



A Commitment to Serving All in Elkhart County

Church Community Services is meant to serve all neighbors in need, but until recently has struggled to serve the Latinx community effectively, due in large part to the language barrier. In the past CCS has relied on the assistance of Spanish speaking volunteers to communicate with guests as they visit the food pantry, but Spanish speaking volunteers are not available for every shift, and as a result CCS has not become established as a welcoming place to those who predominantly speak Spanish.



Church Community Services is committed to becoming more inclusive. Last spring, through support from Watershed Consulting and the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, CCS translated print materials and signage, and a phone translation service was made available so when guests call the Financial Services program, staff can communicate with Spanish speaking guests. Church Community Services also became the pick up site for City of Elkhart resident ID's, which are particularly helpful to residents needing a photo ID. The ID is accepted at schools, many banks, interactions with law enforcement and in healthcare settings.

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, further steps in outreach to the Latinx community have begun this year. The first step was hiring Yolo López DeMarco as Director of Community Outreach. In this role, Yolo will provide vision and leadership for community engagement-centered activities with the Latinx community. Yolo will be meeting with key stakeholders in Elkhart County to better connect them to Church Community Services. "While many Elkhart residents are aware of the services CCS provides, others like the immigrant and Latinx community don't really know about assistance CCS has to offer," Yolo said.

One of the first meetings Yolo held was with parent liaisons from four different Elkhart Community Schools. During this meeting, Yolo got to hear about the challenging circumstances parents are facing with the pandemic, such as shortage of funds for food due to a cut in employment hours, stress, anxiety and uncertainty of whether or not they will have enough money to pay next month's rent. Yolo was able to reassure the parent liaisons that CCS is a welcoming place for all who are in need of food and financial services, and the parent

liaisons were extremely thankful for this and eager to spread the word to the families they serve.

Some of Yolo's goals for this year include creating small (COVID-19 safe) community events, promoting CCS services through digital and broadcasting services and assisting in the recruitment of volunteers. She will also suggest new community-based programs and partnerships to link CCS with the Latinx community to ensure everyone in Elkhart County knows about CCS.

In the coming months Church Community Services will be hiring two part-time Spanish speaking staff to assist in the food pantry and financial services departments. The agency has also received funding from Crossroads United Way that will allow for the purchase of a greater variety of foods appreciated by the Latinx community.

"Being better able to serve those in the Latinx community has been a long time coming. We are called to help all those in need, and we are grateful to our funders for making this needed outreach finally become a reality," Tom McArthur, executive director, said.

New Director of Community Outreach

Please help us welcome Yolo López DeMarco, our new Director of Community Outreach! Yolo is known for knowing how to gently and professionally connect communities across cultures and more specifically, the U.S Hispanic community. Yolo was born in Guadalajara Jalisco Mexico and raised in Elkhart at the young age of seven. Yolo is a graduate of Goshen College with a B.A in broadcasting and youth ministry. Yolo is a board member of the Tolson Center, Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce, and the Goshen Community Relations Commission. She resides in Goshen with her husband and two young daughters.



Thank You Elkhart Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy and Participants in the First Cow Chip Bingo!

Thank you to the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy and the amazing team who, as part of their Non-profit Impact Project, helped us fundraise for Teen Growers in a variety of ways, including our first Cow Chip Bingo event! Shown (left to right) are: AJ Delgadillo, Teen Growers Program Coordinator; Tom McArthur, Executive Director of Church Community Services; LaTasha Bosse, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Elkhart County; Craig Baumgardner, Kem Krest; and Tim Vosberg, Interra Credit Union; Samuel Hoover, Leliaert Insurance Agency and Leadership Council; and Gabby Parrish, Seed to Feed Director. Not shown, but also appreciated are Laurenne Hamlin, Ryan's Place and Patty Willaert, Beacon Health.



Brenda Toews, winner of Cow Chip Bingo

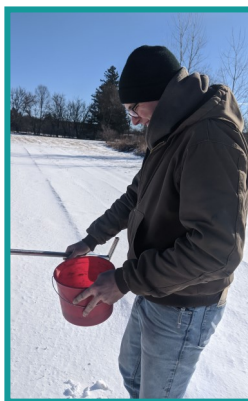
Brenda Toews was the winner of Cow Chip Bingo, and we thank everyone who participated. Special thanks to Kurt and Beth Bullard for hosting the event and sharing Lady the cow, and Dwight Fish for his technical support with livestreaming.

