

## **Thank You Canton First UMC from MUST Ministries**

MUST Ministries is so appreciative of the long-standing partnership with Canton First UMC to reach out and serve our neighbors in need.

Whether it be collecting toys for the Christmas Toy Shop, participating in food drives to support the food pantry, being a distribution site for the Summer Lunch Program, working together to assist those in need of financial assistance or housing, or through regular monthly financial support, Canton First UMC has been the hands and feet of Christ through supporting the mission of MUST.

We are gratified that the church has reached out in a new way to provide the Fresh Hope Fund for those who have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

MUST has seen a 266% increase in inquiries regarding shelter and financial assistance in the last 3 months and a 242% increase since March-May 2019 in the number of people being served in our Motel Voucher Program. MUST as a whole served over 33,000 people in all of 2019 through all of our regular services, those of which include food, clothing, shelter, employment assistance, and financial assistance.

In just the last 13 weeks, MUST has served over 50,000 people with food alone. The food pantry at our Cherokee Program Services Center averaged about 3-4 tons of food distributed per month from January-March of this year, but last month alone (May 2020), there was over 26 tons of food distributed.

Therefore, God's timing could not be more perfect for the church to partner with MUST to meet this increased need. For needs specifically related to Covid-19 and beyond the scope of the Ed Towers Community Fund, clients can be referred to MUST and the Case Manager will have the flexibility to use the funding to address expenses the client has incurred due to Covid-19 in order to help them regain or gain some measure of stability.

We pray that through this partnership God will indeed provide fresh hope to those who are served and that they will know the presence of the Author of Hope.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kendall Jones  
MUST Community Liaison- Cherokee