



One Hope Drive, Tustin, CA 92782
714.247.4300
rescuemission.org

URGENT COVID-19 REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Dear Neighbor,

Orange County Rescue Mission needs **YOUR HELP** to **BUILD AND OUTFIT CLASSROOMS** for **61 HOMELESS, SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN** to continue their education via distance learning through the 2020-2021 school year, with online schooling beginning on **August 13, 2020**. We estimate these emergency expenditures to be **\$279,975**.

On July 17, 2020, Governor Newsom ordered all Orange County schools to convert to a distance learning only model for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Because of that decision, Orange County Rescue Mission must now move quickly to create **long-term solutions** that will best support **61 homeless, school-aged children** living on our campus as they continue their education via distance learning, with only three weeks until the school year begins.

We are already working to modify various spaces on our Village of Hope campus to create fully equipped classrooms to accommodate over 61 homeless, school-aged children – a number we anticipate will only continue to grow over the course of the school year. Anticipated expenses include: **\$164,000** for hiring one full-time, credentialed teacher and two teaching assistants to support students; **\$45,100** for converting office space into additional classroom environments conducive to learning; and **\$70,875** for purchasing necessary equipment and furniture, including desks, chairs, and storage cubbies for each student.

Children who have experienced homelessness often face academic challenges and fall behind their peers. And now, COVID-19 is forcing even homeless kids to adapt to a new online model of schooling. Now more than ever, it is vital that we strive to provide homeless and at-risk children with the same resources and opportunities that are available to their peers of higher socio-economic status. It is our goal that the homeless children living on our campuses would not only be kept from falling behind in their education, but that they might even thrive and exceed expectations during this unprecedented time.

This request is happening in real-time and we are hoping that you are able to come alongside us to provide support throughout this crisis to those most vulnerable. I can be reached at 714-247-4301 for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Palmer".

Jim Palmer
President & CEO