



HFS volunteer Cress Gackle helps a donor bring their items into the Donation Center and checks the items into the warehouse sort area.

The Lifecycle of a Donated Item



HFS volunteers Helen Fasbender and Carol Schipp sort through donations to check condition and price items.



HFS volunteer Heidi Langenfeld hangs clothing in Rivertown Treasures Thrift Store where new inventory is added daily.



As a volunteer in the store, Karen Altpeter assists with customer purchases as well as clothing and household vouchers for neighbors.

Donations in December Limited to Project Share

Due to space needs for Project Share, Rivertown Treasures is unable to accept clothing and household donations during the month of December.

The Donation Center will be open to accept Project Share and food donations during December.

Clothing and household donations will resume on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

Thank you for your support!

Volunteers Needed

Hastings Family Service is seeking additional volunteers in the following areas:

Rivertown Treasures: Weekly and substitute shifts available every day Monday—Saturday. Our store volunteers keep the store stocked and looking great. They assist with customer purchases and clothing and household vouchers.

Donation Center: Saturday and substitute shifts are available. Our Donation Center volunteers greet guests, assist donors, and bring donations into the warehouse.

Just Friends: Volunteer drivers are needed to provide rides to medical and county appointments, or grocery shopping on an as-available basis.

Complete a volunteer application at www.hastingsfamilyservice.org or call 651-437-7134 for more information.

Guidelines for donating clothing and household items can be found at www.hastingsfamilyservice.org.

Holiday Fun with HFS

Join HFS at these family-friendly, fun events during the holidays to support Project Share and Hastings Family Service.

November 17: Give Thanks Concert



Enjoy songs of the season performed by Pete Likes and local musicians at Cornerstone Bible Church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 17. A free will offering to benefit Hastings Family Service will be taken.

December 7 and 8: Christmas on the Prairie



Hastings Arts Center hosts Mary Jane Alm, Aimée Lee, and Boyd Lee featuring Pat Donohue and members of A Prairie Home Companion's "Guy's All Star Shoe Band" in concert on Saturday, December 7 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 8 at 2 p.m. A portion of the proceeds will benefit HFS.

November 28: Gobble Gait



Get your Gobble on and race or walk in Gobble Gait on Thanksgiving morning. The 8K begins at 8:30 a.m. and the 3K begins immediately after the start of the 8K. For more information and to register, visit gobblegait.com. Make it your Thanksgiving tradition!

December 9: Holiday Train & Jamboree



Join HFS for the Holiday Train Jamboree at 6:00 pm at Branchline Church (518 2nd St. E). There will be games, snacks, holiday activities, a coloring contest, and more. After the Jamboree, cross the railroad tracks to enjoy the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train and free holiday concert at 8:00 pm. Please consider bringing a food and/or monetary donation for HFS. All are welcome!

November 30: Small Business Saturday



Stop in to Rivertown Treasures during the Downtown Hastings Holiday Hoopla for a special Small Business Saturday sale. Every time you shop Rivertown Treasures, you support HFS programs and services.

December 14: Santa on the Farm



Santa will be at Bremer Farms (7048 150th Street E.) from 5-7 p.m. Drive through the Christmas light display, get a photo with Santa and Mrs. Clause, and get a dairy treat! Santa will be collecting food and monetary donations for HFS.

December 1-10: 10 Days of Giving



A 10-day donation drive for HFS, collecting food and monetary gifts and culminating with the Holiday Train. This campaign includes the Hastings Middle School and Hastings High School coin drives and the elementary school food drives and coloring contest!

December 14: Skate with Santa



River Blades Skating School will perform at 6 p.m. at the Hastings Civic Arena followed by open skate and pictures with Santa from 7—8:15 p.m. with a suggested donation to HFS.

December 3: King's Place Toy Drive



Donate a toy for Project Share and receive a free hamburger meal! The toy drive runs from 11:00 am to close.

Watch our website and Facebook page for additional events during the holiday season.

11th Annual
give
 TO THE
MAX 
 NOV. 14, 2019

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

Please consider an online
 donation to HFS during
 Give to the Max Day!

Visit hastingsfamilyservice.org
 on November 14th or you can
SCHEDULE your Give to the Max
 day gift starting November 1st!

