



The Devastating Financial Impact of COVID-19

The financial impacts of COVID-19 are continuing to devastate families we work with. Our phone has been ringing off the hook with frantic people in need of help with rent, mortgage and utility payments. While there have been moratoriums for some of these bills, not everyone qualifies and for those who do, the bills are still expected to be paid eventually.

Vonda Horst, our Financial Services Director, who has been with CCS for 18-years, says she has never seen anything like this. "It's so much worse than the recession, at least then people didn't have to worry about their health and that of their loved ones on top of everything else."

We have people call who have a job, but no longer have childcare because caretakers are concerned about catching the virus from children. One set of parents took turns watching their kids, but the husband's employer soon grew weary of allowing him to take time off, so he was fired. Another couple was exposed to COVID twice and each time they were under quarantine for at least 10 days with no pay. Others have sickly family members they care for and must make the decision whether to go back to work and run the risk of bringing the virus back home or quit and have no income. These are just a few examples of the stories we hear.

"It is absolutely heartbreaking to hear what so many families are experiencing, and the guilt and shame they feel for needing help for something they had no way of predicting. There also isn't a clear end in sight as to when things will be back to being relatively normal, which only increases everyone's anxiety," Vonda said. "The relief people express when we are able to help them is palpable, but the needs are huge and I fear families are going to be experiencing financial consequences of Covid for a long time to come."

Please help if you can! You can donate to help people with emergency Financial Services online at www.churchcommunityservices.org/emergency-support



A New Class of Soup of Success Graduates!

Soup of Success team 22 experienced the most unique program ever held in our history. Three weeks into programming, Elkhart County went into quarantine and we suddenly had to figure how to keep all the women connected, encouraged and empowered during this difficult time. After 13 weeks, we came back together and entered into a new hybrid version of Soup of Success. The women were troopers and went with the flow with the most positive attitudes!

Graduation was held on the evening of October 1 for the team of women who had been with us essentially for 33 weeks! Because of COVID-19, we struggled to figure out a way to honor these 8 incredible women while keeping everyone safe. While we usually hold graduation in a beautiful church fellowship area, this year we held graduation in a large tent!

The afternoon of graduation was cold and rainy with even a bit of hail thrown in. The wind blew so hard that the sides of the tent billowed making a loud slapping noise and sending splatters of rain inside. Things were looking bleak!

At 5:00 pm, the rain and wind stopped, the sun peeked through the clouds and guests started to arrive. The white lights that we had hung along with the candles on the tables and festive pumpkins greeted guests. The outdoor propane heaters made it cozy. The women were able to stand up in front of the audience and give their testimonies and share how much they have grown and their lives had changed. Staff volunteers and guests shared how proud of them they were. It was an inspirational, fantastic celebration. Thank you God for taking care of the weather and allowing us to gather!

We Have the Best Volunteers!

A big thank you to Dave King and Gail Ehret for their consistent support over the past several years. Every Wednesday, they help us sort food that is donated to us. Last December they saw we were in need of extra help sorting 15(!) gaylords of food we were blessed with, so they increased the amount of time they came in. "It's so wonderful to be able to rely on the help of Dave and Gail. They are hard workers with great hearts for the people we serve!" says Michael Downing, Food Services Director.



Thank you!

Yard Sale with Ruth and Friends

Every year Ruth Rockwell and her friends put together an amazing tea party complete with delectable treats, delicious tea, music, and gift baskets with proceeds benefitting Soup of Success. Because of COVID-19, this year Ruth and her friends decided to host a yard sale instead. For two weekends they held sales to raise money for our program that helps women in Elkhart improve the quality of their lives. We can't thank them enough! Shown here are Elaine Griffen, Ruth Rockwell, Tom McArthur, Karen Gadson and Mary Cenkush.



Tomatoes for the Pantry!



For several years Creekside Church of the Brethren in Elkhart has taken on the gigantic task of processing tomatoes from their community garden so they can be enjoyed by our pantry guests in the winter and spring. Volunteers harvest, clean, chop, weigh and bag tomatoes which are frozen and can be used much like canned tomatoes for soups, stews and sauces. Over the course of four weeks they processed 2118 pounds of tomatoes! Thank you so much!

Thanks for Keeping Our Shelves Stocked!

We are so grateful for these companies and organizations for their consistent support throughout the year. Bimbo Bakeries provides bread products, Culver Duck supplies us with duck and duck eggs and Feed the Children shares a variety of food and personal care items to help us serve those most in need.



Thank you to our Teen Growers Sponsors



Welch Packaging Group

Jan Farron

Tom and Sara Elkin

Another Wonderful Growing Season!

This year we had 18 Gardens participate in our Seed to Feed program. Amazing volunteers from the gardens stayed dedicated to providing fresh and nutritious food to our community in the midst of a global and local crisis. Seed to Feed gardens supplied over 35,209 pounds of produce to our pantry, for a total of 231,786 USDA servings. This amount doesn't even include the many pounds of produce shared directly to families surrounding the community gardens. Overflowing with produce, we were able to bless other pantries in Elkhart County and together feed more families than we imagined. A huge THANK YOU to the following gardens and the countless volunteers who made it possible! See you next year!

