

# VOICES OF HOPE



DR. LASHARANDA BECKWITH

## MISSION

*Ignited by faith, we live out God's love by embracing, equipping and empowering vulnerable people in Southern California*

## VISION

*Sharing the love of Christ, we are a community to care and be cared for...*

*Where the vulnerable are safer and stronger*

*Where the dependent are self-sustaining*

*Where the isolated dwell in community*

*Where the weary will be given hope*

## VALUES

*Compassion / Advocacy  
Collaboration / Respect  
Innovation / Stewardship*

*Happy Friday!*

It's been a tough week. COVID is on the rise again, and you are encouraged to stay home. I know you love your work and would rather be in community with your colleagues and friends. I understand that desire however, I also want you to be safe.

When I sit and think about the world around me, I cannot help but believe that we are here in this place, during this time, to make a difference, for such a time as this. I think we can sit back and complain about restrictions, or we can stop, breathe and ask God, *"what would you want me to do as we wait?"*. Ah, you hadn't thought about that? I have.

When things seem to go against the normal, I often wonder if we were thrown into a particular mess to see how we will respond. I wonder if God is teaching us a lesson. If He is asking us to stop with our agendas and listen for His? If He has been whispering to us to slow down and spend some time with Him but we were so busy achieving that we didn't have time to listen? Or, do you think that He has been trying to show us the path He wants us to take, but we continued to insist on our own? These are the types of questions I ponder when chaos abounds.

I do not know the answer to any of these questions. What I do know is this:

I will trust God with everything that is going on around me. In my humanness, I want to have all the answers. I recognize that it will not be possible all the time. In the meantime, I will hold onto my faith and the scripture that reminds me, *"faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."* I hope you are with me!

*Blessings sent your way today!*

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith  
President & Chief Executive Officer