

# ReachingOut

WINTER 2019

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPELINK



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**hope**link

# Simple Gifts

A message from the CEO,  
Lauren Thomas



A woman motioned to the food bank coordinator, calling him over to peek in a bag she had brought with her. Inside were two rolls of toilet paper and two small bottles of shampoo. “This is for the other lady,” she said, “but I don’t see her today.” The woman knew another client she saw regularly was in need of these two items, which could not be purchased with food stamps, and she generously shared what she had.

Two young girls collecting food donations for Hopelink at a grocery store were stunned when a woman approached them with an entire shopping cart of food to donate. The woman was nearly in tears as she shared her personal story about the time – nearly 40 years earlier – when her husband had broken his back, and the family needed to rely on a local food bank for help.

Caught up in a frenzy of holiday shoppers, two women jockeyed to purchase the last basketball on the shelf – each thinking they had a better reason to buy it as a gift. One came away with the basketball and headed over to a Hopelink holiday gift room, intent on making a wish come true for a young boy or girl. Who did she run into? The other woman ... who happened to be there to donate other toys she had just purchased for kids in Hopelink families.

Simple gifts ... gifts of sharing, of giving, and of being there for someone else. Gifts from the heart in a season of to-do lists and expectations we too easily put on ourselves. Sharing what we have, when we can.

At Hopelink, we are fortunate to experience simple gifts every single day. The gift of a thank you note from an English for Work student who just landed the perfect job. The happy news of a family moving from a Hopelink shelter into their own home. The young mom who no longer needs to rely on a Hopelink food bank to get by, but tells us how much she will miss seeing our staff and volunteers during her visits.

We know these simple gifts are only possible because of you. But we also know that each is indicative of so much more. A bag of groceries, a class, a goal-setting meeting with a case manager are steps toward stability, and a path out of poverty for thousands of our neighbors every year.

Thank you for your gifts to our community; both simple and generous, immediate and lasting. You are changing lives.

Happy holidays!

Hopelink CEO

# A YEAR OF HOPE

Lives you helped change in 2019



## Leah - Rental Assistance

Leah had worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse for many years, until a difficult divorce took a significant toll on her finances. Unable to reactivate her LPN license, Leah instead found a job in a paint store, earning about \$12 an hour. Losing her career had been devastating, so when she turned to Hopelink for help with rental assistance, Leah’s spirits brightened considerably. She said her interaction with Hopelink staff not only helped her maintain stability, but gave her hope for the first time in a very long time.



## Devon - Emergency Bags of Food

Clients who come into a Hopelink center to request an emergency bag of food have the option of foods that don’t need to be heated, for those without access to cooking facilities. Recently, after months of being homeless, Devon stopped by to share the news that he had found a job, and would no longer need Hopelink support. Devon was excited to be back on his feet, and told staff that he “couldn’t have gotten by without no-cook bags and Hopelink’s help.”



## Grace - Employment Assistance

Grace had a steady job managing a sales office when she was laid off. She managed to find a temporary position, but when that job ended, Grace was unable to secure anything else. Meanwhile, she lost her mother and her best friend; triggering grief and depression that threatened to derail her job search. After three months without any source of income, Grace was unable to pay rent on the apartment where she had lived for more than 20 years, and she worried about getting evicted. She turned to Hopelink for temporary financial assistance, and while there, also signed up for the food bank and met with an Employment Specialist. At Hopelink, Grace learned about other organizations that could provide support, and worked out a payment plan with her landlord. Today, Grace is gainfully employed and feeling much more secure about her later years.



**Berk & Mari - Financial Assistance**

Berk and his wife Mari were stable and self-sufficient; able to pay their bills and looking toward the future. Berk worked steadily in construction – until his boss took an extended vacation and the family’s income evaporated. Fortunately, the couple were able to turn to Hopelink for temporary financial assistance, while also receiving guidance on weathering future economic storms.