Production Gardens

- Community Corrections Garden
- Creekside Church of the Brethren Garden
- Graber Farm Garden
- Pleasant View Garden
- River Oaks Church Garden
- Zion Church Garden

Community Learning Gardens

- Brady Street Garden
- Bushelcraft Farm
- CCS Community Garden
- Goshen Health Garden
- Seeds of Faith Garden
- Tolsen Center Garden
- Wellfield Gardens

Partner Gardens

- Bullard Garden
- Elkhart Airport
- French Garden
- Goshen Garden
- Schantz Garden



Church Community Services receives SUN FOR ALL Grant!

We are thrilled to announce that Church Community Services has been awarded a grant from the SUN FOR ALL Solar Empowerment Grant Program with the Citizens Action Coalition Education Fund as its fiscal agent and administered on behalf of the AEP Mitigation Money Oversight Committee. This funding will allow us to both save money on electric bills so we can use more of our funding on services helping those most in need in Elkhart County, as well as allow us to care for our environment and decrease our carbon footprint with a sustainable form of energy.



Church Community Services is pleased to announce that we have officially named our main office building the Tuff Family Center in honor of Jack and Kaye Tuff, a major donor who supported the purchase of our building. Pictured are Brad Priest and Jonathan Tuff.

COW CHIP BINGO!

Proceeds benefit Church Community Services'

Seed to Feed Program

Saturday November 14, 2pm

200 squares will be randomly assigned. Winner is the square closest to the chip.

\$25
a square

\$200 cash and
gift basket
valued at \$50
to the winning
square



Tickets may be purchased at
www.churchcommunityservices.org/cow-chip-bingo

Event will be live streamed on Facebook at:
churchcommunityservices or attend in
person with face mask and social
distancing.

Kurt and Beth Bullard's Farm
5211 Middlebury St., Elkhart, IN

Soup of Success Holiday Open Houses!

Saturday November 7

Saturday December 5

9 am - 2 pm

907 Oakland Avenue, Elkhart

Our New Volunteer Coordinator

Please help us welcome Ellen Reilly, our new volunteer coordinator! Ellen recently relocated to the Michiana area from New Jersey. She has worked in numerous leadership roles in human resources and career development. In her spare time Ellen enjoys golfing with her husband, movies, reading and any moments with their three grown children, family and friends. She is looking forward to working with volunteers who share their talents with Church Community Services and promoting the mission of helping others.



Bad Entertainment Presents

An Evening with Dave Bennett

Holiday Feast Food Drive for the Food Pantry
of Church Community Services

*4 ITEM MINIMUM OF NON PERISHABLES DAY OF EVENT *

Limited
TICKETS \$35
IN ADVANCE
\$40
AT DOOR
FRIDAY 20
NOV
Social distancing event
Doors open @ 7pm
Show starts at 8pm
CASH BAR

Omega Event Center

TICKETS: WWW.BEMW2396.COM

Thank you Martin's Supermarkets and those who shared food in our barrels during the months of July through August!



Thank you Ace Monard, his staff and family who helped us plant vegetable starts this spring and clean up the gardens this fall!

Church Community Services
PO Box 2346
Elkhart, IN 46515

Return Service Requested

We can't serve without YOU.

**Thank YOU for building
positive change!**

**Follow Church Community Services
and our Soup of Success program!**



When you shop at Kroger with your Rewards card linked to support Church Community Services, a percentage of every qualifying purchase is donated to CCS by Kroger. It's an easy, free way to give back on everyday purchases!

- To participate visit kroger.com/account/communityrewards
- Login with your account info. (New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a rewards card.)
- Search for Church Community Services or PE563 and then click Enroll.
- Shop at Kroger with your loyalty card and know that we appreciate your support!

Food Pantry Needs

Canned soups, meat and vegetables

Cereals (hot and cold)

Crackers

Rice

Hamburger Helper-like meal helpers

Peanut butter

Jelly

Condiments

Boxed potatoes

Cash donations allow the pantry to purchase items at an unbeatable price of 18 cents a pound.

Diapers

Personal care and hygiene items

Volunteers Needed!

- Our Seed to Feed Program needs a volunteers to help harvest and do garden maintenance in the greenhouse Monday mornings 8-11am.
- Our Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to assist the Food Services Director as we serve our guests Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Our Food Pantry needs help in our warehouse with sorting and repackaging food and cleaning/organizing.
- Our Food Pantry needs people to deliver food to homebound individuals. Volunteers are needed the third Wednesday of each month to deliver food in their own car to approximately 6 people.
- Our Food Pantry needs people to drive our box trucks (26 and 16-foot trucks) and vans for food pick-up. CDL required for 26-foot truck, but not necessary for other vehicles.

If you are interested contact Ellen Reilly at 295-3673 ext. 112 or volunteer@churchcommunityservices.org

Financial Services Hours

Monday and Thursday: 9am-11:45am & 1pm-3:45pm

Wednesday: 9am-11:45am



Food Pantry Hours

Monday 11am-3pm

Wednesday 11am-3pm

Thursday 11am-3pm & 4-7pm



Food Pantry