

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 2-9-05
HB 387

Hi Judy,

Here are a few stories; I'll try to send others early tomorrow. This first one is from Kim Hope, Family Advocate at WORD/Family BASICS, and the others are from case workers at The Salvation Army. Thanks for your good work!

Kristi

From Kim: A grandmother is guardian of her 4 grandchildren, ages 6, 12, 13, and 14 yrs. She is disabled and only receives \$328 in TANF per month (due to mother of two of the children's cash grant expiring - 5 year clock) and also Social Security Income of \$599 for her disability. She struggles just to make ends meet, plus one of the children has special mental health needs. As a result of the low income this family is forced to live on, they were at-risk of eviction and losing their housing. They were able to secure housing for another month, with the help of rent assistance, but it is a hand to mouth situation each month. Food Stamps for the family of 5 is only \$263/month, so a large chunk of the SSI check goes toward food as well as rent.

From Salvation Army:

"well here are a couple, i will try to fax as well just to make sure that you get them... i hope that i am not too late".

I Rebecca Busch run the Gateway Family Program at the Salvation Army here in Missoula Montana. I am severely concerned with the cuts in TANF assistance. I write to you concerned for all the families that i work with that are now barely surviving on this currently meager assistance. At this point i have families coming to our program because they can no longer pay rent due to the cuts in their tanf checks, and they now find themselves homeless. Many of the families that i am working with in our family shelters receive TANF but it is not enough to pay rent sustainably, it questions how these families can begin to get on their own feet again when the assistance they receive is not enough to sustain a stable living situation. TANF does not supply enough income to pay rent so they are caught with out a way to progress. They will not be able to make rent consecutively so why leave the shelter only to return? TANF work requirements are many and what i have found is that TANF recipients have to put in so many work hours a week, but what about seeking housing? These parents are running around trying to fulfill these requirements that there is no longer a moment to seek independant and self-sufficient housing. and why, when they cannot afford it?

for example

young teen mom, a resident in Gateway program, she has a 3 1/2 year old daughter. they came to missoula to flee a domestically violent living situation. (A) currently receives TANF for her and her daughter. They receive 298.00/month. I am not sure what this family will be able to do. In the renters market that won't even afford a studio apartment. This is no way for a family to live, shelter to shelter, with no stability. TANF is not currently meeting the needs of families, with another cut (A)and her daughter will continue to have to utilize multiple community resources and funding just to survive.

A single Mom, a resident of Gateway program she has three children, 11,6, and 21 months. (M) came to the program in september. at that time she was getting by receiving child support as well as her part-time wages. Now she

finds herself unemployed due to being laid off and not receiving child support but she does receive TANF. M receives assistance for the amount of \$487.

She is homeless and staying in the shelter. it would take her saving three months of her TanF checks to be able to afford moving into a place. this does not mean that she'll be able to pay rent once she gets into a place. M is living off bare bones and fortunately there are shelters for her and her young ones otherwise they would still be sleeping in their car in the middle of winter.

A single mother with 4 children receives \$530 a month in TANF. She recently relocated to Missoula and was able to find only part-time work which coincided with her childcare needs. If her TANF were decreased, it would be impossible for her to maintain stable housing for her children. She is diligently seeking more gainful employment, but would be unable to meet her rental obligations even in the event that she found work due to the waiting period for her first paycheck.

A single teenage mother, who is only able to work part-time due to childcare needs, receives \$245 from TANF. A decrease in this amount would cripple her chances of gaining financial independence while she attempts to arrange childcare which would allow her to work full-time. As with this mother, TANF is a lifeblood to many who are in crisis and are seeking temporary assistance while they establish financial stability.

Kristi here are a couple, i could have more with more time. i wrote the first couple, byron wrote the 2nd.... hope these may help!!!! please let me know if there is anything more i can do!!!!
rebecca