

Community Emergency Service

# The Spotlight Newsletter

February 2016

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

## 2016 Minnesota March FoodShare is Coming

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Join Community Emergency Service  
again in the month of March  
in the fight against hunger!

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A young mother and grandmother sat in front waiting their turn at the food shelf. They were enjoying the 3-week old baby the mother was holding, smiling and laughing. Yet, the young mother hadn't eaten that day, and there was little to eat at home for the rest of the week. Although she was nursing her baby, **she was going without food.**



Ron Holden unpacks food obtained by a discount program

**Help CES fight hunger.** Our volunteers that meet with our neighbors at the food shelf each day often hear stories of missing meals and hunger. **Although hidden, this food insecurity exists!**

**Food shelves like CES stretch cash further than the average person because of our access to discount product & programs.** Help us feed more Minnesota families by donating food and cash to CES today and during the March FoodShare.

## CES Minnesota March FoodShare

For more than 30 years, Minnesota FoodShare has coordinated the March Campaign, the annual grassroots food and fund drive that teams up with nearly 300 Minnesota food shelves to raise funds and food for organizations like CES.

Last year, CES served over **80,000 client visits**, giving over **half a million pounds** of food! Yet, hunger continues, often unseen. One in ten Minnesotans, or more than 500,000 residents, are food insecure on a regular basis. That is **more people than attended Minnesota**

**Vikings home games** during the 2015 season. This may include children who are going to school hungry, seniors quietly skipping meals so that they can buy life-sustaining medications or parents who skip meals so their children can eat.

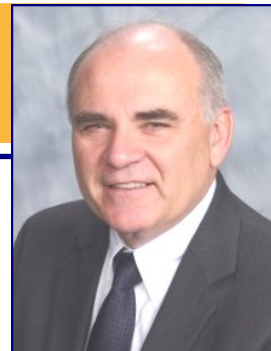
In last year's CES March campaign, 25,705 pounds of food and hygiene items were collected and \$91,515.00 were raised! ***This year our goal is to collect 30,000 pounds of food and hygiene items and raise \$100,000!*** Please join us this year to help in feeding the hungry.

*See page 4 for more*

**This year our March 2016 goal is to :  
Collect 30,000 pounds of food and hygiene items & raise \$100,000!**

## Director's Discourse: Reflections from the Frigid North

by Mike Lloyd, Executive Director at CES



It's 7:00 a.m. and I am driving into Minneapolis on Highway 55. It is one of those days when we know winter is here for real. It is -5 degrees with a wind chill of about -25 degrees. It is hard on cars, buildings, furnaces and utility bills, but mostly it is hard on those living in the inner city that are homeless or just struggling to make ends meet.

Each day I drive by the Salvation Army's Harbor Lights facilities. At seven a.m. there are always people leaving as they must each day after spending the night and having a morning meal. I have observed that most are men, but there are woman as well. **All face challenges to find a place to stay warm for the day.** Some who come to Harbor Lights on a night like last night are turned away due to a lack of space. Theirs is a difficult challenge, to survive in the face of such bitterly cold temps on the streets of Minneapolis.

As I continue my drive I pass the Opportunity Center on Chicago Avenue. This is much the same story. People share a breakfast and then must go out on the streets to face the cold for yet another day.

As I approach CES, I am mindful of the many people who come to CES at this time of year looking for help with transportation, heat and utilities. Their batteries fail, they can't pay heat bills and sometimes the best solution is to leave the city, so they get transportation assistance to go elsewhere.

**Some come to CES, not for food, but just to get out of the cold.** We have one client who stops in often. I will call him John. John shows up from time to time, more when it is cold, and he simply sits in a pew, says little to anyone unless approached and journals in his notebook. I don't know what he writes about, but I guess it is his way of dealing with his reality. We often give him food, and the staff of CES talk with him. He says he has a job but there is no evidence of that. We believe he just needs a safe place and CES can be that for him for a time. John is one of the many people who have few

options, who drop into CES for help. While our ministry is not directly with the homeless, we see many who, if not homeless, are barely hanging on. I know this is the reality for many in the inner city, but it is always hardest to see it when the conditions are so difficult and threaten not just their comfort but even their lives. I wish I had an answer for all of the problems that cause this to be the case, but I do not. I only know that **CES was placed here in the Phillips neighborhood to help those in need, that we are totally dependent on God's provision and that His provision is sufficient.** It is incumbent on me, staff and the Board to do our part to share the message of the need, of how we seek to serve and utilize His provision wisely. As we share our resources with those in need, ninety percent of every dollar goes directly to the programs of CES.

Each year in January as we pass the joyous Holiday season, we see a drop in our overall donations. This comes at a time when our resources become strained due to the needs of neighbors. We were richly blessed over the last two months by the many food donations from our congregational partners, businesses and their employees and individuals, but these provisions will be depleted quickly. We continue to need your support as we help our neighbors struggle through the months ahead. Please remember those we serve in your prayers, and consider a generous donation to the work of CES and to the poor.

May God richly bless you!

In His service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Lloyd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Lloyd, Executive Director at CES

***Go to our website to see the current list of needs for the food shelf as well as other updates.***

## Why Do We March? by Mike Krachmer, Operations Director



An easy answer to that question is “Marion.” Marion has lived an interesting and productive life. He was an Arkansas, Kentucky and Alaska State Trooper for 30 years, always an active outdoorsman. Shortly after moving to Minnesota three years ago, he fell while rock climbing (at age 62) and suffered severe injuries to his back, head and leg.

Marion is cheerful, outgoing and grateful every day when he meets one of us at his door. He lives in a small apartment on the fourth floor of an old, converted, rooming house with no elevator. Living alone, he needs a wheelchair to get around because of his injuries. But he had the tenacity to reach out for the support he needs.