**Robert - Food Assistance**

Following a life-altering accident on the job, Robert was terminated without compensation and wasn’t able to complete a Labor and Industries claim. The loss of stability was devastating, but the thought of asking for help for the first time ever felt embarrassing and overwhelming. Robert was living in his car when he came into a Hopelink food bank to ask whether he might be able to volunteer in exchange for food. The food bank coordinator explained that the food bank is free to use, and that it’s there for those who need help – no matter their circumstance. After they spoke for a while, Robert decided to sign up for the food bank and shopped the same day. A volunteer gave him a guided shopping tour, and connected Robert with a Hopelink Employment Specialist. Before he left, Robert also was able to use the WorkSource station in the center lobby to begin looking for part-time employment.



**Marta - Energy Assistance**

When Marta’s husband passed away, she lost not only her life partner, but her only source of income – leaving her unable to pay the utility bill. While she waited to receive widow’s benefits, Marta turned to Hopelink for help. Although she qualified for an energy grant, the grant wasn’t enough to cover the past-due amount, and Marta was forced to begin using a space heater and extra blankets to get by. Hopelink was able to provide emergency financial assistance to help pay her bill, and also connect Marta with other resources to help her stay warm in her home.



**Andy - Home Food Delivery**

A single dad with no friends or family nearby, Andy worried about how he and his young son would get by as he recovered from needed back surgery. He knew his recovery would require bed rest and would limit mobility for a while afterward, and Andy was concerned that he would not be able to provide enough food for the two of them. When Andy enrolled in Hopelink’s home delivery food program, he was ecstatic that he and his son would have access to a regular supply of fresh, healthy food as he got back on his feet.



**Issac - Employment Assistance**

The region’s paralyzing snowfall in February took a toll on many low-income families and individuals in the area. But for Isaac, the aftereffects lingered; bringing his landscaping business to a standstill for several months. Unable to wait for business to pick up, Isaac turned to Hopelink for immediate help weathering the storm, while also looking for a more stable career.



**Margarite - Food Assistance**

Margarite and her family had spent months living in their car, so once they had secured stable housing, the young mom was looking forward to preparing a warm meal at home. When she visited a Hopelink food bank for the first time, Margarite was excited to discover all of the ingredients needed to cook spaghetti – a family favorite.



**Ricardo - English for Work**

Ricardo had a part-time job at a hotel when he signed up for a Hopelink English for Work class. During class, he shared his dream of becoming a school bus driver because he felt that position would enable him to have a positive impact on children. Throughout the class, Ricardo focused on turning his dream into a goal; meeting regularly with his volunteer adviser. Once he had completed the program, he continued to meet with a Hopelink volunteer tutor – studying for the Commercial Drivers’ License (CDL) test. After three tries, Ricardo passed all four parts of the CDL exam, and soon landed his dream job of becoming a school bus driver.

## Lend a Hoping Hand



### HOPELINK'S 2019 HOLIDAY PROGRAMS:

#### Gift Rooms

The wide-eyed anticipation of a child during the holidays ... the unbridled excitement as they unwrap a special gift in a flurry of tiny hands and colorful ribbons: Is there anything better? Unfortunately, for many low-income families in our area, these magical holiday moments are a distant memory.

You can help! Every toy or gift donation Hopelink receives is distributed in one of five holiday gift rooms in December, where parents and grandparents are able to select gifts they know their children will love. If you are able to donate toys or gifts this year, please remember that all donations must be new and unwrapped. Gifts suitable for teenagers up to age 18 are particularly needed.

#### Gift Suggestions:

- **Gifts for teens** (e.g. portable music players, teen jewelry, sports equipment etc.)
- **Books and games for all ages**
- **Toys for all ages**
- **\$25 gift cards for popular retailers**

#### Digital Giving

One of the easiest ways to give is to host a digital drive through Hopelink's holiday Amazon Wish List – which will make someone's holiday brighter with just the click of a finger! Visit our list at: <https://amzn.to/2qnYvCM>

#### Online Fundraising

If you are looking for a fun way to fundraise with colleagues, family or friends this holiday season, why not head online? Hopelink's peer-to-peer fundraising platform makes it easy to get started and comes with all the advice and support you'll need to be successful. Visit our Lend a Hoping Hand page on Hopelink.org and look for the online fundraising option.

