

So thankful for YOU

When COVID hit, Irene lost her job. Thanks to you, she and her three children are weathering the crisis.

A single mom with three young children, Irene was laid off from her job when COVID struck — another family hit hard by the pandemic.

Although she is a disciplined saver, the loss of income has really hurt her family. “I’ve always worked so hard, and I had my savings,” Irene says. “But it’s been really hard.”

She’s thankful they have a roof over their heads. But putting food on the table has been difficult.

Irene has been familiar with CityTeam for years. As a young girl, her mom would occasionally come to us for help. She and her brother used to receive backpacks with school supplies.

But that was a long time ago. Irene never dreamed that as a self-sufficient adult and mother, she’d ever need that kind of help again.

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“When COVID hit . . .” *Continued from page 1*

Then the pandemic hit.

“A lot of help”

When Irene lost her job, she didn’t know what she’d do. But thanks to you and other generous partners, Irene and her kids get food about every two weeks. “For me, that’s a lot of help, now that I’m not working and being a single mom,” she says.

Irene takes advantage of our mobile food pantry, which makes it easier for her family — and many others — to get the help they need. During the height of the pandemic, this was the best way for us to distribute food. And it continues to work well.

On busy days, Irene would often have to wait in a long line. At the height of the pandemic, she says, “The lines were huge.” But so was the help she received. “I have no idea what I would have done without the food,” she says.

“We get canned food and sometimes chicken, milk, eggs. The most important stuff. Now I’m able to cook for my kids and have fresh food every day on the table.”

Getting help AND giving help

Irene is more than a mom who needs help in hard times. She’s also a CityTeam volunteer herself,

working for other struggling families. She says, “I started going out when CityTeam distributes food. It’s such a blessing to go around and see how much help you give us in the community.”

Irene wants to always be thankful for what she and her family receive. Since she hasn’t been working, she chips in when we need help working in local neighborhoods. “I can’t pay CityTeam back in money, but I’m able to help in a different way.”

Appreciation for YOU and all you do

Today, Irene is grateful that she and her children are healthy in the wake of the pandemic, of course. But for her, it’s about more than that.

“I’m so blessed by CityTeam. Not just for what you give, but for how you are, the way you treat us. You make me feel like I’m part of a family, like I’m not alone. I want to say thank you so much for giving and helping the community. And God bless you.”

Your financial support strengthens our community because it provides for individual families that need help getting through hard times. On behalf of Irene and her family, thank you for your generosity!

Kids + YOU = Hope

No matter what school looks like this fall, kids will still need classroom supplies and support to succeed.

But the cost of providing backpacks and supplies is prohibitive for many parents who are already struggling to pay for food, gas for the car, medical bills, and more.

That’s why we’re asking you and other partners to help us provide kids with new backpacks stuffed full of school supplies.

That way, families can spend their hard-earned dollars on groceries, rent, and utilities.

Before we know it, kids will be heading back to the classroom. You can equip a child to do well in school. Having a new backpack can fill them with the confidence they’ll need for the new school year ahead!

A backpack full of classroom supplies can mean so much to the boy or girl who receives your gift.

— **Kids want what other kids have.** Having a new backpack with all the right stuff makes them feel better about themselves.

— **Self-confidence** encourages children to try harder. They do better in school.

— **Knowing their new backpack is a gift** from a friend who cares — given in Jesus’ name — demonstrates His care, and yours, in a special way they can understand.



URGENT * URGENT * URGENT * URGENT * URGENT * URGENT * URGENT * URGENT

Your monthly giving matters, especially this summer

One of the best ways you can help during this financially slow season is by giving monthly. Consider becoming a CityTeam Hope Partner. With each and every monthly gift, you’ll provide rescue, relief, and restoration! Just \$35 a month will provide a bag of groceries for households in need.

Summer is our most challenging season financially. Your gift will be a blessing!



Need won't be taking a vacation this summer



David Sundman

If summer 2021 is like most, CityTeam will face a big drop in giving.

You can see why . . .

As the pandemic improves, I expect more of our friends to be focused on family activities and vacations. I certainly understand that.

Still, I don't want to think about what our community would be like without the help and hope you can provide over the coming weeks. It's your generosity that will keep our doors open to people in need.

That's why I hope you'll consider sending a gift to provide a helping hand to a man, woman, or family up against the greatest challenge of their life.

Let's make it a summer of hope, full of meaningful help AND the promise of new life in Jesus for our neighbor who is working hard to ride out these tough days.

Thank you so much!

With gratitude,

Share your love with a neighbor in need

At CityTeam, this summer will be all about hope — how, by working together, we can provide individuals and families in crisis with the resources that will bring them hope.

Your gift today will deliver services proven to equip people in need to weather the storm, find lasting change, and, ultimately, experience new life in Jesus Christ.

Please stand with us in prayer (so powerful) and financially (so critical to this work). It all adds up to stability for our neighbors who are struggling . . . including the elderly and vulnerable women and children.

Here's one way you can help now: Every \$35 you send will provide a family with a bag of groceries to get households through the hard times.

Thank you!



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