In the month of March, we will join friends and supporters around the country to raise a ruckus **by volunteering, speaking out, and reaching out to the seniors** in our lives.

We raise our voices to reach care givers, case managers, family members and others who want to help seniors like Marion. **We shout our joy as volunteers join us** in meaningful service to those who went before us, and still have something to teach.

### Questions to ponder about why we march:

- How else do we reach the top of the stair case, the quiet house on a residential street or the tenth floor of the high rise apartment?
- How else do we reach our elders who have lost touch with family, friends and can no longer work or volunteer to serve others because of their own declining health?



MOW Christmas Volunteers

**Come be part of the solution.**



## March For Meals

March for Meals is a national campaign held during the month of March, to raise awareness of senior hunger and to encourage action on the part of local communities.

CES Meals on Wheels and Eastside Meals on Wheels will host our third annual March for Meals in Minneapolis on **Thursday, March 24, 2016**. This one-day fundraising event partners with participating restaurants who donate a portion of their proceeds to Meals on Wheels. **We believe food brings people together and connects us to each other.**

**Save Room, Mark Your Calendar**

To learn more check out our web site or contact *Melanie LaPointe* [mlapoint@cesmn.org](mailto:mlapoint@cesmn.org) or call 612.870.1125 x128

## Community Shared

As we head into the March FoodShare Campaign, let us remind you that **CES would love to come to your group or congregation in February or March to share** about our mission to fight hunger and give hope.



Thursday volunteers,  
Dave & Ruth are far right

Dave & Ruth Yeates came to CES to volunteer after Mike Lloyd spoke at Colonial Church of Edina.

Recently, they shared about their volunteer life at CES with Chris

Nelson, Director of Development. When Dave describes CES to his friends he tells them that it is not only a Christian ministry to distribute food, but it's also a place to display concern for the individual. “We want people to know that there is someone out there who cares.” Ruth explains that we are able to “**feed the soul.**”

When Dave meets with the clients as an Advocate Interviewer, he asks them how they are doing, is interested in their lives and “offers prayer for anyone that is interested.”

Ruth helps with the front desk intake area, and when asked what her favorite part was she replied, “Meeting neighbors and developing relationships with them.”

Dave shared that if an Advocate is gone, “we do not have enough volunteers and one has to rush. **Talking and showing care takes time and it is hard to rush,** so our neighbors aren't cared for as they could be. We need more Advocates to come and share hope with those in need.”

Living in the suburbs and then coming to CES to volunteer “helped us see the inner city, what it is like, how people live and how we can make an impact. **Come and be a part of a caring community.**”

# \$86,340

You shattered our  
**\$40,000 Challenge Match**  
**Thank you!**

## 2015 Taxes

Those who donated more than \$250 or gave multiple gifts in 2015 to CES, will receive a year end tax letter.

Questions? Contact Kelsey Hansen  
email: [khansen@cesmn.org](mailto:khansen@cesmn.org) or call 612.870.1125 x100

## CES Volunteer Opportunities for 2016

### MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVERS

Monday—Friday 11-1

- Pick up meals between 11 and 11:30, routes take about one hour

### MEALS ON WHEELS KITCHEN

Thursday and Friday 8-11

- Help pack cold and hot meals in insulated bags

### BONUS FRIDAY

Friday 9-12 or Friday 12-3

- AM: sort food; PM: serve food

### FOOD SHELF SUPPORT

Monday—Friday 9-1 or 12-4

- Work in the food shelf stocking shelves & sorting food

### SUPPORT CLIENT NEEDS come for 1 or 2 hour shifts

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 1-3

Wednesday 1-3 or 3-5

- Computer skills needed to navigate Bridge to Benefits for clients

More information: see our website, [www.cesmn.org/volunteer](http://www.cesmn.org/volunteer) or call Melanie LaPointe at 612.870.1125 x128

### MFS Food Shelf Need

<b>Food:</b>	<b>Hygiene:</b>
Cooking Oil	Toothbrush/paste
Flour, 4 lb. bag	Shampoo
Sugar, 4 lb. bag	Conditioner
Beef stew & chili	Deodorant
Canned chicken	Shaving cream
Canned ham	Razors
Canned tuna	Toilet paper
Canned fruit	Laundry soap
Canned pasta meals	Dishwashing soap
Canned tomatoes	<b>Baby items</b>
Coffee	Diapers
100% fruit juice	Wipes

### **MN FoodShare Steps**

#### **Four Easy Steps to Launch Your Campaign:**

##### **Plan**

- **Plan a March food/hygiene/cash drive** with your congregation, organization, committees and friends. You may want to compete against each other to see who can raise the most!  
**Be creative!**
- Storage barrels and boxes are available and will be delivered and picked up from your location as needed.

##### **Start**

- The Food/Fund drive starts March 1st.
- Resources and posters are available upon request.

##### **Collect & Serve**

- Pray for generosity of your community as you collect for those who live in hunger during the March food/fund drive.
- Let CES host a service event for your congregation or group to sort food, fill grocery bags and deliver meals or groceries.

##### **Deliver the Donations**

- Reserve a date to deliver your donations to CES or call if you can't deliver them to schedule a pick up.

#### **For Resources Go To:**

[www.cesmn.org/help/food drive](http://www.cesmn.org/help/food drive)

Questions: Chris Nelson, [cnelson@cesmn.org](mailto:cnelson@cesmn.org) or call 612.870.125 x105

### **CES Mission**

**Rooted in God's loving grace,  
Community Emergency Service  
transforms lives by serving neighbors,  
sharing resources and  
becoming community ~  
a place where people come hungry  
and leave hopeful.**