

Dear Friend:

I hope this holiday season find you good and ready for the Christmas season. Even in a tough economy, Christmas is a time for warmth and sharing and I hope for you and your families there are warm memories and fun times made.

Right now I am looking for your help in making a few people's Christmas seasons brighter including my own.

Back in September, I traveled to Santa Monica, California on a business trip. During my time there though I met a friend and explained what I do here in Nashville with the inner city outreach and they mentioned there is a real need in Santa Monica.

I got home and reached out to the Santa Monica Mayor and City Council as well as a few others. I did some research as well as flew out in October, visiting City Hall & doing some more checking.



I returned again in November. Short on funds having just lost a major client, I liquidated some assets & sold some personal belongings - computer monitors, every episode of Star Trek on DVD, and a slew of other assets in order to fund the hotel room & food for 10 days - and set off to Santa Monica - spending this 10 day "vacation" at, among other places, the Ocean Park Community Access Center Homeless Shelter - and on Thanksgiving - a 9 hr shift - at Santa Monica Civic Auditorium where meals were served for the homeless.

About OPCC: Each year, OPCC and its projects serve 8,000 individuals.  
98% live below poverty level  
85% are homeless  
50% are mentally ill  
44% are minorities



At the Ocean Park Community Center, (OPCC) the homeless come in to receive medical services, their mail, job services, food, shelter, referrals, and much more. It is a very busy place. I enjoyed serving there in November and learned a lot. But there is so much more I can learn and so many more I can serve by returning.

I dialogued with the Ocean Park Community Access Center about me returning in December and helping out over a 3-week time period. They eagerly accepted and here I am today asking for your help. I am asking you if you can join me by donating \$50, \$75, \$100, or \$250 towards this effort. I need to raise \$959 by 12/15 to make this possible, flying out 12/16. The ticket is already purchased and paid for by me. Would you be willing to help? The total trip cost will be \$1200 but I believe I am down to \$959 to raise plus meal money. I am working on other ways to raise meal money. This money will be for lodging that is in Marina Del Rey, 25 minutes from Santa Monica, and bus fare each day on public transport and other miscellaneous costs. I will not be renting a car so I can keep costs down.

The trip dates are 12/16/10-1/6/10 so I am giving up time with my friends and family over Christmas and New Years to stay in a city where I have neither friends nor family but I believe being there for the people in need in Santa Monica is what I am called to do over this Christmas season. Will you help me?

Richard Bloom, a City Council Member, wrote me saying, "Los Angeles County has unfortunate distinction of having the highest number of homeless individuals in the country: about 75,000 or over 10% of the nation's total homeless population. It has been a priority issue for me for many years now." - It will be a priority of mine over this holiday season too. Can it be a priority of *ours*? By supporting me it's like you are there too, working along side of me, helping make the holidays brighter for those Council Member Bloom is speaking of.

Because this is a trip I am electing to do, I am not running it through the Edge this time. Donations will not be tax deductible as usual but instead I am asking it as a Christmas gift - not only for me but for those I will be serving. Most Christmas gifts to folks aren't tax deductible anyway, so I'm really just asking you if you will give a gift to me and people in need. I had planned to sell more personal belongings but I ran out of time while serving another non profit full time last week - I am 1 week away from needing \$959.

Checks can be made payable to : *Ron Hall* and sent to Ron Hall / 1048 W. Greenwood Avenue / Nashville, TN 37206 but need to be sent fast since I will be flying out 12/16 (priority mail or other means) or I can pick up if you call me in Nashville at 646 226 4073. You can also go online at <http://www.ronhall.net> to give online via credit card or paypal.

Please consider joining me financially this Christmas with a gift of support. Together we can make a difference for those in need.

Best,

Ron Hall