

## “Time Out From Money Making! How About Giving Away a Little?”

We've always stressed in our seminars that it's better to be a “go-giver” than just a “go-getter”.

As an apartment owner, you automatically are giving more to society than 90% of our population just by the mere fact that you supply housing for those who can't (or won't) supply their own home.

I've also been a small supporter of a very dynamic organization called Children's Hunger Fund. If we are going to help someone in need, why not focus on kids? They are our future!

I received a letter the other day from the President of this Organization, Dave Phillips. I thought I should share it with you just in case you might be looking for a worthy cause to support!

As you know, AOA already collects food and toys at our trade shows for the Union Rescue Mission and a great big THANKS to you if you have supported those projects.

### ***The following is Dave's letter:***

“With each passing week, the economic news in this country seems to remain the same or only get worse. In today's economy, the challenges seem overwhelming. **Downsizing. Lay-offs. Foreclosures.** These are words that are becoming all too personal for each one of us. We all know someone, perhaps someone very close to us, who has been victimized recently by our current economic situation. Every month, more and more families across America are joining the ranks of the poor and unemployed. As tragic as it is for someone's situation to go from good to bad, it is even more painful to witness a young family's circumstance go from bad to worse! Sadly, this is the reality for countless children and their families in communities all across our land.

Most of you know that recently we began a food distribution program in the Coachella Valley. We chose this particular region of Southern California because of the staggering level of poverty among its resident population. The poverty rate among those living in the communities we are targeting to help exceeds 90%!

Let me tell you a little bit about one such community. In a sprawling shantytown between the Salton Sea and a toxic dumpsite, children play barefoot on dirt roads, running beside leaking sewer lines and piles of rotting garbage thick with flies. Beneath their feet is broken glass. Their toys consist of rusting machinery, loose wire, and discarded bottles and cans. When the wind kicks up, they breathe dust and ash from the adjacent dump that contains high levels of cancer-causing dioxins. In the past two years, more than 4,000 people have relocated to this region as a last resort. These families are mostly farm workers who live in hundreds of dilapidated trailers, many of them missing windows and siding. A young mother gives us a glimpse of what life is like here for her and her seven children. “It's terrible living here. Sometimes the trailer fills up with smoke from the landfill. Other times the sewer ponds smell so bad I can't stand it.” Electrical fires, food shortages, and sewage flows are everyday problems. An investigator from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was left with the same impression. “When I went out there to take samples, I was stunned. I looked around and thought, wow, places like this actually exist in America?”

The conditions in this community post insurmountable challenges for the children and families living there. However, we view it as an overwhelming opportunity to bring hope to a region that has previously only known suffering and despair. Just last week, I met with a donor who is challenging us to expand our vision for the poor, not just in this isolated community, but in poor communities across America. We have been offered two brand new Freightliner refrigerated trucks worth \$305,000 at no cost to us. We can take possession of the trucks and begin delivering emergency food to America's poor in the next two weeks! This is an incredible opportunity for us to expand our scope to help the needy and their families.

However, we must first overcome our own seemingly insurmountable challenge. Our organization has not been immune to the ills of our economy. We are operating at a deficit of more than \$150,000 for the year. In addition, we have not budgeted nor do we have the reserves available to hire the additional drivers and warehouse personnel required in order to take full advantage of this generous truck offer. Simply stated, our challenge is this. We need to raise about \$250,000 in the next few weeks in order for us to maximize this opportunity. We know, in human terms, this financial hurdle seems overwhelming. But, with God, all things are possible. We also know that the timing of this offer is not a coincidence. The summer months are often the most difficult for families in need. As school comes to a close for the summer, so do the school lunch programs that many parents rely on to feed their children.

For those of you who know me well, you know that asking for financial help is something that I am not very comfortable with. However, I believe that this is an opportunity that we cannot let pass us by. Hunger in America is not a result of a shortage of food. It is a distribution issue. There is more than enough surplus food grown in California alone to feed all of America's poor! We simply need to get it from the source to the recipient family. Putting these trucks on the road to pick up and distribute food would meet so many needs among the poor and less fortunate. I appeal to you to consider helping us overcome this financial hurdle, so we can begin distributing much-needed food and other resources to thousands of additional poor families each month.

Your help is so desperately needed. Would you consider making a one-time gift that would enable us to put these trucks on the road to make an immediate impact on children in need? If you are unable to give right now, would you consider making a pledge of support that would be made available to Children's Hunger Fund before the end of the year? Knowing that the funds will be there when needed will allow us to proceed in good faith.

Our desire is to be in a position to accept both of these new trucks for our domestic food programs. Would you please take a moment to fill out the enclosed card and return it to us today? Your generosity is so appreciated! Thank you for your support!"

Appreciatively, Dave Phillips, President

To support this worthy, tax-deductible cause, send your checks to: Children's Hunger Fund, 12820 Pierce Street, Pacoima, CA 91331. For more information, call Traci Sheldon at (800)708-7589 or go to [www.childrenshungerfund.org](http://www.childrenshungerfund.org).