

Whitsons Family Foundation Video

VIDEO LINK: <http://youtu.be/-t6laq9GOcw>

OPENING SLIDE: LOGO ON BACKGROUND

NARRATION: In the blink of an eye, life as we know it can quickly, and drastically, be turned upside down. For our loved ones. For our families. Even for our team members. Take this moment, right now, to consider how precious life is, and how someone, somewhere, whether at this very moment, earlier in the year, or even in the future, will face an unexpected life circumstance.

SLIDE: COLLAGE OF HARSHIPS

We see what goes on in the media every single day, hearing of the tragedies, and we shake our heads and reach out our hearts. What if you knew that your neighbor or your co-worker was experiencing the same tragedy? Whether they are in the media or not, someone you know and love is living a hardship right this moment. Maybe it's you. Imagine how it feels to receive a check from the Whitsons Family Foundation in your hour of need, and imagine how your own contribution and support can powerfully make a difference in the lives of those around you...

Here are some stories we have experienced through the WFF.

SLIDE: HURRICANE SANDY PIC

NARRATION: Hurricane Sandy hit our own backyards – literally. We received and assisted multiple team members who applied for help to restore their homes.

"I just wanted to send a quick note to say thank you and express how much your help means to me at this time. I never thought in a million years I would ever need to apply for assistance & it is hard for me to ask anyone for help. You have made a difficult time easier to bear. I feel really blessed to be working for a company that genuinely cares for its employees. It warms the heart to know that such people exist."

SLIDE: MOURNER PIC

NARRATION: Not only have we helped team members who lost spouses, children and even a fetal grandchild, we also helped the families of our own team members who unexpectedly passed.

*"There are really no words to express the overwhelming heartfelt feeling I have right now due to your Generosity. I will like to **thank you** for the recent Emergency Financial Assistance Grant of \$1000.00 which I received last night. Since the recent death of my father I never knew how life can change so drastically. I was left in a situation to provide for my family with little to no means of funds to do so. From the foundation acknowledging my struggle and approving this grant so quickly, my family and I*

will have food for another Thanksgiving and rent paid for the month. Your thoughtfulness definitely eased this difficult time. I will be contributing to the foundation to make sure I give another team member the relief you all provided to me and my family. We are forever grateful and Thank You again.”

SLIDE: PIC OF PERSON STRUGGLING WITH BILLS

NARRATION: Sometimes, life just becomes a series of financial struggles, and just when you get close to getting back on your feet again, another challenge hits.

I want to thank this foundation from the very bottom of my heart. I sent over a request for financial assistance because our car was in repossession about a month ago and then left everything in God's hands. Two weeks ago my brother-in-law passed away and was buried on the 4th of this month. Not only were we already behind in bills, but, my husband missing time off because of this made the situation even worse. Needless to say, the week of the 4th was a long, weary and extremely sad one. On Friday, the 8th, we all got home, thankful that the very trying week was over. I walked in to a UPS envelope under my front door. My heart sank and I immediately thought, 'oh no, this is an official letter from the finance company. They are coming to get our car'. Words could not describe the relief, joy and gratitude I felt when I realized it was a check from the Whitsons Family Foundation. A check for \$1000. I cannot thank you enough. After an extremely difficult, sad week, the surprise that awaited me at home that Friday gave us so much hope...a burden lifted off of our shoulders. During times of grief, trouble, turbulence, God always shines a light...this foundation just happened to be that 'light' this time.

SLIDE: HOLIDAY PIC

NARRATION: Holidays are when families are hit the hardest. There is nothing more heartbreaking for a parent than to not be able to give their children presents because they are struggling to put food on the table.

A single mother writes: “I'm in threat of losing my electric, and I just want to give my kids something for Christmas. They are the best kids I can ask for. Through everything they have hung in there and they have overcome so much and I just want to give them one good year.” And her thank you: “My boys had a great Christmas thanks to you guys at Whitsons. I will never forget the look on their faces. It's been so long since I could give them something for Christmas. Thank You again so much.”

SLIDE: ILLNESS PIC

NARRATION: Life is too short – and sometimes, we are faced with unexpected, life-threatening situations, from illnesses such as cancer and heart attacks to violent attacks and spousal abuse. The foundation has seen it all – and helped them all.

“I wanted to reach out to everyone and let them know what an outstanding program the Whitsons Family Foundation has become. I have witnessed first hand what an impact this program can have on a team members life. Early this winter a team member was left in paralyzed state. He has since been rehabilitated and has returned to work just this week. Due to the fact that he was a victim of a violent

crime the state took care of most of the medical expenses which were in excess of one million dollars. The money that was given by the foundation helped to purchase at home therapy which aided in his recovery. Although he is still struggling with some of the long term effects of a brain injury, he has progressed so much. It is instances like this that make me sit back and realize that we are employed by such a dynamic company!!! So please when you are out and about spread the word of this wonderful program. Together we can begin to impact a team members life!!”