#### Food Donations

Hopelink's five food banks collectively serve thousands of people each year. This year, Hopelink will serve a growing number of families and seniors with holiday foods in addition to the regular staples that are on the shelves. In order to ensure that December is a memorable month for everyone in our community, we need your help.

#### Year-round needs:

- **Baby food and formula**
- **Diapers**
- **Canned meals**
- **Canned meat** (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- **Cereal/oats**
- **Beans** (dry or canned)
- **Fruit** (canned, fresh or frozen)
- **Grains** (pasta, rice, quinoa, barley, etc.)
- **Nut butters** (peanut butter, almond butter)
- **Soup and broths** (chicken, beef, vegetable)
- **Vegetables** (canned, fresh or frozen)

#### Additional holiday needs:

- **Cooking oils**
- **Spices**
- **Sugar**
- **Flour**
- **Gravy**
- **Boxed meals**
- **Hearty soups**

If your group or business is planning to organize a food drive for the holidays, contact our Community Engagement Specialist, Nicola, at NSalarpi@Hopelink.org. Hopelink staff will ensure you have everything you need to make it a successful collection event. Each center offers specific foods based on the cultures of the clients who are served there and what the center is able to purchase through monetary donations. Your gift will make a real and immediate difference for families and individuals in need.

#### Clothing Donations

In addition to toys and food this holiday season, Hopelink families also need new clothing. Hopelink's younger clients range in age from newborn to age 18. While all children need new clothing, each year there is a great need for new clothing for high school-aged children. This age group is sometimes overlooked at this time of year, but their need is just as great.

#### Gift suggestions:

- **Coats**
- **Pants**
- **Sweaters**
- **Scarves**
- **Sports attire**
- **Sweatshirts**
- **Shoes**
- **Socks**

#### Tribute Donations

Give a gift to honor someone close to you on a special occasion. Hopelink will send a card acknowledging your thoughtful donation to the person of your choice. Visit hopelink.org and click on "donate." A memorial gift to Hopelink is another way to remember loved ones who have passed away. A gift in their honor, supporting a cause they cared about, carries on their legacy and continues to send love to families in need.

#### What Your Donation Buys

For every dollar contributed by individuals, foundations and businesses, Hopelink leverages an additional two dollars from the public sector. A pledge that can be paid over the next year, or a donation matched by your employer, further increases Hopelink's ability to serve families, seniors and people with disabilities.

#### There are four ways to make a cash donation:

1. **Online at hopelink.org**
2. **By phone, just call 425.869.6000**
3. **By mail to: Hopelink, P.O. Box 3577, Redmond, WA 98072-3577**
4. **In person at any of our five centers**

Questions about raising funds or holding a drive? Contact Nicola at NSalarpi@Hopelink.org.

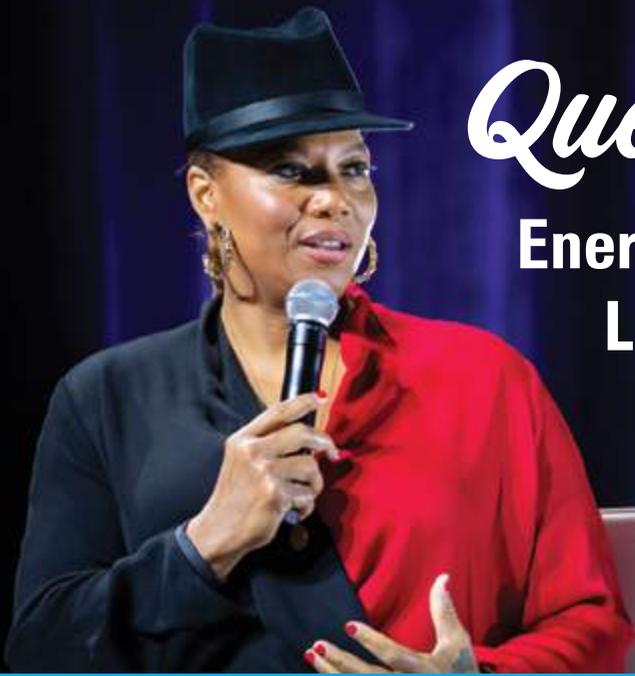
#### Hopelink centers for donation drop-offs:

