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Dear Friends:

If you've got a moment, I have a story to tell you. It's about a single Dad, an infant, and a second chance.

It was cruel and fatal. Ron's 32-year-old wife, Leslie, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. They raced from specialist to specialist and each one said the same thing: there's nothing we can do. The walls of the cancer maze rose up and cut her off from him.

Ron left his job to care for Leslie. Neighbors took turns tending to their baby girl. In the end, all Ron could do was hold his best friend's hand and say good-bye.

Then he found himself in a situation many parents face today: raising a child alone. And not a boy child, not something he knew about. A girl. Ron now had to raise his daughter, Elizabeth. By himself.

Ron's work skills weren't what they needed to be for him to compete. The future – a life of multiple minimum wage jobs and no time for Elizabeth – looked bleak.

So what will happen to Ron and Elizabeth? That's where we come in. This winter, Ron will finish the computer and network repair program at MERS/Goodwill. And thanks to the on-site daycare center, Ron can attend class knowing that his Elizabeth is well cared for. They can even have lunch together!

I'm writing this letter to ask you to help Ron, Elizabeth, and countless others by joining the MERS/Goodwill family. In 2001, Metropolitan Employment & Rehabilitation Services merged with Missouri Goodwill Industries, resulting in the largest social services agency in the state.

Hard times touch us all—rich, poor, young, not so young. And that's where MERS/Goodwill steps in. Your good will—kindness, cheerfulness, benevolence—puts people like Ron back on the road to a good life with a good job.

And, unlike other service organizations, \$91 of every dollar—that's 91%!—goes directly into our programs.

Your \$25.00 donation will renew life and hope to those like Ron and Elizabeth. If you have hope, you have heart. And with heart, well, you have it all.

As a family, we can reach out and touch someone's life. Your donation restores confidence and self-esteem.

Through vocational evaluation, skills training, and job placement you'll return pride to those in need: people with physical and orthopedic injuries, hearing or vision impairment, or traumatic brain injury; high school & college grads seeking career guidance; special education students getting ready to enter the workforce; folks aged 55 or older requiring placement assistance.

Many friends have sent \$50, \$100 or even more. But just \$25 or \$35 buys a powerful amount of hope. Please send in your donation today. Help us help them—one life and one job at a time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lewis C. Chartock, President and CEO

P.S. Ron already has a good job lined up in a Fortune 500 company with a good salary and great benefits. And Elizabeth will stay in our daycare center – Ron can check on her during the day by Internet using our web cam program. Please help others like Ron and Elizabeth by sending in your donation today!