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**The Episcopal Charities Fund
of Rhode Island**

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
-Mark 12:31

February, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A few weeks ago, Episcopal Charities received a Facebook message from a young mom and dad who are homeless with six children. They had used up their funding with one agency and were waiting several days before another would be able to provide them with shelter. Most shelters are not set up to take in families of this size – and those that are typically have a long waiting list.

It was a stark illustration of how many folks are just a paycheck away from being without a home or food. Can you imagine your children or grandchildren going without a meal because there's no food? Or a place to sleep in safety? It happens more often than you might think. More than 10 percent of the households in Rhode Island lack access to enough affordable, nutritious food. Nearly 17 percent of children under the age of 18 in Rhode Island live in poverty. And almost 20 percent of our neighbors older than 65 live in poverty as well.

Episcopal Charities of Rhode Island has been known and respected for providing hope to neighbors through its support of local ministries and agencies for nearly 70 years. Today it is focused on the critical lack of basic human needs for children and elders who are at risk. With your help, Episcopal Charities can give grants to nonprofit agencies and ministries directly providing food, shelter and healthcare for our neighbors in need.

You can learn more in the accompanying fact sheet about the impact Episcopal Charities makes. Will you help us help people in need here in Rhode Island? Your gift will make a difference, and not only to those in need. Our donors tell us how good it feels to support to our neighbors in their time of need. Please help us continue to bring the way of Jesus – the way of love – to people in Rhode Island.

Blessings,

+Nicholas

The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely
Bishop, Diocese of Rhode Island