Dear Friend,

After it was founded in 1865, the Home for Destitute Children, a forerunner of today’s Howard Center, regularly requested donations of necessities for the children it served. Each year caring and generous community members came forward with gifts of food, clothing, books and other basics for the comfort and well-being of the children living at the home. I hope you will help continue this tradition today with a gift to those we serve.

The Howard Center community comes together each fall through the Help is Here Client Funds to help the people we serve meet their needs and brighten their seasonal celebrations. As Vermont continues to grow in diversity, so do the holidays and observances our clients embrace. No matter what their traditions and backgrounds may be, many of the people we serve have greater needs as the weather turns cold, making early winter the perfect time to provide extra help. Contributions to the Help is Here Client Funds assist our clients during winter when the need is greatest, and also all throughout the year—for their holiday of choice, basic needs, and enrichment activities.

Howard Center provides services to thousands of children, adults, and families each year. We know that progress in addressing mental health, substance use and developmental disabilities happens when basic needs have been met and when there are opportunities for personal enrichment. For this reason, we are asking for contributions that will directly support clients to buy food and other basics and to allow them to participate in cultural and educational activities that enrich their lives.

Donations may be made in the form of gift cards, by check, or on-line at www.howardcenter.org. Providing the people we serve with gift cards allows them to select and try on clothing and gives parents the dignity and gratification that comes from shopping for their children. We ask for gift cards in denominations of $25 to local retailers like Target, Walmart, Old Navy, and Kohl’s, or to grocers like Shaw’s, Hannaford, Price Chopper or City Market. If it’s more convenient, please consider a gift by check or a contribution on-line at www.howardcenter.org.

Please complete the attached form and return it today along with your gift card(s) or contribution. If possible, we hope you can send your gift by November 30 so we have it in time to meet the many requests we receive as winter begins.

Thank you for supporting the people we serve and for continuing the tradition of generosity that started in 1865.

With our best wishes and thanks,

Karen Prosciak
Senior Director of Donor Relations

PS: We’ve enclosed an extra contribution form so you can pass it along to a friend or colleague. Please feel free to make copies of the form if you need more.