

Match Days are here!

May 2022

Dear Friends,

In nearly forty years of operating the Victory food pantry we have never seen this before.

What is the Problem?

Over the past few months, Victory's primary food supplier since 1983 began to experience major food supply issues. Shortages caused by delays with the food supply chain and the rising cost of fuel, etc., left our foodbank unable to continue as Victory's main source of dozens of regularly purchased items we have come to depend on for the hungry families we serve. To further complicate the situation, much of what is currently available has gone from a few pennies per pound (we buy thousands of pounds a week) to nearly retail prices. Additionally, we are finding that many items we need to purchase are just not available at any price.

What is our Response?

We understand the needs of our neighbors and they are on the rise. Inflation has created serious increases in groceries (up 10%) and gasoline (up 48%) with skyrocketing rents rising at the fastest pace in decades (*source NBC news*). Now on top of all of this, there's food insecurity.

For the first time in Victory's history, we have had to develop relationships with wholesalers for food purchases. To get everything that we need for our food pantry, we are now paying the extra costs and buying wholesale produce, poultry, and other shelf-stable food. This will be thousands of dollars we did not expect to be spending when this year began. We did not see this coming, but we are determined to respond in a way that keeps the Center of Hope on the front lines providing critical food and sharing hope – it's what we do best. We pledge to remain true to our vision and to God's call to provide hope and resources to help our neighbors in need find freedom from all forms of poverty.

Poverty and food insecurity are going to rise even more than we've already seen which underscores why this year's Match Days opportunity is more important than ever.

What is Match Days?

An opportunity to support the Center of Hope and the neighbors that need our help at a time when the overall needs in our city continue to grow, and to have your gift **Matched (doubled)**! The Match Days Pool of **\$75,000** has been made possible due to the vision and generosity of several ministry partners. Today we are humbled to offer such an amazing chance for all of us to leverage our giving dollars to help those who are in need.

Please join us and become a Hope Rebuilder!

A lack of food is one thing (and we take food insecurity very seriously), but a lack of hope only paves the way for situations surrounding poverty to become much worse. Left unchecked these problems begin to look insurmountable. Working together, we are turning that around. Many new families are struggling and if we prepare now, we will be ready and waiting for these precious individuals when they arrive needing help. **We never turn anyone away.**

Here's how Match Days works...

The Match Days Pool is \$75,000! **Every gift given in the month of May will be matched dollar for dollar up to the Match Days Pool amount of \$75,000!!** Uncertainty looms big for those who have lost their jobs and don't know where to turn. With your help, they can turn to the Center of Hope! *Let's let our lights shine for Christ during this time like never before!*

It is our earnest prayer that the entire \$75,000 will be Matched.

Here's how to make a Match donation:

Mail in your donation to our address below.
All gifts postmarked by May 31, 2022 are eligible for the Match.

You can also make a secure online donation using your credit card or checking account by visiting <https://www.victorycoh.org/donate>.

To donate a stock or other financial product, please email lloyd@victorycoh.org.
Thank you ahead of time for considering a gift for this amazing opportunity!

Your urban missionaries,

Lloyd and Janice

“Speak up for the people who have no voice, for the rights of all the down-and-outers. Speak out for justice! Stand up for the poor and destitute!” Proverbs 31:8-9 MSG

