

# Welcome the interruption

**When the interruption creates innovation**

## Interruption **noun**

in·ter·rup·tion | \ ,in-tə-'rəp-shən \

**1:** an act of interrupting something or someone or the state of being interrupted: such as

**a:** a stoppage or hindering of an activity for a time *Our conversation continued without **interruption** for over an hour.*

**b:** a break in the continuity of something

Interruptions. They are unavoidable. One can choose to allow it to be paralyzed by the uncertainty or make it an opportunity. When presented with a halt in our daily routine, often times we react in such a manner that mirrors the former. At Safe Families, we want to encourage you to get up, get out, and serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

Each week, we are focusing on different stories of action in our chapters across the country, as examples of mobilization of Christ's love in these times of immobilization. This week, we focus on The Greater Milwaukee chapter:

### **Weekend calls**

There was a father who called "intake" just as things around us were changing from "social distancing" to "safer in place" status. For privacy purposes, let's call him "Jim." At our chapter, we rarely return calls on the weekends. However, his voicemail prompted us to return the call.

On this call, he talked for quite some time, allowing us to learn more about the situation. We learned that Jim is a single father with no extended family or friends in the Milwaukee area. He shared how he worked incredibly hard to ensure his son was well cared for and safe—his son was on a successful academic track, as well. He also shared that he was working in the kitchen at a retirement home. Now that the schools had closed, Jim was torn between keeping his job and leaving his son alone all day. He had just received a raise, which had caused him to lose the food share benefits, as he was no longer eligible. He was struggling to find a way to be home, provide, and keep his job.

# *Welcome* the interruption

We talked about hosting options, with a lot of big contingencies due to CoVid19. Specifically, He would've been unable to see his son until the "safer in place" was lifted to keep everyone healthy. As Jim had personally suffered many childhood traumas and is very protective of his son, he claimed wouldn't be able to be separated from his son for that amount of time. He came to the conclusion that unemployment with possible homelessness would be a better fate. We were determined to work something out, and God gave us an alternative idea to serve Jim and his son.

We talked to a host family with a child who was the same age as Jim's son, to come to a solution. They were willing to check in via videocall numerous times a day with Jim's son and provide extra food for the family. A neighbor upstairs was also willing to be an emergency contact, making the arrangement that much safer. After arranging these things, we called him back to share the plan.

However, God had a plan of his own— Jim had shared that his adult daughter decided to move from Chicago to Milwaukee to help him. **That** was an even better plan. We praised God together for his goodness and provision, and we prayed together.

## **Innovation that helps**

Jim's situation may have come to a different conclusion than originally planned, but it sparked an idea to help others— "Virtual Family Friendships". In the last two weeks, we have started 4 of these, along with converting our nearly 20 current Family Friendships into virtual ones. They are working beautifully to help families feel less alone, and it gives us a way to contribute needed physical resources from our storage closets (diapers, clothes, meals, groceries) also."

God works in mysterious ways that we may be unable to comprehend this side of heaven. All He wants us to do is trust and obey, and that is where the true acts of love breed.