



Happy New Year Friends,

Wow, can you believe 2016 is almost passed! What a year it has been at CES.

Although we survived a stress-filled political year, our country remains deeply divided in many ways. During this time of the year, John 14:27 comes to mind, a message of hope from our Savior that we need now more than ever, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

2016 has been challenging, but a year filled with many blessings. During this past year, there have been successes as well as challenges. One of our great successes has been the incredible response we have seen from volunteers. In 2016, because of the efforts of the many volunteers who come to CES, we nearly doubled the number of those coming to CES year over year to help us meet the challenges of people in our community. This level of volunteer participation helps us multiply our resources to serve more people.

Financially, CES has been blessed with a strong giving base that helps to insure the stability and sustainability of our programs and services. Let me say thank you to all of you who, through your time, talent and treasure, have made this work possible and able to continue.

Recently, I read that most non-profit organizations receive in excess of thirty percent of their resources in the month of December. The same is true with CES. Most of the resources we receive now are critically important for us in order to deliver the badly needed services we provide, services that bring hope, lift people up and



provide dignity and stability for months to come. Even with our successes and our efforts, the need continues to grow. In all of our programs, we have seen increased requests, and we desire to meet those needs.

As you think of the gifts you will give and receive this season, please remember the poor of the inner city in your end of the year giving plans. All gifts received by year's end are tax deductible and can be included in your 2016 charitable giving.

The need is great and your gifts matter in helping those we serve "come hungry, but leave hopeful".

May God richly bless you and your family,



Mike Lloyd, Executive Director



Blessed New Year to you and your family

Be a financial partner with CES in a mission that feeds the body and soul with your gift:

- \$12 Pays for two seniors to get a hot, delivered Meals on Wheels meal
- \$50 Helps one African immigrant family receive a week's worth of groceries
- \$100 Provides 88 households with food for their cat or dog through Ani-Meals
- \$500 Pays for 125 families to receive fresh produce and bread weekly for a month
- \$1,000 Provides one day's worth of hot meals to our 150 North Minneapolis Meals on Wheels residents
- Or your gift of \$ _____

Use the enclosed envelope or go online to www.cesmn.org/donate