

Reflection on Hope for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Crossroads Food Pantry. May 3,2015

Hope....Meriam-Webster defines it as “a desire accompanied by expectation of fulfillment”. Dictionary.com says “the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best”. Hope was written by several clients as a response to the question what does the Pantry do for them. The work we do for the Food Pantry gives people in our community Hope. They come in need of food to help them make it through the next day, week or month. When we first opened we started with 15 families and grew to serving over one hundred families each time. Many asked did they need to meet any financial requirements. We said no. Their faces lit up with a smile and a sense of relief. Their Hope of going home that night with food was fulfilled. In fact the only requirement we basically have is that they walk through our door and ask for help. The Bible says “Ask and you shall receive.” We do not pass judgement on them. Some may be in total despair not knowing where their next meal is coming from or they may be in a suit and drive a nice car asking for a helping hand to stretch their paycheck so they can pay their rent or mortgage and not lose their home. Hope gives them reason to carry on. Most of them are the “regulars” and are now our Food Pantry family. Many express their thankfulness each time they come for us being here. It really makes a difference for them. Imagine what it must have been like for them before we existed. However we do Hope that someday we stop seeing them because they have gotten a job or their situation has improved to the point of not needing us.

There is another side to Hope though. Hope as a Christian. As a Christian I was raised to love God with all your heart, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. To help others whenever you can. I have been very blessed during my life but falling on hard times can happen to anyone at anytime. The families that we serve are part of our community. They are our neighbors and we need to help them. It is God’s will. My Hope as a Christian is that we can fulfill God’s will because ...God is Good.....All the Time.

Thank you, Carol Kelleher