<b>Bellevue</b> 425.943.7555 14812 Main St. Bellevue, WA 98007	<b>Redmond</b> 425.869.6000 8990 154th Ave. NE Redmond, WA 98052
<b>Kirkland/Northshore</b> 425.889.7880 11011 120th Ave. NE Kirkland, WA 98033	<b>Shoreline</b> 206.440.7300 17837 Aurora Ave. N Shoreline, WA 98133
<b>Sno-Valley</b> 425.333.4163 31957 E. Commercial St. Carnation, WA 98014	

Donations can be dropped off at a Hopelink Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Sno-Valley is closed on Fridays. **Our centers will be closed on Christmas Day and New Years Day.**

# Queen Latifah

## Energizes Reaching Out Luncheon Guests



**“That’s what we’re supposed to do as human beings ... help each other.”**

- Queen Latifah, Hopelink Reaching Out Luncheon, October 2019

Guests at Hopelink’s 24th annual Reaching Out Luncheon at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue heard Queen Latifah share stories of her personal journey to superstardom, while the singer, rapper, actress and record producer also reminded guests of the importance of giving back to the community.

“It’s something that I can relate to, because it’s something my family went through ... it’s something I went through as a kid,” she said. “We had to rely on government assistance, and we had to live in the projects for a few years for a period of time while my parents got back on their feet.”

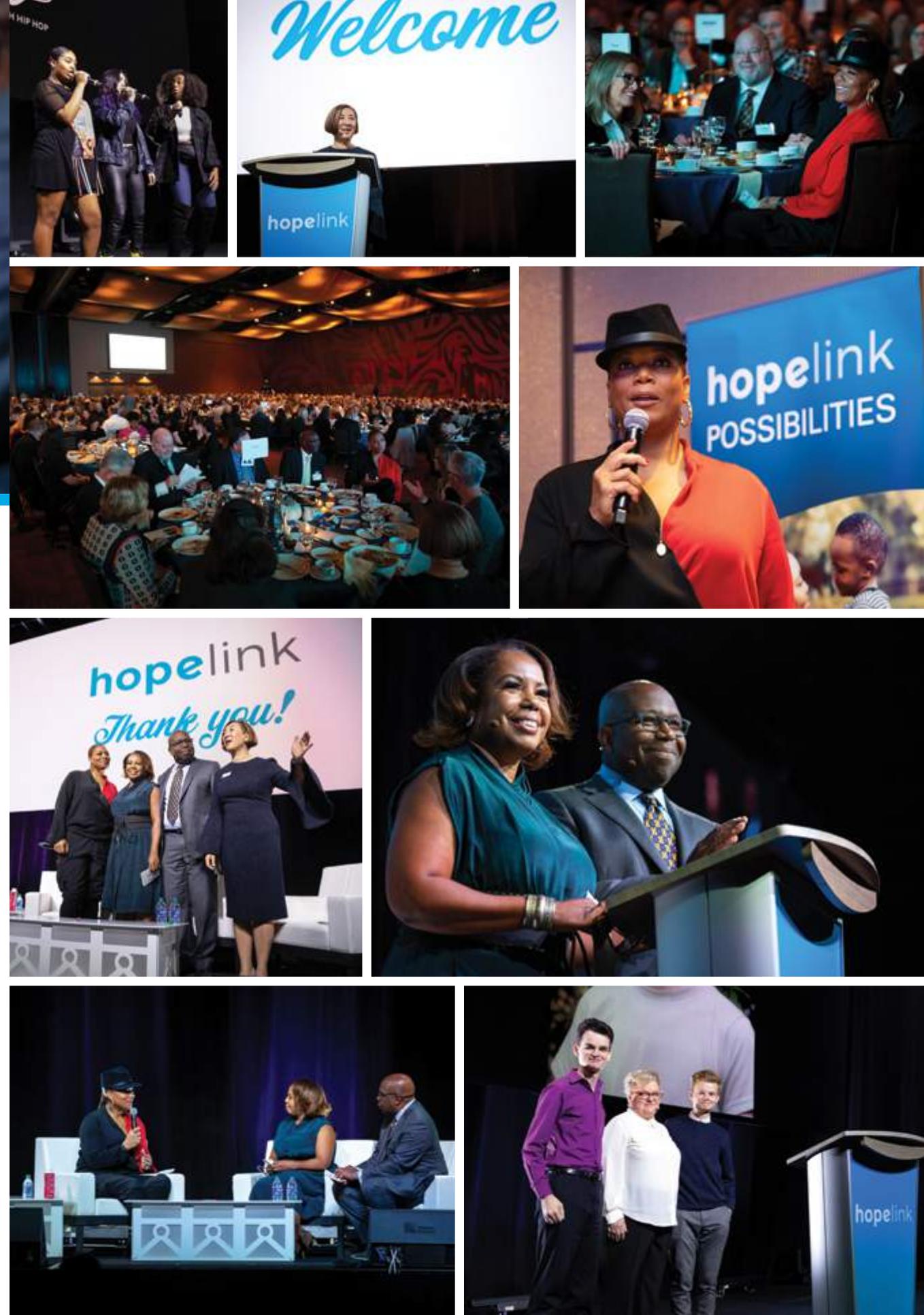
Queen Latifah also talked about the importance of ensuring that the issue of poverty doesn’t get buried by talk of a healthy economy.

