



You Delivered Birthdays, Meals, and Happiness page 2

You saved Kathleen from Hunger, Forever page 3


Secret Pals are a Lifeline page 3

Kristin's Mailbag:: Thank You Messages page 4

Your Tremendous Impact page 4

# Yours in Love and Service

Fall 2024

The Newsletter for Supporters of Humanitarian Service Project 

## Every Day You are Taking Away the Pain of Hunger by Feeding Seniors, Children, and their Families

*See how your generosity has eased the burden for those struggling to make ends meet*

This year continues to present serious hardships for working families and seniors on fixed incomes. Between the high cost of housing, gas prices and increased cost of food at the grocery store it is impossible for those struggling in poverty to purchase enough food to eat.

Every day, parents and seniors come to the center for food and essentials such as toothpaste. They do not need an appointment which removes the barriers that can make it difficult for working parents to receive the help they need.

**With 30% more family visits and over 23,850 more meals being distributed this year compared to one year ago, the huge need for food persists.**

We were thankful to receive a grant from the DuPage Community Transformation Partnership to purchase a new electric van. Having a second van has enabled us to expand our capacity to pick up more food at grocery stores, while continuing to make weekly pickups at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Food and fresh produce continues to be purchased weekly along with grocery recovery.

Your support made it possible to expand the Children's Project and 105 more children are enrolled in the program than a year ago. In our strategic planning, our path



Thank you for providing nutritious meals to seniors, children, and families.

forward was to expand the program to serve this number of children in two years, but people need help now. Enrollment makes it possible for families to have weekly access to nutritious meals, birthday boxes and school supplies for their children.

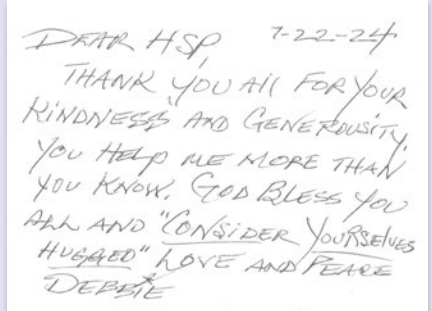
The number of seniors on our active waiting list continues to rise. While these treasured seniors are waiting to be enrolled in the Senior Citizen Project they receive a small gift card each month. They, along with those enrolled in the Senior Citizen Project, can also come to the center for nutritious food every week.

Seniors like 73-year-old Jackie who has lost all her family, including her beloved son comes every week without fail. Jackie picks up fresh produce and groceries that fit her very specific dietary needs. Jackie wrote in her thank you card, "I want to thank you for everything you do, and for being so nice and caring and

*Continued on page 2* 

## Debbie Sends Hugs Your Way

Debbie is thankful to be a part of the Senior Citizen Project. Living on an income of \$938 it isn't easy to get by. At the age of 73 she has faced many medical issues, surviving heart attacks and multiple surgeries. She shared with Dean, the Senior Citizen Project Coordinator, that "I am happy to be alive." She raised her three younger sisters and never had children of her own, but she doesn't feel lonely. Debbie loves to talk with the staff and writes cards to express her thanks. The grocery gift card is a huge relief and gives Debbie the opportunity to select the groceries she needs yet can't afford on her own.



# Birthday Parties, Homemade Meals, and Happiness

*Thank You for making smiles possible.*



Children deserve to be celebrated. Thanks to your amazing support you made fantastic birthdays possible with gifts, and everything to have a party. Kiddos have new toys and books to call their own while they make a cake, blow out candles and have an amazing party with their family.

**910 children receive birthday boxes this year!**

**105 more children than 2023.**



You make it possible for seniors to receive fresh produce and nutritious groceries delivered to their home or a grocery gift card to the store of their choice. Seniors love that they are also able pick-up food and essentials at the HSP center every week or send someone to do it for them.

**216 seniors in your community served monthly!**

**35 more seniors served than in 2023.**



Your incredible generosity ensured that children had the school supplies they needed to start their new year off right. Children like Richard who after receiving his new Mickey Mouse backpack, held it and shouted, "this is what I've always wanted!" You certainly brought so much joy to children, and their parents.

**1,186 School Supply Packages Distributed.**

**A 12% increase from last year.**

## *Continued from Cover*

friendly. I couldn't do it without you, I can't make it on my own. Thank you for all that you do and God bless you all."

You are the reason this service is possible. Your steadfast support ensures children and seniors have meals to eat and the necessary essentials for daily living.

With a very small staff it would be impossible to help those in need without our loyal volunteers. We are thankful for the devoted people that come every day to put together bags of fresh produce, non-perishables, and bread. They serve the families when they come to the center, pick up food in the community; and make deliveries to those without transportation. Their hard work and dedication ensures families and the elderly have what they need to make it through another day.

Without you, we wouldn't be able to meet the needs of struggling grandparents, like Lisa.

