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Dear Friend:

Why should you read this letter? Because it tells our story, and that story involves you!

This year has been challenging for us all – plans disrupted, funds diminished, lives changed...maybe forever.

This has also been true for the Magi Fund. We spent a year preparing a patriotic event for October featuring the National Christian Choir. But COVID-19 sank those efforts. Then, as the virus let up, we planned a Christmas event for December. But it's still not safe to get together. So, unfortunately, we will not have a Magi event this year. God had other plans.

In Proverbs 16:9, God's word says, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps." It has certainly been the case in 2020! Still, God is in control. We can rest in His perfect will.

Although the Lord clearly has other plans for the Magi Fund, and although we trust Him wholly, still we are sad. We won't get to see you at a festive, Christ-centered event. We won't have the opportunity to raise much-needed funds for the Joseph House Center and the Christian Shelter. And sadly, these charities have seen demand for their services increase during the pandemic while charitable giving has decreased.

All this has brought to mind a book Henry van Dyke wrote in 1895, "The Other Wise Man," and an O. Henry short story a decade later entitled "The Gift of the Magi." Both of these tell of selfless, sacrificial giving with unexpected twists. The characters had their plans, but God had different plans for them.

In a profound way, these tales reflect the selfless, sacrificial giving of the Christian Shelter and the Joseph House Center, as well as you, our generous donors during the past 27 years.

Each story has caring, selfless persons whose greatest desire is to give gifts from the heart. In "The Other Wise Man," Artaban misses connecting with the other Wise Men and begins a life-long quest to give his gifts to the Christ. Along the way, he performs acts of charity for those whom God places in his path. In the end, having sacrificed all and thinking he has failed in his mission, he hears the Lord say, "Verily I say unto thee, inasmuch as thou hast done it unto the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me." In "The Gift of the Magi," a husband and wife both sacrifice their most treasured possession to give a gift to the other. In each case, the characters find their selflessness is more important than the gift itself.

In reflecting on these stories, my heart opened to an exciting possibility. And so, in faith, I would be so bold as to ask you for something on behalf of the impoverished in our community:

(over, please)

Even though we have no gift – no Magi event – to offer you this year, would you still give a gift to the Magi Fund anyway...a selfless, sacrificial gift to support the work of the Joseph House Center and the Christian Shelter?

Yes, 2020 has been hard for all of us. But every year is hard for those who face poverty and homelessness. We who have been blessed with much can touch “the least of our brethren” with our generosity. There is no better time to do so than now, during the season when we remember the greatest of all gifts – God’s gift of His Son.

The Joseph House Center and the Christian Shelter can continue to serve the poor and homeless, but only with your help. Please give your most generous gift to the Magi Fund and make this your story – a story of selfless, sacrificial giving. Let us end 2020 generously – for God’s glory and the good of mankind.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "B" that loops around the first part of the name.

Bonnie N. Luna, Chairman
The Magi Fund, Inc.

P.S. If you haven’t read “The Other Wise Man” or “The Gift of the Magi” lately, I urge you to do so. They are uplifting and encouraging in this time of uncertainty. You will surely be blessed.

P.P.S To facilitate online giving to the Magi Fund, the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore (CFES) has graciously agreed to accept credit card contributions through their secure website. One hundred percent of your donation will transfer to the Magi Fund for the benefit of the Joseph House Center and the Christian Shelter. No fees will be charged. To donate online, visit www.magifund.com.

If you’re looking for Comfort & Joy this Christmas Season, listen to 88.7 and 92.5 The Bridge. Hear holiday programming focused on celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ and experiencing the joy only He can provide. Listen online at www.887thebridge.com or tell your Alexa to “Play The Bridge.”

THE BRIDGE

The logo for "THE BRIDGE" features the words "THE BRIDGE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A decorative branch with small leaves and berries is superimposed over the letters "RIDGE".