New Irrigation for the Greenhouse



A big thank you to Ben Hartman (right), owner of Claybottom Farm in Goshen. He designed and installed a drip irrigation system for our Seed to Feed greenhouse. This will make caring for our vegetables so much easier! Thank you Xavier, a Goshen High School intern, for helping with the installation. Special thanks to Evan Jay Miller for funding this project in honor of Carl & Carol Miller.

Garden Preparations Already Underway



Thank you Dustin, with Crop Tech Inc, and Doug Thwaites, one of our favorite local farmers, for helping Seed to Feed collect soil samples from 11 of our gardens. The information we gather from these samples will allow us to make the correct amendments to the soil so we can grow and harvest as much produce as possible during the next growing season for those who need it most in Elkhart County.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

We have been blessed with many donations of food and financial support from area businesses and churches the past few months. We are so grateful to all our donors who help us help our neighbors in need. Here are just a few!

Fellowship of Hope Church

First Presbyterian Church

Natural Health Family Chiropractic

JWS Investments, LLC



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



HERITAGE ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION

HOMAN
L U M B E R



Gaska Tape Inc.
INNOVATORS IN FOAM AND TAPES



Welch Packaging Group

An Amazing Boy Making a Difference

We continue to be so grateful to 10-year-old Brayden Smith for the T-shirts he is making and selling to raise funds for our Food Pantry. He has a new design for 2021 that says: We were **DISTRACTED** in 2020 **GOING FORWARD** I'm going to help build a better **FUTURE** for all of us! **REBUILD 2021**. The new T-shirts are \$20. The old 2020 style is \$15. Let us know if you want one for yourself!



Help Us Welcome Our Newest Soup of Success Class!



We Have the Best Volunteers!

We are so grateful to Jerry McFarlin for generously sharing his talents with Church Community Services. Jerry has created multiple things that make our work easier, including building tables for our new food delivery process outdoors, a food pantry client sign in booth and dispensers for our Soup of Success labels and bubble wrap. Jerry's efforts allow us to work faster and safer than ever before!



Souper TRIVIA

a virtual event benefiting
Soup of Success

Friday, March 5, 7pm
Teams of 8, \$25 a person
To learn more and register: <http://bit.ly/triviasos2>



Ruth and Friends
Yard Sale!

Benefiting Soup of Success



Mark your calendars now for:
April 16 & 17
Church Community Services
907 Oakland Ave., Elkhart



ATTENTION ELKHART COUNTY TEENS!

Are you interested in a paid internship where you learn about gardening and help your community?

To learn more and apply go to:
<http://bit.ly/teengrowers>



Seed to Feed
A program of CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES



SPRING SESSION BEGINS
MARCH 20TH, 2021

Financial Services for Those Impacted by COVID-19

The financial repercussions of COVID-19 continue to devastate families. People are reaching out to us because they can no longer work due to losing their child care because the caregiver no longer feels comfortable having kids in their home. Other people have had COVID, missed work and quickly fell behind on bills. One gentleman shared that COVID-19 caused him to lose his job. He cleaned out his savings to pay his bills and, not wanting to ask for help, he opened and maxed out several credit cards. He's scared because now he has no job, no money and bad credit. The financial and emotional toll all this hardship is causing our neighbors is heartbreaking.

Church Community Services is the recipient of CDBG-CV funding to benefit individuals and families in the City of Elkhart who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic. These funds are being used to provide rent, mortgage and utility assistance to residents impacted by COVID-19. If you know of people who live in the City of Elkhart in need of help due to COVID-19, please send them our way. More information can be found at www.churchcommunityservices.org/covid-financial.

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!**



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 volunteers to help seed plant starts in the greenhouse on Monday and Wednesday Mornings from 9-12pm beginning in Early March.
- Our Seed to Feed Teen Growers Internship needs volunteers to help assist the Teen Grower Coordinator as the teens work in our gardens and build raised beds on M-T-Th-F from 3:30-5:30pm beginning in Late March.
- Our Seed to Feed Program needs a group of volunteers to help us organize our garage building for effective use.
- 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 call 295-3673 ext. 112 or email 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