



*Building community
that is humane, compassionate and just*

November 2006

Dear Friends,

Peace be with you that you may be warm and dry this sacred season. We have just gone through a horrible time of floods and destruction in our county and we realize that all of you have been impacted in one way or another by this disaster. We hope and pray that all of us will find the support we need to make it through.

It is situations like these that bring families and neighbors closer together. Associated Ministries deals daily with similar crises on a much smaller scale, but for those families and individuals it seems no different. ***More and more we are seeing an increased need in the community for food, housing, and emergency assistance.*** At times, it can seem overwhelming, but we find the work we do each day does make a difference. We touch lives, provide a supporting arm, and help people through these difficult times.

We know this is a time when you receive many appeals for support of various causes. People work very hard crafting the perfect holiday message that will translate into significant financial contributions to their work. Admittedly, we are no exception. We, too, must do what it takes and ask for your help to break even at the end of the year.

In this season of Shalom, we as a community are called upon to be merciful and kind. Shalom requires nothing less of us than to work with the structures of society to assure that the poor are treated fairly and justly. Together, we must work to see that hatred and discrimination are abolished. It is not enough to feed the hungry and house the homeless. We must work to eliminate hunger and homelessness. We must work to see that all people have adequate housing, food and healthcare.

For as long as you have known us, you have trusted us to do this work. We appeal to you again to help us help others. ***Enable us with your gifts; give us the ability to increase our efforts.*** This year alone, we responded to hunger in Pierce County and around the world by raising \$228,000. We helped a single mother, and so many like her, to escape a violent situation. We found her family housing and clothes and helped her to make ends meet while she attended a job training program. We helped evacuee families from the Gulf Coast Hurricanes settle in our area or return home, and now we are organizing volunteers to assist with the flood damaged areas of our community. We take very seriously our mission "to build community that is humane, compassionate, and just." Shalom requires nothing less from all of us.

We deeply appreciate your support. ***Together we will make a difference.*** May the peace of God be with you, your family and your loved ones this Sacred Season. And, may none of us be satisfied until Shalom reigns throughout all God's creation.

Ms. Diane Powers
Deputy Director

Grace and Peace,

Rev. David T. Alger
Executive Director