**So Far This Year  
You have Provided:**

**1,757**

**Grocery Gift Cards to seniors**

**88,155**

**Meals to seniors,  
children & families**

With her five grandchildren facing crisis the judge granted Lisa immediate custody. Already living on a fixed income, Lisa now must provide for five children. She applied for help through the Children's Project and the first time Lisa came

to the center she was overwhelmed with everything she received.

Lisa was very emotional when Jennifer, the Children's Project Coordinator gave her school supplies, art sets and stuffed animals for the 3, 11, and 12-year-old children to sleep with. Since enrollment, there has not been a week that has gone by that Lisa has not come for produce, groceries, and essentials.

It is through your generosity that you ease the pain and reduce the fear of those suffering. Your compassion makes it possible for the elderly, children, and their families to have a safe place to come to where they will be heard, cared for, and have their immediate needs met.

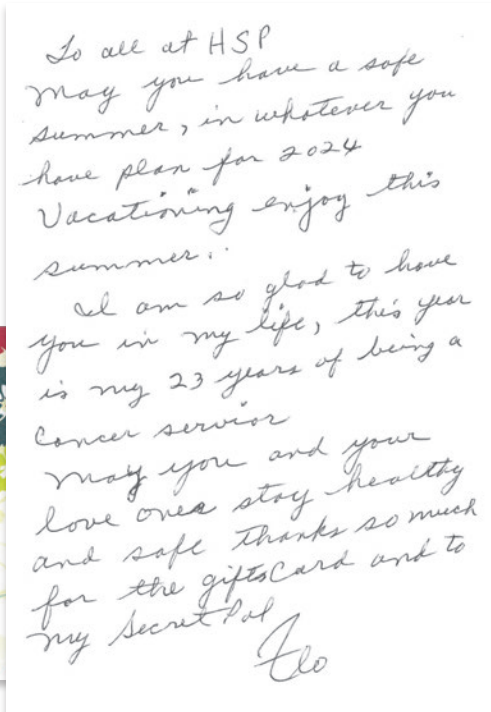




## Secret Pals are a Lifeline

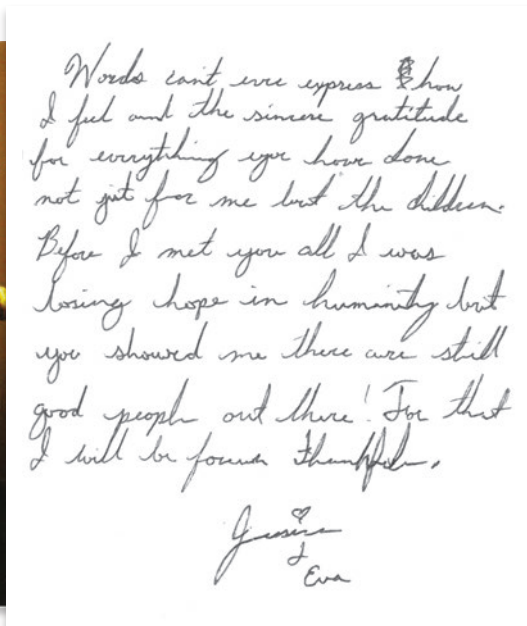
Born in 1937, Verlene turned 87 this year. She is losing her eyesight, but is still very upbeat. During a recent check-in call with Dean they talked about her health and how she was doing. Before they ended the call, Verlene said she wanted to take a minute to say “thank you to HSP and my Secret Pal. To eat like I need to is very expensive. If it weren’t for HSP and my Secret Pal, I could not afford to eat all month.”

Secret Pals bring happiness and comfort to their seniors through their incredible generosity, and loving support.



## Jessica and Eva Are Thankful For You

As a single mother, Jessica doesn't have it easy. With her 8-year-old daughter Eva to care for and all the bills resting on her shoulders, every month is a struggle to buy enough food to eat. Jessica watches her gas carefully and plans her trips to HSP so she can pick up fresh produce, groceries and essentials such as soap. Over the summer Jessica was overjoyed to pick up bubbles, hula-hoops and outdoor toys for the children in her apartment complex to play with because they had no toys and had been playing in dirt. Jessica expresses it best when she says, “Before I met you all I was losing hope in humanity but you showed me there are still good people out there!”

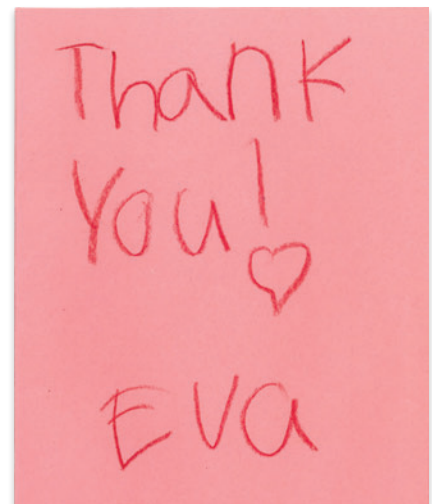


## You Saved Kathleen from Hunger, Forever!

Your commitment to provide for seniors suffering from hunger made it possible for 73-year-old Kathleen to move off the waiting list and be enrolled into the Senior Citizen Project (SCP) through your support of the Senior Endowment. You gave, ensuring Kathleen never has to suffer again, worrying about where her next meal will come from.

