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**The Episcopal Charities Fund
of Rhode Island**

*"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."
1 John 3:18*

May 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I write this letter, we have entered the joy of Eastertide at a time when our world is being impacted by the invasion of Ukraine, mass shootings, and an on-going pandemic. Even so, I know there is much for which we are grateful.

All of us have been affected by the pandemic but we remain hopeful that the lifting of restrictions will continue and hold. As joyous as we may be to be navigating a time of 'new normal,' I pray that we find ourselves changed by the past two years in ways that increase our concern for our neighbors and our zeal for finding ways to improve the lives of all Rhode Islanders.

We know that there are those who have not weathered the pandemic as we have. Many have lost their jobs and cannot take care of their families. With increasing inflation, a minimum wage job no longer supports the needs of one individual let alone a family. Often without benefits, these families and seniors rely on food pantries and meal sites for their daily bread and count on free clinics for their healthcare.

What can we do? Last year, your donations to Episcopal Charities provided for the basic human needs of at-risk seniors and at-risk children through church-based feeding programs and nonprofit agencies who work with our churches in our local communities. In fact, these agencies and ministries serve more than 13,000 at-risk Rhode Islanders a month. You can read on the enclosed list about the grants we made last year on your behalf.

Will you join me and others throughout the Diocese to care for our neighbors by donating to Episcopal Charities?

In Christ's service,

+Nicholas

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