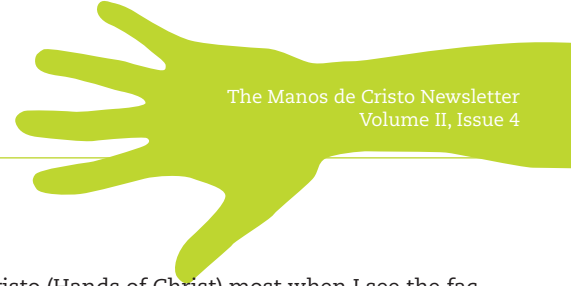




# LOVING HANDS



The Manos de Cristo Newsletter  
Volume II, Issue 4

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Dear Friends,

Greetings to you during this holiday season! At Manos de Cristo, we are aware that the holidays can be full of special moments with friends and family but can also be times of great sadness or stress for those facing difficult financial situations or who mourn the loss of loved ones. I pray that despite our various experiences and emotions surrounding the season, our shared hope in Jesus Christ the Savior can unite us and remind us to be the hands of Christ, offering love, peace, gentleness and warmth to one another and our community.

I am reminded of our identity as Manos de Cristo (Hands of Christ) most when I see the faces of our clients when I enter our Harmon building each morning. I see the homeless woman who is waiting for her opportunity to shop in the Clothes Closet and the young man whose head hangs as he waits for his groceries from the Food Pantry; recently unemployed he now seeks new ways to feed his family. All year round, people like these tug at our heartstrings and remind us why we come to work each day.

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## GIVE TO MANOS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

We are now offering many ways to donate to Manos! You can choose to donate once by check, credit card or direct debit. You can also give monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually by credit card or direct debit. Please fill out the appropriate section, cut out this portion and send it to *Manos de Cristo, 4911 Harmon Avenue, Austin, Texas 78751*. Thank you!

### PAYMENT BY CHECK

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

### CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

VISA  MASTERCARD  DISCOVER  
CREDIT CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
ONE-TIME AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or PAYMENT \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 MONTHLY  QUARTERLY  SEMI-ANNUALLY  ANNUALLY  
START DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT\*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_  
ROUTING # \_\_\_\_\_  
ONE-TIME AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or PAYMENT \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 MONTHLY  QUARTERLY  SEMI-ANNUALLY  ANNUALLY  
START DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\*PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION AND/OR INCLUDE A VOIDED CHECK

At Manos we help people on their road to self-sufficiency. When we hear from past clients who have made that transition, we are thrilled and encouraged. When we hear of their challenges, we are prompted to persevere in our work. Allow me to share with you one client's story.

As a proud mother of ten, Nicole emailed recently and described to me each of her children and their growth and interests this past year. A previous attendee at Back-to-School, this year her family did not need to come this year because her husband graduated from college, got a job, and was able to provide school supplies and clothing for all of his children.

In late August, we received news that Nicole's three-year-old daughter was diagnosed with cancer. A world that was finally working was turned upside down. Spending several days a week in the hospital for a child's treatments is not easy for anyone, but having nine other children at home to care for has proven to be quite a challenge. Yet we hold fast to the promise: *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope* (Jeremiah 29:11). We ask you to specifically to lift Nicole's family up in your prayers this holiday season, along with all the clients of Manos de Cristo.

In the season when families gather around tables filled with their favorite foods, we hope that you will remember Manos de Cristo and our clients in your gift giving. Difficult economic times affect us all, but, unfortunately, it is often the poorest who are hit hardest. We humbly request your support and assure you it will be put to careful and significant use. Your gift today will last long after the decorations have been packed away, and it will remind our clients that they have not been forgotten, but that God cares for them and wants to provide for them.

We deeply appreciate your generous support. May your home be filled with great joy and peace this season, and *may you know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God* (Ephesians 3:19).

With gratitude and love, and on behalf of all who are  
Manos de Cristo,

Julie Ballesteros, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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