Financial Status – Spring, 2021

At this time last year, we were in the early stages of, and confusion surrounding, the COVID-19 crisis. We concluded in our Spring 2020 report to the Red Bird Missionary Conference with the following words: **"We are not discouraged! God continues to go before and open doors for us, and we are incredibly thankful for His ever-faithful provision, and for His people the church, our partners in ministry!"**

These proved to be prophetic words. This past year has been a demonstration of display-after-display of God's grace, His provision, and His unique ability to transform hearts and lives.

Let's begin with grace. We found it both necessary, and protective, to temporarily furlough nearly 60% of our permanent staff as a means to prevent the Settlement from becoming a transmission point for COVID within our community. The response we received from our staff was heartwarming, in their caring for one-another. In some cases, one individual accepted furlough so that a co-worker with greater need for sustained employment could continue to work. And also, in their servant hearts, staff members on furlough have returned tirelessly to volunteer in areas different than their primary area of responsibility, filling part of the void created by the lack of community and Work Camp volunteers on campus. Our staff faced their personal fear of an unknown future with the question, "What can I do to help?"

Let's next celebrate God's mighty provision. Blackbaud, the company that hosts our Donor Relationship Management platform, reports that across their base of 8,800 non-profit organizations, 2020 donations surprisingly increased during the COVID crisis of 2020 by 2%. For smaller non-profits similar to the Settlement, however, the results reflected a decrease of 17%. Our donations actually trended upward 43% above our most recent 4-year average, despite an 89% decrease in Work Camp participation rates during 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19 mitigation policies. In addition, financial donations arrived just in time that enabled our Food Pantry to triple the output of food into the community which was a blessing for families who had school-age children no longer receiving school meals. These donations also allowed us to rapidly convert our Library into a tutor-assisted computer lab that could close the gap on remote-learning for our community children without access to the internet and without resources capable of navigating the online learning environment. There are so many stories we can share of God's perfect timing and mighty provision through our faithful Henderson Settlement family of supporters throughout this year of tremendous challenge.

We continue to face challenges as we ramp our operations back up, but we are in the position to do so! This remains an inspiring testament to God's provision through your generosity and concern for His people. We can't wait to see you again in-person on our campus, and we extend an open invitation to whomever might be able to visit with us for the first time. We would cherish the opportunity to again say thank you face-to-face!

James L. Knight

Executive Director

Henderson Settlement

