



Columbus H.O.P.E. Foundation

Helping Other People Everyday

Presidents Report

2020

This pandemic has reinforced the fundamental challenges that charities have always faced. If dealing with the impact of the coronavirus were not enough, charities, like the rest of society, are having to plan for the future in a climate of growing uncertainty.

The virus has shown this Order's seemingly unlimited capacity for generosity. At Columbus HOPE Foundation our Charitable impulses run as strong and deep as ever. Knights have found new and ingenious ways to demonstrate kindness, salute courage and lend a helping hand to those in need. We can and should take pride in this, after all Charity has the power to unite and inspire us all.

If the Coronavirus has demonstrated that the spirit of this Charity is alive and well it has also reinforced just how dependent it is on the support of the public. Economic uncertainty has affected donations and quarantining has disrupted routines that helped charities in small and varied ways. In short, the fragility of the charitable sector has been exposed. Many Charities have had to streamline their operations and some have had to shut down altogether.

There is a natural divide in the Charitable sector. On one side is a small number of corporate charities who operate a top-heavy professional business model to deliver public sector contracts or act as if a part of a government conglomerate. On the other side is the vast majority of smaller Charities like the Columbus HOPE Foundation who work in a more informal grass roots model filling gaps and responding to needs as they see fit.

As we continue to inch our way back to normal it is better that we do so with a clear understanding of where our Charity stands rather than

relying on wishful thinking. This meeting, therefore, is to take an honest look at the many reasons we have for optimism as well as the need for some changes.

Our bright future lies with our understanding and respect of what our charity means in the hearts and minds of the public. As Knights of Columbus we must be prepared to stand behind not just the difference we make but the fundamentally Catholic way in which we make it.

Despite the impact the Coronavirus has made on the South Carolina community 26 Knights of Columbus councils out of 62 have reached 100% or more of their goals for the 2019-2020 fraternal year this includes 4 councils that achieved over 200%. Our total Gross donations for last year were \$379,631.00, 83% of our overall goal.

I am pleased to report that this Charity is alive and well in South Carolina

Michael A. Allen,
President and Chairman of the Board
Columbus HOPE Foundation
August 8, 2020