

## "Now You Know"

**"I would help if I only knew".** How many times have you said that to yourself?

Shepherd of the Hills is a place where you can make your thought a reality. Each week, someone approaches us with a plea for help. Sometimes, the plea is from a member of our church family. Sometimes, the plea is from a member of our community who has a physical need – and a deeper spiritual need that we want to meet as well.

Our prayer chain coordinator, John Haut, started a monetary fund in 2001 to help us show God's love and mercy to those who need it. We titled the account "One Starfish Fund" after a story that poignantly points out – each one of us can make a difference. (The story is shared on the back of this handout for you to enjoy.) It is our goal to always keep this fund alive. The fund puts our faith into action. Those that we help see God and His love through our efforts.

***"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."*** 1 John 3:16-18

### **What types of requests do we receive?**

- Physical needs – food, clothing, furniture
  - Monetary needs – rent, car repairs
- Medical needs - \$ for prescriptions, for glasses, for on-going medical costs due to serious illnesses/major surgeries
- Emotional needs – \$ for counseling or treatment

The mission dollars that our church collects and then donates are given to organizations that help people. Those organizations are the funnels we use to touch individual lives. Your donations to this account will directly benefit those who come to us with desperate and immediate needs. If this is the type of giving that interests you, please fill out the brief form below and include it with your donation in the offering plate at any regular worship service. Our needs are continuous – give whenever you wish. Please be aware that due to current tax laws, the administration of the fund, including all disbursements, is subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In the memo line of your check, please write One Starfish Fund.**

**If you are giving cash, please include your address so that we can record your contribution:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**All donations are tax-deductible and will appear on quarterly/annual contribution statements.**

# *The Starfish*

*Once upon a time there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.*

*One day he was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer.*

*He smiled to himself to think of someone who would dance to the day. So he began to walk faster to catch up.*

*As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man and the young man wasn't dancing, but instead he was reaching down to the shore, picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean.*

*As he got closer he called out,  
"Good morning! What are you doing?"*

*The young man paused, looked up and replied,  
"Throwing starfish in the ocean."*

*"I guess I should have asked,  
why are you throwing starfish  
in the ocean?"*

*"The sun is up and the tide is going out.  
And if I don't throw them in they'll die."*

*"But, young man, don't you realize that  
there are miles and miles of beach  
and starfish all along it.  
You can't possibly make a difference!"*

*The young man listened politely.  
Then bent down, picked up another starfish  
and threw it into the sea,  
past the breaking waves and said-  
"It made a difference for that one."*



*The Star Thrower by Loren Eiseley*