

Dear Friends in Christ,

A couple of months ago, we appealed to you for support for the HELP Program's transportation initiative. (The attached brochure thoroughly describes this program.) The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Social Action Office has partnered with HELP for a number of years to minister to the imprisoned when they are released to overcome the numerous barriers to restoring a productive life for themselves and their families.

The mission of the HELP Program is to inspire hope for people who have been convicted of a felony. Our caring, faith-based community of support provides mentoring and resources to find and sustain employment. This allows members to become financially stable and contribute in a meaningful way to society.

Today, we want to update you on and celebrate the progress of that campaign, which had two goals:

- To purchase a replacement van to take returning citizens to and from work
- To build a fund to assist returning citizens getting their own vehicles and enable self-sufficiency.

Because of your generosity a significant part of the goal has been met. Enough money was raised from grants and numerous donations to purchase a van! Today the 60 - 75 people a day who ride the HELP van to and from their jobs are ensured a reliable ride as they advance their careers. Particular thanks goes out to the parishioners at IHM in Anderson, Good Shepard in Loveland, Saint Rose in Cincinnati, and St Francis DeSales in Walnut Hills (home of the program offices).

Meanwhile, we continue to work on meeting the second part of the goal to assist in license restoration and vehicle acquisition. If you are able to contribute, your help will be greatly appreciated, and you will change lives. Beyond financial support there are other ways you can partner with and benefit this mission. Old but usable cars are always needed, and mentors are needed to "walk with" returning citizens and guide their journey. If you would like to learn more about the challenges of our criminal justice system and hear the stories of people who have been caught up in it, we can provide speakers. Contact information is in the brochure.

Donations may be sent to:

HELP Program
C/O St Francis DeSales Parish
1600 Madison Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206-1815

Or online at: [Donate – Help Program \(helpprogramcincinnati.net\)](https://helpprogramcincinnati.net)

Thank you very much, and God Bless you for your assistance in this initiative.

Andrew Musgrave
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Social Action Office

Bob Miller
HELP Program
Board President