Your donation could help HFS
 win golden tickets of \$500 every
 15 minutes or \$1000 each hour
 throughout the day!

One random gift will be selected
 for a \$10,000 golden ticket at
 the conclusion of the event!

*Stay tuned on Facebook for fun
 updates throughout the day!*

Online donations
 will be **MATCHED** by
 generous HFS donors
 up to \$13,000!

MATCHING GIFTS in NOVEMBER/DECEMBER!



GIVE TO THE MAX DAY—NOV 14th
\$13,000 in MATCHING GIFTS from generous HFS donors!



DONATIONS from **NEW DONORS** who give on Give to
 the Max day or anytime before the end of the year will have
 their donation **MATCHED** up to a total of \$5,000 from the
 Katherine B Andersen fund of the St Paul Foundation!



Join the **FAMILY TABLE** monthly giving program
 Hastings Family Service will receive an additional \$200 grant for
 every new Family Table donor through the rest of the year. HFS
 needs 20 new Family Table monthly donors to join the program
 to meet the full \$4,000 available! Sign up for \$20/month and
 your first year is almost entirely **MATCHED!**



**Gifts that Keep on Giving:
 Two Ways to Make a Lasting Impact**

... Take your place at *The Family Table*, our monthly giving
 program at HFS. The need never goes away, so a recurring
 monthly donation provides help and hope all year long.
 There are several easy ways to set it up. Please go to
www.hastingsfamilyservice.org and click on *The Family
 Table* to learn more!

... Leave a legacy gift to HFS in your will or trust, or include
 HFS as a beneficiary on your IRA or life insurance policy.
 Planned giving doesn't have to be complicated and many
 of these options provide tax benefits. More importantly,
 the community that you care about is impacted by your
 generosity even after you are no longer here. To make a
 difference that will last a lifetime and beyond, please
 contact Amy at amysutton@hastingsfamilyservice.org
 or 651-437-7134.

A Season of Gratitude

Thank you to the many donors and partners in the Hastings community who make the mission of Hastings Family Service possible. Your support is deeply appreciated!



The City of Hastings collected over 200 pounds of food at "Movie in the Park" events throughout the summer and early fall.



The annual Community Halloween Party, sponsored by the City of Hastings, Hastings Community Education, and the Hastings Area Y, collected 1,070 pounds of food for the Market Food Shelf this year.



Several groups of local kids made a big difference this summer holding lemonade stands to benefit the School Supply Program.



Members of Branchline Church participated in "Church without Walls," cleaning the Market, Mini Market kids area, Rivertown Treasures Thrift Store, and landscaping.



The Hastings Public House hosted its first annual Monster Mash, bringing in \$370 and 131 pounds of food!



Affinity Plus grilled and served hot dogs at HFS as a part of their "Plus it Forward Day" in October.



Katie Jewel with Usborne Books provided HFS with Cuddle Bear books and plush toys. These books will be given to children accompanying their parents to appointments at HFS.



The Market Cart program brings grocery-quality produce to a local senior building each month. In August, Amanda Luther of Quiet Waters Ranch donated additional fresh garden produce grown on their farm with the help of their grandchildren.



St. Phillip's Church members helped with Market Cart distribution at Oak Ridge Manor.



Your donation of \$30 will cover the cost of a holiday meal and spread help and hope this holiday season!



Hastings Family Service

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Hastings, MN 55033

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GOBBLE GAIT

Thanksgiving Morning | Downtown Hastings, Minnesota

One of the largest Thanksgiving morning runs in the Twin Cities!
Benefiting Hastings Family Service

November 28, 2019



Get your Gobble on!

Gobble Gait is a 8k and 3k race/walk held Thanksgiving morning in support of Hastings Family Service. Raising over 1.2 million dollars since its inception, Gobble Gait impacts thousands in the area communities by helping HFS fulfill its mission!

PRESENTED BY:



THANKS to all who help organize, support and participate in this great Thanksgiving tradition!

Please join us for the 22nd annual Gobble Gait!
Race day registration begins 7am / 8k starts at 8:30am
For more information and to register, visit gobblegait.com