



December 1, 2008

Dear Justice and Peace Office Friend,

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness." And so begins – "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens.

As 2008 comes to a close, I think of this famous first line often. Only eternal optimists will think of this dynamic as how things are today – both good and bad. As the new CEO of **The Justice and Peace Office** since September, I am - like you - an optimist. We could not do what we do – if we were not!

As the news of the day seems to get ever more challenging, I reflect that I have never been homeless or had no idea where my next meal was coming from. **Yet, some of the 97 students we feed Monday through Thursday after school tell us this is their dinner.** The students are grateful when they pray before the food we serve them . . . in between doing homework and much more. It has all been because of you.

The Justice and Peace Office looks upon 2008 with a deep sense of gratitude and satisfaction. There is also a renewed sense of determination and hope to continue to fulfill our mission with your help --- even in these challenging best and worst of economic times.

This letter brings hope ~ but we need You! JPO has been given a huge opportunity in the form of a matching grant from The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation. Please see the details below . . .

Donation! We have an incredible money matching opportunity with the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation. The Foundation will match every new dollar that we raise up to \$48,000.

How can you help?

New Donor: Your entire gift will be matched!

Current Donor: Donations above your current yearly giving will be matched!

Long Lost Donor: If you haven't given a cash donation in the past two years, your entire gift will be matched

Thanks to Sr. Theresa McElwee and you, our supporters of 30 years or one year; our first 30 years of serving children and families in the Apopka area have been a huge success and beyond anyone's wildest dreams. Our bridge to the future is built on solid ground, and your support is as important today as in the past . . . even more so.

Unfortunately, because of the financial crisis, we have been impacted as philanthropic giving from individuals, foundations, civic groups, and corporations has become restricted, limited, decreased, and even eliminated. We urge you to please continue to give your best gifts that will provide our organization this assurance.

And with The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation matching grant of \$48,000 – our children have been thrown a life line!



Hope springs eternal in the human breast;
Man never Is, but always To be blest:
The soul, uneasy and confin'd from home,
Rests and expatiates in a life to come.

-Alexander Pope,
An Essay on Man, Epistle I, 1733

THANK YOU! We are grateful for the faithful support that you have shown to us and our families. We ask that you will support us again, so that we can sustain our programs with excellence. Now, more than ever, our community must fight to keep social service programs alive with financial support. We hope that you will join us! Thank you for investing in us and the community.

We wish you a healthy and joyous Holiday Season in whatever way you celebrate a New Year and new beginning.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and Happy New Year!
May you have many, many blessings and peace in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Monica Richter, Chief Executive Officer