

AOI Christmas 2018



Greetings Friends,

As I string my Christmas lights, it reminds me how we all come together to create something special. As each bulb is unique in itself, together they create a beautiful strand. Our financial supporters, donors and volunteers are each unique, but together they create a brilliant whole. My heart fills with gratitude especially at this time of year, for all of you who help us in our mission - together we **do** make a difference for those who need us most.

The needs of those we serve continue to increase both locally and state wide. We have been very involved responding to our local disaster needs and expanding Hidden Treasures to better serve our local community. In addition, we have delivered much needed material goods to new areas in central and southern West Virginia that struggle with increasing poverty and homelessness.

In order to address these challenges effectively and efficiently, it is urgent that we purchase a facility or property for construction of a new warehouse. This is due to the poor condition of our current leased facility. Since our inception in 2001, we have never had a warehouse with heat or cooling. In the nine years at our current location, we have struggled with worsening roof leaks, and there is still no heat or cooling. This presents challenging working conditions for our staff and volunteers who continue to make the best of this very difficult situation.

The dream we have as we enter the New Year is to raise enough funding for a new warehouse, to continue to expand our services to the local community and to areas where accessibility and opportunities are limited and in decline.

I invite each of you to participate in building that string of lights which shines brightly with hope and encouragement to so many who struggle to meet the basic needs of daily life.

For your prayerful consideration, I have listed some suggestions for participating in the mission of AOI on the back of this page. Whatever you are inspired to do will be most helpful and appreciated. Together we can make a difference for those who need us most.

Peace to all,

Rose

