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September 18, 2024

Hello Friends,

Over the years Nancy and I have prayed this scripture over our kids and our family:

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight.

We put tremendous faith in the path He has set before us and for over 25 years, the Lord has had the Henry family on a journey of Faith, of growth, and of discernment. We've been able to enjoy the highest of highs and experienced the lowest of lows, all while keeping Jesus at the center. In 2011, I had the great privilege of working with the first team that began looking at how we could better serve the people in the margins in our area and the Lord stirred a passion in my heart to take the life He had given me and come alongside Him and serve.

In May of 2014, I became the chair of the board at The Well and in October of 2014 Nancy began serving as the Thrift Store Manager for the recently acquired Thrift Store. While actively serving in many capacities at The Well with our family, in May of 2015 I accepted the position of Executive Director and began serving full-time. It has truly been an amazing ride. We have witnessed people in our area changed by the love of Jesus, we've seen relationships reconciled, we've seen people lifted out of the bondage of poverty, we've seen people find hope in our one true God, Jesus.

While it seems the days and years have gone by in rapid fashion, we've never lost sight of this being the Lord's ministry and that we're all here to steward what He is doing. So, in January of 2022 I began working with the Board on planning for my succession, we worked on developing strong leaders within the organization, and in August of 2024, I informed the board of Nancy and my intentions to transition out of The Well in January of 2025.

We are so proud of this team, the communities in which we serve, the clients with which we've built relationships, and the many of you who have supported us over the years. It's fun to now be in a season of reflection and recognize the good things God has done at The Well:

1. January 2011 – The Well began with a group of churches and interested community members brainstorming ways to serve those in the margins in our communities.
2. Summer of 2012 – The Well Resource Center opened on the Molengracht, under the supervision of Third Church, and began serving people in the area.
3. May 2014 – The Well Resource Center received its 501c3 designation, formed a board, and created a five-year strategic plan.
4. August 2014 – The Well Resource Center held its first program called "Getting Ahead".
5. October 2014 – The Well acquired what is now known as The Well Thrift Store and hired Nancy Henry to manage it.
6. May 2015 – The Well hired Jayson Henry to lead the organization.
7. July 2016 – The Well relocated all operations in Pella to a newly renovated space at its location on Oskaloosa Street.

8. September 2017 – The Well acquired ACTS, A Call to Serve Ministries, in Pella. ACTS became the catalyst of providing work for the people we serve through a program called “Well Works” which is an on-site work environment where participants are transformed through paid work, education, and mentorship.
9. February 2018 – Well Works opened a small manufacturing shop to do work for local businesses.
10. August 2018 – We served over a thousand people affected by the tornado that struck Vermeer.
11. December 2018 – Well Works moved into the west building on the Oskaloosa Street campus. The Thrift Store expanded its furniture showroom.
12. March 2019 – The Well expanded to Knoxville with a Resource Center, Programming, and Thrift.
13. March 2021 – The Well expanded to Fairfield with a Resource Center, Programming, Works, and Thrift.
14. November 2023 – The Well expanded to Newton with a Thrift Store.

Over the years, our entrepreneurial spirit has tried many things, and organizationally we have realized that what we may have thought the Lord had planned was always much bigger than we could have guessed. He’s been good and He’s always been faithful.

There are so many of you that we wish to thank for this journey and this season over the next few months. While we have so many great stories, have seen God at work every day of this journey, and know He always has bigger things in store... we don’t want to miss the opportunity to express our gratitude for the many ways you have supported our family. We will truly miss the daily relationships we have with many of you, and you’ll never leave our hearts.

Blessings,

Jayson and Nancy Henry, and family