



A place of help, hope & healing in Philadelphia!



December 22, 2015

Dear Friends,

At Refuge, we are reflecting on the goodness of God during this special season. We pause to appreciate how this goodness has been poured on us and the community we serve. In this spirit of the season, we have chosen to write this special letter to you.

In the course of this year, our ministry has had to begin a process of transition in our leadership. For the past several years, Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez, our Co-Founder and first Executive Director, has been challenged with a difficult medical illness, and in the name of love, mercy and service to the Lord, she has poured herself out in spite of these challenges. In the 26 years she has devoted to our community in North Philadelphia, we have had the privilege to witness many great works of faith and courage.

However, due to extenuating circumstances and the progressive nature of her medical illness Elizabeth can no longer continue to serve in this capacity and as such is retiring. For this reason, in response to His faithfulness over this time of careful testing, and in care and consideration of Elizabeth's health, Mr. Bryan Dickey, formerly our Operations Director, has been unanimously confirmed as the Interim Executive Director of Refuge by the Board of Directors.

The Lord has blessed us in the facilitation of such a transition at this time as evidenced by the recent audit conducted by the city reflecting that Refuge is stable and in great condition to continue its operation within its strong clinical model. In addition, we are pleased to report that Elizabeth will continue to serve in a supporting role that will strengthen our clinical and training pieces at the heart of our mission while the board prayerfully searches to fill the clinical role of Program Director.

As we face the closing of this year, with the sun peeking up over the horizon of the next, we do so with eager expectation and faith in the power of our Redeemer to continue to bless in faithfulness.

On behalf of the staff, we the board wish you a merry Christmas and happy New Year! And we thank you for your continued generous support of this unique ministry.

Sincerely,

Rev. Luis Centeno
Chairman, Board of Directors