

MARCH/APRIL 2026

LIFELINE CDC



EMPOWERING UNDER-RESOURCED NEIGHBOORHOODS TO THRIVE

"Walk in the way of love. Slowly!"

Our world has become so busy that we miss many of the good things in life. We miss meaningful conversations. We miss the slow walk that refreshes the soul. We miss the smile, the flower, the quiet act of kindness. Community development work must move slowly. It cannot be rushed. It has to build on what has already been planted and nurtured over time.

At LifeLine, our work is about empowering people to thrive. We want people to have access to the resources they need to experience shalom, true well-being, and a pathway out of poverty. We choose to see the good in people, even when the world is quick to judge. We look for the potential in people, even when they cannot yet see it in themselves. We encourage people to dream of a better future, and then we walk alongside them as that future begins to flourish.

As we enter our 20th year, we are thankful for the many conversations we have had. We are thankful for the opportunities to serve. We are thankful for a team of dedicated staff, interns, and volunteers. They make it happen!

*"THERE IS NO RECONCILIATION UNTIL YOU
RECOGNIZE THE DIGNITY OF THE OTHER, UNTIL YOU
SEE THEIR VIEW- YOU HAVE TO ENTER INTO THE PAIN
OF THE PEOPLE. YOU'VE GOT TO FEEL THEIR NEED."*

JOHN PERKINS, A MENTOR AND HERO WHO PASSED AWAY LAST WEEK.



Photos:

Kids' Time @ Meadows, VITA in Winton, Boys Night Out, Homework, Reading to earn a book, Mobile Library in Winton, garden, Food Distribution for Seniors, community breakfasts

When the Deck Is Stacked

He was six years old when I first met him. A young boy who so wanted to please people. We knew his family, and if I am honest, we weren't sure if he had a chance. His mom was struggling with drugs and in and out of his life. His grandma was trying to raise the children, but she was overwhelmed with her own challenges. It was one of those situations where you do what you can, but you know it may not be enough. Over time, we lost touch. We would hear bits and pieces through the grapevine about how things were going. Yesterday, I saw him again. He walked into a PACT meeting—only now, he was handicapped. A shooting had taken away his ability to walk well. He had just been released from prison and was looking for resources to help him re-enter society.

My heart broke. Yes, he made his own decisions. That is true. But it is also true that the deck was stacked against him from the very beginning. Should he be blamed? Should his family? It is probably a combination of both. Life is rarely as simple as we would like it to be.

We—and many others—tried to help. We tried to bring some stability, some hope, some support. But sometimes, despite our best efforts, it is not enough to change the trajectory of a family.

This is the tension we live in every day at LifeLine. As we work with people on the margins of life, we choose to see their potential. We choose to believe that their story is not over. We choose to walk alongside them as they begin to dream about a different future. But we also hold another truth. We will not work harder on someone's solutions than they are willing to work on themselves. That is not a lack of compassion—it is a commitment to dignity. Real change happens when people step into their own agency, when they begin to take ownership of their story.

And yet... we never stop seeing the six-year-old.

We never stop remembering that many of the choices people make are shaped by environments they did not choose. We never stop holding space for both accountability and grace.

Yesterday reminded me that this work is slow. It is relational. It is often messy. And sometimes, it breaks your heart. But it also reminded me of something else. **He showed up.** And as long as someone shows up, there is still a story being written.



As we celebrate our 20th anniversary you will soon see some videos, hear stories and be invited to celebrate with us as we honor YOU who have been part of our journey.



Walk with us!

While we love the grants we receive, we would prefer the freedom of individual donations.

\$1,500 is the cost of one day at LifeLine
\$125/month will cover one day at LifeLine a year.
<https://give-usa.keela.co/give-with-a-purpose>

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