



Restoring Dignity
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***It is better to light a candle,
than to curse the darkness."
-Proverb***

2020 has been a candle lighting year for Restoring Dignity! When Covid-19 hit, we had to decide what we were going to do in response. As the initial days of the pandemic passed, we heard of new needs arising and decided to take action. ***Things we never imagined doing suddenly became our top priority.***

- Translating Covid-19 news into 14 languages? Yes!
- *Mailing thousands of cloth face masks? Of course!*
- Calling hundreds of families and making referrals for unemployment and food assistance? Absolutely.
- *Hosting three large diaper giveaways? Let's do it!*
- Expanding our donation center and changing to one-hour appointments? Whatever it takes.
- *Virtually teaching cleaning classes? For sure!*

Each "candle" that has been lit has led to another candle in need of a flame. As we usher in 2021, with all of its unknowns and uncertainties, the one thing we do know is that we will continue to light as many candles as it takes until this darkness has subsided.

Thank you for helping to keep the fire burning this year. Together we can continue to light the way forward.

Here are some highlights of 2020:

- We obtained full funding for our Cleaning Education Program and launched the official program, complete with pre and post test assessments, to study effectiveness. Classes were taught in EIGHT languages (with safety modifications due to Covid-19). Altogether, 1,663 adults and children were impacted through this program! We taught 542 classes, graduated 201 families, and distributed 5,226 cleaning supplies.
- Covid-19 relief was provided in a variety of ways: (1) We mailed 11,305 cloth masks to families that came here with refugee status (this was ONLY possible because our amazing supporters hand sewed and donated masks!), (2) 506 in-depth phone calls were made (connecting families to unemployment,

rental and food assistance) and (3) We hosted three large diaper giveaways that impacted 3,951 people.

- Covid-19 video updates were produced in 14 languages and disseminated via our Facebook page. 284 videos were made in total with 230,076 people viewing them!
- Home-makeovers were completed for two families who experienced substantial hardships in 2020.
- 70 window air conditioning units were given to 34 families who had no access to cool air during the summer.
- Before Covid-19 arrived in Omaha, we gave a housing advocacy presentation to high school students who were part of the Thrive Club.
- After Covid-19 arrived, we partnered with Family Housing Advisory Services and hosted an online housing advocacy training with housing attorneys Gary Fischer and Kate Mahern as the instructors. 124 individuals, representing agencies across Nebraska, attended this training.
- At the beginning of 2020, we installed shelving and completely organized our Community Donation Center! We closed the donation center until June, and then reopened again (with safety modifications). Starting in June 2020, 241 families visited our donation center, 1,290 total people were impacted and 144 donors kept the entire operation running by dropping off items!

At the heart of *Restoring Dignity* is our **belief** that something can and should be done to meet the needs of Omaha's refugee community through empowerment, education, and advocacy partnerships. We are committed more than ever to providing high quality education, advocacy, and support services through all of 2021 (and for years to come)!

Thank you, again, for your donation! It has made a very tangible difference in the lives of Omaha refugees.

We hope that you join us in making 2021 an incredible year!

Sincerely,



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