SLIDE: COLLAGE OF PICS REPEATED

NARRATION: These are all true stories. Real testimonials of people we have helped over the past two years. Heartbreaking, isn't it? But that's exactly why the foundation was created: to help alleviate some of the financial burden of those going through challenging times.

The Whitsons Family Foundation is a 501(c3) not-for-profit organization created in the Fall of 2011 by the Whitcomb Family to extend a hand to our team members and their immediate families struggling with life's unforeseen moments.

SLIDE: CLING OF I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

NARRATION: To date, we have given more than \$60,000 in hardship grants to team members in need thanks to those who have contributed. How **extraordinary** to know that the Foundation played a part in providing so many people with peace of mind and financial assistance during their time of need.

We have been able to help as many people as we have with the assistance of only a small number of team members. What is even more extraordinary is that many of these very people we helped, have turned around afterwards and begun contributing themselves to give back with gratitude to help someone else.

SLIDE: \$1 A DAY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

NARRATION: Imagine if everyone gave \$1 a day, what we could do? As fund balance grows, we can help more tm and their families, we can raise how much we give each family.

Whitsons made initial \$25,000, then matched \$1 for \$1 up to the first \$25,000 in team member contributions each year. Funds are used **ONLY** for hardship and scholarship assistance.

SLIDE: "HOW CAN I HELP?" PIC

NARRATION: What if someone you knew in your own location was struggling, and was counting on the Foundation's assistance to help them through a difficult time? Imagine how good it would feel knowing how you played a part in paying it forward by being a regular contributor to the Whitsons Family Foundation Fund.

Donating is so simple: And with this simple act of compassion, together we can make a profound impact! And you can donate as little or as much as you want. If you are interested in contributing to the Foundation's fund, you can download the form on the Virtual Manual, ask your manager for a copy or email the Foundation a familyfoundation@whitsons.com for one. It is not mandatory to contribute whatsoever, and we don't even keep track of who is donating and who isn't. This is strictly if you feel called to lend your heart to assist.

How else can you help? If you see a co-worker struggling, encourage them to fill out an application, or even fill out on their behalf. Sometimes we are too full of pride to ask for assistance, but extremely grateful for someone who comes to our aid. Help us to spread the word – talk to your teams and peers at orientations, have monthly meeting reminders, post a station for team members to have easy and confidential access to applications and donation forms or put up posters letting team members know where to find all of this information and how to contact the foundation.

SLIDE: HOW CAN I APPLY?

NARRATION: Applications are available on our Virtual Manual, you can ask your manager for one, or you can contact the Foundation directly. To be eligible to apply, you must have been working for Whitsons for over 6 months and remain in good standing for that same time. Each team member is allowed only a maximum grant of \$1000 per year. You do not need to donate to receive assistance.

Your application remains strictly confidential. Only the administrator receives the original application, then removes all of your personal information before presenting it to the Foundation committee for anonymous review. The committee is comprised of a group of your peers from around the company who review each application on the merits of the situation and supporting documentation provided in order to determine if it meets the hardship criteria. Approved applications are then forwarded – still confidentially – to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

SLIDE: SCHOLARSHIPS

Did you know that the Whitsons Family Foundation also provides scholarships to college-bound team members and their immediate families as well? An eligible recipient must be currently enrolled (or admitted to enroll) in an accredited higher education program, must have a G.P.A. of at least 3.0 and exhibit outstanding scholastic performance, dedication to community service and other volunteer activities, and provide an essay evaluation and personal recommendations to be considered. Scholarship applications are reviewed and awarded once per calendar year, with the annual cut-off date of February 15th for submission. For those who have earned our \$500 scholarships in the past, it has been a great assistance in deflecting costs for books, supplies, enrollment fees and other unexpected expenses. Applications are available on our Virtual Manual, you can ask your manager for one, or you can contact the Foundation directly.

SLIDE: COLLAGE OF THANK YOU'S

NARRATION: We have helped countless team members through their financial struggles, but we can't do it alone. We need your help to spread the word. We invite you to participate and help your fellow team members get the assistance they need during a time of crisis. Help Whitsons make a difference in the life of someone in our own community. You never know when it might just be you who needs the help.

FINAL SLIDE w/ INFO and LOGO:

NARRATION: For more information or to obtain an application or donation form, please talk with your manager or reach out directly to the Whitsons Family Foundation at 1-855-FAM-FUND ☐br email us at familyfoundation@whitsons.com.

Whitsons Family Foundation: Helping Team Members in Need.