November 1, 2021

Dear Friend,

Every year, members of the Howard Center community come together to help the people we serve meet their basic needs, enrich their lives, and brighten their seasonal celebrations with gifts to the *Help is Here Client Funds*. In this unique and especially difficult year, we hope you will join us in continuing this tradition by giving to the *Help is Here Client Funds* today.

Howard Center provides services to about 19,000 children, adults, and families each year, many of whom have very limited financial resources. This financial hardship can be especially detrimental because progress in addressing mental health, substance use, and developmental disabilities happens when basic needs have been met and people have opportunities for personal enrichment. And so each year we ask for gifts that directly support our clients to buy food, obtain basics like school supplies and clothing, and enable them to participate in holiday observances and cultural and educational activities that enrich their lives.

Gifts to the *Help is Here Client Funds* are particularly important during the fall and winter when many need coats and boots or school supplies. Our clients can make requests anytime for funds for clothes, basic needs, enrichment activities, or to observe the holidays that are most important to them.

Donations may be made in the form of gift cards, by check, or online at www.howardcenter.org/donate. Gift cards are a wonderful way to give because of the independence they provide by enabling people to select and try on clothing and because they give 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, and City Market.

To contribute by mail, please complete the attached form and return it today along with your gift card(s) or contribution. Or give online at www.howardcenter.org (click the donate button and select *Help is Here Client Needs Fund* from the designation dropdown). If possible, please 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 being part the Howard Center community and for supporting the people we serve.

With our best wishes and thanks,

**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.**



Karen Prosciak

Senior Director of Donor Relations