“We have a lot of people who are living in poverty, and they may have a job, but they don’t make enough to really be able to afford to lift their families up and out of poverty,” she said. “They need resources; they need help. They need organizations like Hopelink to help get them back on their feet. They just need a hand up.”

Thanks to luncheon sponsors, table sponsors, table captains and nearly 1,800 attendees, the luncheon raised more than \$1.1 million to help local families and individuals gain stability and the tools and skills needed to exit poverty.

**“Organizations like Hopelink do such an amazing incredible job of changing the future ... making our future so much brighter.”**

- Queen Latifah, Hopelink Reaching Out Luncheon, October 2019



# Our Vision: A COMMUNITY FREE OF POVERTY

## CREDITS

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Donate online at [Hopelink.org](https://Hopelink.org)



Join Hopelink's social network today.

The printing of this newsletter has a post-consumer recycled percentage of at least 30 percent.

8.5 trees preserved for the future

3,700 pounds of pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> prevented

700 gallons of water saved

3.6 million BTUs saved

30 pounds of solid waste not generated

Hopelink takes all reasonable steps to ensure the information in Reaching Out is current and accurate and does not assume any legal liability or responsibility for content. Some names and images have been changed to protect client privacy.



## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS HELP?

Below is an overview of Hopelink's programs and a list of our service centers. If you know anyone that may need our help, please share this information and encourage them to contact us at their nearest center.



**FOOD ASSISTANCE**

Contact your nearest center



**ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

Call 425.658.2592



**FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**

Call 425.883.4755



**FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES**

Call 425.250.3003



**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Contact your nearest center



**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

Call 425.250.3030



**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Metro DART: 866.261.3278  
Medicaid: 800.923.7433  
Mobility Line: 425.943.6760



**ADULT EDUCATION**

English for Work: 425.250.3007  
GED Classes: 425.457.9685



**HOUSING SERVICES**

Eastside: 206.328.5900  
North King County: 206.934.6160

## HOPELINK CENTERS

### 📍 BELLEVUE

14812 Main St.  
Bellevue, WA 98007  
425.943.7555

### 📍 KIRKLAND/NORTHSHORE

11011 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Kirkland, WA 98033  
425.889.7880

### 📍 SNO-VALLEY

31957 E Commercial St.  
Carnation, WA 98014  
425.333.4163

### 📍 REDMOND

8990 154<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Redmond, WA 98052  
425.869.6000

### 📍 SHORELINE

17837 Aurora Ave. N  
Shoreline, WA 98133  
206.440.7300

Please visit [Hopelink.org](https://Hopelink.org) for full center hours and list of services at each location.

# hopelink

P.O. Box 3577, Redmond WA 98073-3577



For more than 48 years, your support has helped Hopelink expand its critical social services to at-risk families and individuals in our region. Our approach – providing stability and the skills needed to exit poverty – continues to move tens of thousands of people from vulnerability and crisis toward independence.