



Celebrating 50 Years of Hope

Doing God's Work



For fifteen years Don Rockwell has quietly become a permanent fixture at CCS, and he isn't even paid to be here! After retiring early, Don began looking for something to do with his time that was worthwhile, and he found that at CCS. Don began his involvement with CCS as a board member, using his accounting background to help the agency. Don knew that the best way to really get to know the organization was to be actively involved in the work we do, so in his early days he also helped in the food pantry.

Then, our Financial Services program needed help, and he was asked to be one of our counselors. In this role, Don would meet with clients who visit us because they are in need of emergency financial assistance for things like rent, utilities or prescriptions. Being a shy guy by nature, the thought of taking on this role was way outside his comfort zone, but he decided to give it a try. "I knew if I was able to help in this way, it would be because the Lord helped me do it." Ten years later, Don still volunteers in our Financial

Services program, saying it has been a fantastic experience and secretly sharing he'd almost pay CCS to have the opportunity he has to help people in our community as he does.

Don explains that his work is so meaningful to him because of the staff he works with and the hope he is able to offer. "Many who come to see me have all but given up hope. I have had grown men come in with tears in their eyes because they have been made to feel so bad about needing help. What I like best is how we treat people," Don said. "We treat people with the utmost respect no matter who they are. Even if we can't help, we do our best to refer them to another place that might help. I keep coming back, because there is nothing like the feeling of helping someone and having them give you a big hug and saying 'thank God for you and CCS'. And they are right when they thank God, because we are God's conduit, we are Jesus and God's hands here on earth."

If you are interested in volunteering, contact our volunteer coordinator, Jen McOwen at 295-3673 ext. 112 or volunteer@churchcommunityservices.org. A short list of some of the areas we can use help is on the back of this newsletter, but Jen can tell you about even more!

CCS Receives Key to Elkhart City!

Church Community Services was honored to receive the Key to the City of Elkhart in December.

Mayor Neese said, "I am proud to present this Key to the City to Elkhart's largest food pantry – Church Community Services (CCS). Despite our strong economy, many of our friends and neighbors are still in need of assistance, and CCS offers that helping hand 365-days a year. I hope the community will join me in congratulating CCS and thanking them for 50 years of generous service."

"Church Community Services is so grateful for the support of Mayor Neese and all community members who care for their neighbors in need," said Tom McArthur, executive director of CCS.



Support Church Community Services Food Pantry
and enjoy a fun night of music and dancing!

February 23rd, 2019 from 2pm - 11pm

Disabled American Veterans post #19

1205 Middleton Run Rd, Elkhart, IN

Karaoke DJ from about 3 until 5

Dance party begins at 5pm

Entry fee is 2 canned/boxed food items for the
Church Community Services Food Pantry



VITA at Church Community Services

VITA stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. The VITA Program offers FREE tax preparation and filing services to households who make \$66,000 or less and need assistance preparing their own tax returns. United Way of St. Joseph County operates this program and will have a site in our CCS building this year. To learn more or make an appointment contact United Way at 2-1-1 or www.unitedwaytaxhelp.org.

**Congratulations to our newest
Soup of Success graduates!**



We are thrilled to announce that thanks to the generosity of an individual donor we were able to pay off our mortgage! With this portion of our overhead taken care of, we will be able to use a greater percentage of our funds to meet the needs of our participants and guests and grow our programs. We are so grateful!



Welcome Chelsea and Robert!



Chelsea Risser is our new Seed to Feed Coordinator. Chelsea grew up in Ligonier, IN and recently graduated from Goshen College. She is passionate about food justice and has enjoyed working on small organic farms in Europe and recently at Clay Bottom Farm in Goshen. She loves exploring, running, writing, painting, cooking, and spending time in the sunshine.



Robert Wheeler is our new warehouse manager for our food pantry. Robert was born and raised in Goshen and currently lives there with his wife. When he's not at work he enjoys spending time with his wife and daughters (who are currently away in grad school), as well as spending time in the great outdoors.



Ways to Show Your Love!

Soup Of Success is all about love. Love for our participants, volunteers, customers, family and friends! Show your love with a warm pair of mittens, a hot bowl of soup, chewy decadent cookies, or a whimsical gift. We have something for everyone and your gift will not only show love for the recipient, but also for Soup Of Success participants, as all proceeds go back to supporting the program! Stop in our store or visit soupofsuccess.com, to pick up a gift, and tell your friends that you love them and our community!



A warm thank you to Terri Rickel, outgoing board member, for her many years of service on our Board of Directors. We welcome new board members, Monica Abair, from Cornerstone CPA Group and Sonia Hadley Davis, a dedicated Elkhart community member.

Thank YOU!

Thank you for the generosity of all of our donors this giving season. Because of your support we were able to assist so many! In 2018 we had over 14,500 visits to our food pantry, we impacted 838 people through our Financial Services program and supported 108 participants and graduates through our Soup Of Success program. We couldn't do the work we do without your support! Below are just a few of our donors.



Montessori School of Elkhart students (top left), Sheila Gordy from First State Bank (top right), Jack B. Smith, Jr. President of Gaska Tape (bottom left), Waypoint Church and Granger Christian Church members (bottom right).

Church Community Services
PO Box 2346
907 Oakland Ave
Elkhart, IN 46515

Return Service Requested

**We can't serve without YOU.
Thank YOU for building
positive change!**

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



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!

The Soup of Success program needs volunteers to help sew mittens and make shower melts Mon-Thur. afternoons.

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.

If you have experience with video, photography, social media or marketing we can use your help as we work to share their mission and help those in need in Elkhart County.

Be a social media ambassador! Simply share our social media posts among your friends to help us get the word out about the important work that's going on!

The Food Pantry is in need of volunteers to assist the Food Services Director as we serve our guests Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We also need people to drive our box trucks and vans for food pick-up.

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

Go Green and Save Us Green!

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email, contact Hayley to join our list at htessier@churchcommunityservices.org.

Financial Services Hours

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

Wednesday: 9am-11:45am

Tuesday and Friday: Closed



Food Pantry Hours

Monday 11am-3pm

Wednesday 11am-3pm

Thursday 11am-3pm & 4-7pm

