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MUST Ministries is a faith-based 501(C) 3 organization serving 28,500 people in poverty each year. MUST provides food, housing, employment services and clothing to men, women and children. ©2018 MUST Ministries. All rights reserved.



A PATH OUT of POVERTY

You make your saving help my shield; your help has made me great. *You provide a broad path for my feet.*
II Samuel 22:36-37a



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Poverty isn't just the lack of money. It's the lack of adequate food, the lack of transportation, the lack of warm clothing, the lack of living wage jobs, the lack of housing and even the lack of choices.

In fact, one of the most difficult results of poverty is the lack of hope.

The very essence of MUST Ministries is to provide hope to the hopeless. While there are various paths to hope, MUST focuses on providing access to food, housing, employment and clothing... all provided because we want to transform lives.

Reaching out to almost 28,500 people in poverty a year is a daunting task, but our donors, volunteers, staff and community make it possible... and successful. About 84 percent of those seeking our help are women and children, a heart-breaking reality.

In this annual report, look down the path and learn the ways MUST extends a way out of poverty. And, as always, we hope you'll travel with us.

Rev. Dr. Ike Reighard
President and CEO



PATHWAY to FOOD

For some of us, it's difficult to imagine thousands of hungry people living in our communities. In our service area alone, 475,000 people are unable to acquire the food necessary to live healthy lives, but we provide innovative ways to serve food to more of our neighbors.

30

MUST food pantries distributed 604,588 lbs. of groceries to 14,142 clients, including 3,066 students and their families through the MUST Save It Forward school food pantry program

273,815

Lunches given to 7,193 children at MUST's Summer Lunch

74,641

Meals prepared and served in the Loaves and Fishes Community Kitchen

509

Thanksgiving boxes distributed to feed 1,722 in Cherokee County

190,556

Daily breads and sweets distributed



PATHWAY to HOUSING

Stable housing is a critical step to ending poverty. The journey to housing can be difficult and even confusing. MUST provides a compassionate team and structured programs to smooth the path and offer comprehensive options to help those in need find a place to call home.

84,224

Safe nights of rest throughout the program

844

Served in Elizabeth Inn Shelter program

296

Served in diverse housing programs helping those who are permanently disabled, veterans, single mothers and people in need of brief housing support to assist in moving to stability

Cold weather shelter housed women and children in frigid weather

Warming center for daytime use kept hundreds out of the cold



PATHWAY to EMPLOYMENT

Reliable work for the unemployed and under-employed is the key to financial stability. MUST helps those struggling to earn a livable wage by providing a comprehensive employment program, including coaching and training. We are transforming lives through jobs.

402

People found employment through MUST, amounting to \$6.4 million in earnings returned to the local economy

ServSafe certification provided access to careers in the food industry

Forklift certification training provided career opportunities to individuals in the warehouse industry

Steel-toed boots, slip-resistant shoes and other work-ready apparel enabled our clients to meet minimum safety standards and be prepared for new jobs

Average starting wage for individuals who find employment through MUST Ministries is now 40 percent above minimum wage



PATHWAY to CLOTHING

This year, MUST made access to clothing more available through our clothing centers, mobile outreach projects and MUST Marketplace –our well-stocked thrift store open to clients and the public. Thousands of hygiene kits and diapers also bring help to those in need.

202,831

Items of clothing were given to 11,126 individuals

4,206

Children age 0-18 received new underwear, socks, hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, school supplies and toys at the MUST Toy Shops at Christmas

Mobile clothing centers at schools and events helped MUST distribute coats and other items

7,285

Hygiene kits were distributed

837

Clients received diapers for their children