It was hard enough coping with a breast cancer diagnosis and mastectomy, but then Kathleen's stress increased with the medical bills after her surgery. Kathleen was already struggling on a limited income after paying rent and other bills. Her only option was to visit food pantries so she would have enough food to eat.

Thanks to your loving support, when Dean called Kathleen to share the great news about enrollment, she was very excited. Kathleen asked for a grocery gift card, and she can't wait to email her grocery list to Dean so her friend can take her to HSP to pick up food and meet everyone. You made it possible for Kathleen to wake up every morning knowing that she will have enough to eat, for the rest of her life.



## Kristin's Magical Mailbag

### Thank You notes from those you have helped



When you give, seniors and families respond with words of thanks through beautiful thank you cards and conversations. It is a blessing to share their thankfulness with you.

*"Your generosity and my secret-pal have kept me afloat. Thank you and God Bless You!"*

—Mary Jo

*"Thank you so much for the gift card.*

*It is really such a help buying groceries. Thank You for the good work you are doing."* —Edith

*"Thank you for all you do for others and myself. You are wonderful to us all and a great gift. Sorry I haven't written more often but you are always in my heart. Thank You, P.S. Many thanks from Sophie my cat. It was very nice that you remember her."* —Sue

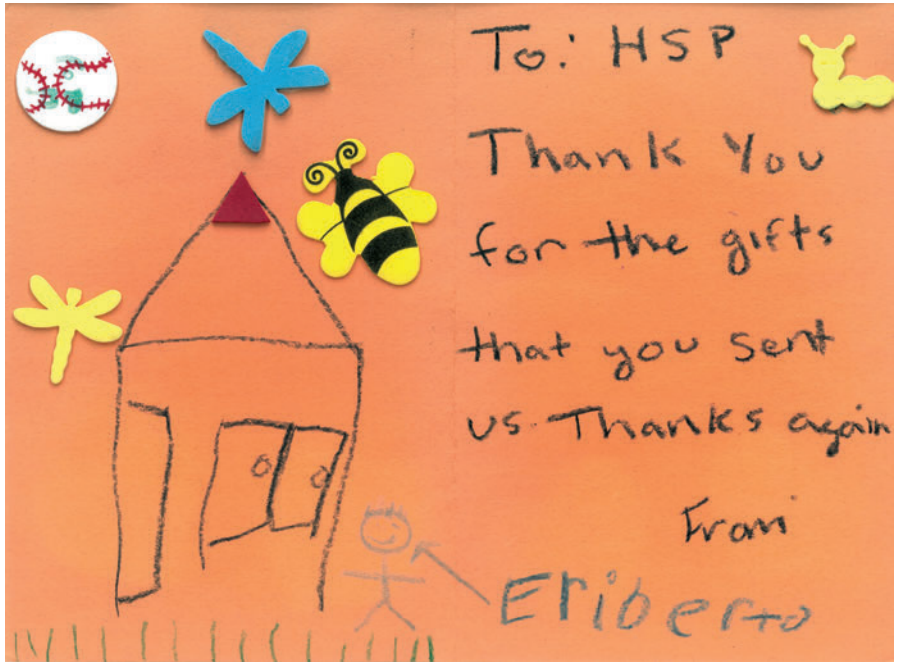
*"Thank you Humanitarian for all your kindness and love. Thanks for the birthday greeting and yearly eye treatment."* —Shenny

*"Thank you all for the help you give to old people in need. May God Bless you all with love – health & strength. With a lot of thank from your friend."* —Miquela

*"Thank you very much for the February Jewel gift card. As always I'm most appreciative with prices going higher at store's it's becoming a challenge to shop. Your gift makes it so much better for us. Love & Blessings"* —JoAnn

## Birthday Thanks from a Family!

Every day, moms and dads come to the center to pick up the most amazing birthday boxes for their children. Eriberto made the cutest drawing to thank you for the toys he received to celebrate his special day!



## Your Tremendous Impact!

Our HSP family is the best family. We are overwhelmed by all our loving friends in the community who donated food, personal care items, paper products, gift cards, school supplies, party in a bag, toys, books, and monetary gifts to provide for children and the elderly. Every day you are showing up and making a positive difference in the lives of those that are struggling to afford life's basic necessities. You make it possible for children to celebrate their birthdays, and for the magic of the season to be enjoyed by seniors and kids while they open gifts on Christmas day. You continue to feed those that are hungry, provide educational supplies, and essentials like toilet paper; all while reducing the stress and brightening the lives of seniors, children, and their families.

