



Community Emergency Service

The Spotlight Newsletter

December 2016

Beyond Bread to the Bread of Life . . . Beyond Ourselves to Jesus Christ

Wishing You A Wonderful Christmas—CES Staff



With your partnership and friendship, we continue to serve “the least of these” in areas of Minneapolis —extending community because we care—a place where people come hungry and leave **hopeful!**

CES Staff: (L-R, Front row) Latrellis Holden, Kelsey Hansen, Melanie LaPointe, Sahra Ali, Robert Nepple, Theron Thomas; (2nd Row) Mike Lloyd, Juanita Lindgren, Saundra Holden, Elisabeth Bott, Mike Krachmer, Joe DelMedico, Chris Nelson; (not pictured) Shawnda Hobson, Harold Lewis, Dan Vail

\$40,000 Match by December 31

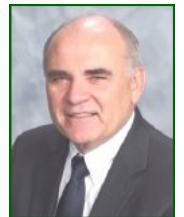
“For many years it has been my privilege to deliver meals to elderly and disabled folks through the CES Meals on Wheels program. This volunteer work also reminds me of what is important in life. In recent years I also have been a CES board member. I ask you to **please join the CES board in helping CES reach our challenge match**, as we continue to pursue our mission.” Dan O’Keefe, *Board Member and MOW driver for 31 years.*

Are You In?

Send a check or give online at cesmn.org/donate

Director’s Discourse “Time of Renewal”

It is my pleasure to share a message of hope in this month’s Spotlight with a greeting from the CES staff. We also celebrate highlights from our annual Thanksgiving food distribution, courtesy of the generous support of donors to the Union Gospel Mission and Seward Coop. Thank you for taking the time to take part in the work that is CES.



Mike Lloyd

We are in, what is for me, a **time of the year when we experience renewal**. As we think about the gifts we have and will receive, first and foremost is the gift of the baby Jesus. Many of the songs of the season **celebrate and point to a sense of joy and hopefulness**.

Unfortunately, many have been caught up in the turmoil of this year’s Presidential election and, through all of the animosity, some find their peace and joy robbed.

Continued on page 2

Thanksgiving Distribution in Action



Volunteer Sarah & Staff Elisabeth worked together to get things ready



Our guests enjoyed live piano music while they waited



A family enjoyed a snack as they arrived



Willing volunteers handed out food as they spread the joy of giving



Neighbors warmly greeted each other



Pies were given before a gift card was presented to buy the meat of their choice

Each year volunteers come to distribute food baskets and each year grateful neighbors received them.

Thank you to the 94 volunteers who came Friday evening to set up and Saturday to assist at the Thanksgiving Distribution, giving out 300 Food Baskets!

CES could not do this without you! Thank you!

Director's Discourse Continued from page 1

With an **uncertainty about the future**, some of our neighbors have expressed fear about possible changes. Our Somali and East African clients live in fear of heightened levels of persecution because of their faith or nationality. Our Hispanic clients don't know what immigration changes might mean for them. Our poor who visit our food shelf live with the uncertainty of what may change with their badly needed assistance. Our home bound seniors live with the danger of budget cuts to senior programs that make their independence possible.

So what's our response? CES will meet these uncertainties by continuing our African Immigrant Food Distribution our Home Delivery and Meals on Wheels to seniors and the food shelf and Friday distributions for the poor and immigrants.

I meet many people through my work at CES who have reason to despair because of difficult circumstances in their lives. Yet, **I continue to be amazed by how much joy I find in the people we serve.** It is my pleasure to know that through our efforts, we are able to bring them a reason to feel optimistic, a reason

to believe that someone cares; then hope can begin.

Personally, I am set free from fear because I know that *"unto us a child is born, unto us a Savior is given."* **His name is Christ Jesus.** This gift brings with it a challenge and a *calling* that is placed on CES—a calling of service. We serve all without test and all are welcome. In this season of hope, we take seriously the calling that has been given to us to *"serve the least of these."*

I thank God for partners and friends such as you in this work of service to people in Minneapolis. Thank you for your continued support for without your time, talent and treasures none of this would be possible.

I pray each of you finds renewal and peace during this Christmas Season.

God bless you and Merry Christmas,

Mike Lloyd, Executive Director at CES