As the Chief Executive Officer for GRACE, I can honestly say the work done over this past year is some of the finest we have ever done.

I am humbled by the generosity of this community. But please understand the work is not over.

None of us could have predicted the length of time our community would be affected. Our families continue to struggle, taking on “temporary” debt, making short-term sacrifices, and anxiously waiting to be called back to work.

While most of us can tighten the belt for a short period, many of these families are at the end of their rope, and continue to flow through the doors of GRACE, looking for compassion, empathy, and assistance.

As always, and for as long as it takes, GRACE will support families still struggling with the impact of COVID-19.

But it will be possible only through the generosity of this community—all of you who trusted your gifts in GRACE.

While hundreds of nonprofits struggled to find a way to respond last year, it was because of your support that GRACE became a leader in Tarrant County with unprecedented response time and assistance.

Please be encouraged knowing your donations give food, shelter, clothing, emergency assistance, medical care—and hope—to our neighbors who need it most.

Shonda Schaefer
Chief Executive Officer

Starting March 2020 our full attention was drawn to the unprecedented crisis affecting our lives.

An extraordinary year required an extraordinary response and that’s what we were able to provide to our community when they needed us the most.

Like everyone else, our year started to spin wildly out of control around mid-March. Throughout those confusing first weeks, and the frightening weeks after that, one thought that kept us going: no matter how bad things were for us, it was infinitely worse for those we served.

To that end, we dedicate this Annual Report to all those who joined in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
The anxiety of constant fears and uncertainties will fade in time, and we will look back on 2020 with a mix of feelings.

Doubts, despair, and dread will mix with steadfast purpose, courageous struggle, and brave selflessness.

While those early days are a bit of a blur, in hindsight, it seemed like we were able to stay just ahead of the wave.

Our Community Clinic converted to tele-med services early on—the first charitable clinic in Texas to do so. The Clinic staff didn’t miss a beat in treating, advising, and protecting all of our patients and their providers.

We took special care of the dozens of volunteer frontline medical heroes who fought COVID at their home clinics and hospitals, then came to GRACE to do the same on the shift when their surge was through.

The week before the government mandates, we closed the doors of our respite shops for the protection of our staff, volunteers, and our shoppers. Those were horrible days.

We fearlessly watched our TV as the numbers of infected and dying people grew to staggering levels. We monitored the internet for new protocols to protect ourselves and our families.

We furloughed nearly 30 GRACE staff members. While it was a heart-wrenching decision, we made it four days before the mandatory shut-down order and gave our employees a chance to file for unemployment before the masses.

Waves upon waves of new clients would follow. The massive closures of hotel-convention centers, the mall, airport concessions, restaurants, and bars resulted in widespread layoffs and furloughs.

Overnight, our client base grew six-times its volume compared to the previous year at the same time. Even though the numbers slowed over time, we were still flooded with requests.

It wasn’t just those on the lower rungs of the economy who were affected. Many who were our supporters and volunteers in the past found themselves coming to GRACE for help.

We watched as our budget for the year poured out in just a few months. The decision to walk in faith, committing to the God-inspired mission of GRACE—even when we knew the budget couldn’t support the volumes—was a leap of faith that our leaders and board fully backed.

We focused on those things needed most: food, shelter, medical care, senior services. We redeployed our staff and resources to fill those needs, while we were without one of our most valuable resources—volunteers.

Thousands of families came to us scared: afraid of COVID, but also facing hunger and homelessness. Scared of losing their families, their homes, and their lives.

GRACE was there with comfort, guidance, with the right assistance and encouragement. And it was a privilege to walk alongside as they found their feet on solid ground.