Earlier this year, Sharon, one of our Your Path clients worked hard to earn a $2/hour raise at work. Her food stamps were immediately reduced and her rent went up to market value - all before she received her first new paycheck. Her 3-year old got the flu, but Sharon had already used her pto time. After taking one unpaid day, her supervisor told her she would be terminated if she missed work again. Sharon had to choose letting her supervisor fire her because she couldn’t leave her child but also quitting would forfeit her eligibility for assistance she needed to pay for groceries and rent. As she interviews for new jobs, she constantly has to explain being terminated and therefore her financial instability to prospective employers.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (your name) and I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_( role) at Monroe County United Ministries. MCUM serves Monroe County’s low-income population through two programs: the Compass Early Learning Center, which offers high quality childcare, and Self-Sufficiency Center, which offers basic needs assistance and long-term asset building support. Our programs aim to eliminate generational poverty in Monroe County.

Like more than 1/3 of Monroe County’s adult population, Sharon is experiencing a scenario called the Cliff Effects. Getting that $2 raise actually made her worse off than she was when she had a smaller income because she lost many of her resources before gaining financial stability.

This is a very difficult situation to deal with and that is where MCUM can step in to help. MCUM’s Self-Sufficiency Center offers comprehensive basic needs assistance to households experiencing financial hardship, as well as personalized coaching to help address long-term self-sufficiency. Through our *Your Path* program, MCUM works with clients like Sharon, who are ready to think about making a change in areas of their lives that focus on their household’s ability to become and remain self-sufficient, or asset-building. *Your Path* is client-led, client-directed, and highly flexible depending on an individual’s circumstances.

In addition to the long-term, asset-building support, we can offer our clients, like Sharon, food, hygiene & cleaning items, and short-term financial assistance so that they do not have to choose between competing essentials. We believe that the people of Monroe County should be celebrating their success, not made worse off by it – and we want to keep encouraging them to thrive.

You can show your agreement to this belief today/tonight by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(request).

**Level 1 (under $10k):**

Your support fills our food pantry for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(insert length of time based on perceived giving potential: $2,500=one month), making sure there are no gaps in food categories and allowing us to have fresh produce and frozen meat available each day our pantry is open.

**Level 2 (under $20k):**

Your support fills our cleaning & hygiene closet for one year, making sure there are no gaps in product types. Sponsors enable us to purchase items flexibly to get the lowest rate and maximize the impact of your donation.

**Level 3 (above $20k):**

Your support ends hunger for the year! This fills our food pantry for the whole year, ensuring there are no gaps in the food categories and allowing us to have fresh produce and frozen meat available each day our pantry is open.