



# HERE TO HELP FOUNDATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Michael Odom or Christine Snyder  
Marx Layne & Company  
(734) 259-9060 Mike  
(248) 417-5246 Christine

## **HERE TO HELP FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM TO PROVIDE DIRECT SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS EXITING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

*“Returning Hope to Returning Citizens” provides grants to help Wayne and Oakland County residents as they begin to reintegrate into society*

**ROYAL OAK, MICH. – June 22, 2020 – The Here to Help Foundation**, a Royal Oak, Mich.-based, private charitable foundation that provides direct support to Wayne and Oakland County residents faced with emergency situations, today announced it has launched a new program for individuals exiting the criminal justice system. The ***Returning Hope to Returning Citizens*** program allows local men and women to apply for a grant that provides basic necessities to enable them to live independently. The announcement was made today by Here to Help Foundation Co-Founder and CEO Bob Schwartz.

“The harsh reality is that former prisoners face tremendous challenges when released from our criminal justice system, including securing housing, furnishing their residence and finding gainful employment amongst other hindrances,” said Schwartz. “With more than 650,000 prisoners being released from custody every year in the US, we must do our part as a charitable foundation to help with the basic necessities that give individuals a fighting chance to reintegrate into society and go on to live rewarding lives.”

The *Returning Hope to Returning Citizens* program provides basic necessities such as clothing and home furnishings, including cooking utensils, dishes, pots and pans, silverware, appliances, pillows, linens, TV and microwave, among other items. Grant applicants must meet general guidelines to qualify for the program. Returning citizens in need of assistance or those who have questions may contact Here to Help via [heretohelpfoundation@icloud.com](mailto:heretohelpfoundation@icloud.com).

Additional Here to Help Programs that offer one-time grant awards to qualified applicants include:

- ***Working Cars for Working People*** provides for the purchase of a used car – valued up to \$3,000 – for qualified individuals who must be working at least 35 hours per week
- ***Let’s Keep the Lights On*** covers the expense of past due utility bills (gas, electric, water, etc.) up to \$500
- ***Roof Over Head***, which pays back rent, first month rent or a mortgage up to \$750 or a security deposit up to \$500
- ***Road Ready Repairs*** helps with the cost of car repairs up to \$800

- **Home Sweet Home**, which procures furniture for individuals who experienced a recent fire, were formerly homeless or fleeing domestic violence
- **Other Programs of Assistance** that provide support for items not covered in the any of the aforementioned programs and not found on the prohibited list

Since its inception, Here to Help has helped more than 9,000 people by providing emergency assistance in times of crisis.

Here to Help is 501(c) (3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Those interested in supporting the Here to Help Foundation may visit [www.heretohelpfoundation.org](http://www.heretohelpfoundation.org). Every single dollar donated by the public goes directly to individuals facing an emergency situation and no donations go toward administrative or other expenses.

Donors, if they so desire, may earmark donations to a particular type of program and the Foundation can also work to connect donors with the individual they are helping if interested. Donations can be made via credit card or bank transfer via PayPal or mailed to Here to Help Foundation, P. O. Box 480, Royal Oak, MI 48068.

### **About Here to Help Foundation**

*Established in 2007, the Here to Help Foundation is a private charitable foundation that directly supports the needs of individuals facing an emergency situation. It offers one-time grant awards to Wayne and Oakland County, Michigan residents who are addressing issues such as eviction, past due utility bills, unexpected car repairs, loss of home furnishings because of fire, and much more. The foundation's guiding mission is to help those with limited means continue self-sufficiency with a one-time hand-up in their moment of need. For more information, please visit [www.heretohelpfoundation.org](http://www.heretohelpfoundation.org).*

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