

Community Emergency Service

The Spotlight Newsletter

February 2017

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

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign—February 24–April 2, 2017



**Join Community Emergency Service
Help Fight Food Insecurity!**

CES staff and volunteers are the top of a very large pyramid of support. We can't combat food insecurity without businesses, foundations, groups, churches and individuals volunteering and giving food and funds.

US Department of Agriculture defines food security as "Access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life." Conversely, food insecurity means that "consistent access to food is limited by lack of money and other resources" (Economic Research Service, 2016).

At CES we see lack of transportation, poor health, limited mobility, isolation and mental health difficulties as factors that contribute to food insecurity. We combat these factors by delivering lunch through Meals on Wheels or groceries with our Home Delivery program, asking volunteers to give a listening ear to Food Shelf visitors and giving access to fresh produce and breads weekly through Bonus Fridays.

Please help us make food the least of people's concerns. Help us reach our community.

Our Goal: Collect 30,000 pounds of food & hygiene items & raise \$100,000!

6 Weeks of Sharing

This year CES will join the statewide food and fund drive, Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign.

**Please join us as we work to collect
food and hygiene items from
February 24—April 2.**

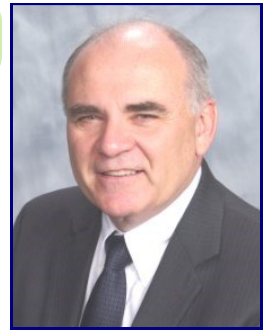
Barrels and boxes are available for your church, business or organization.

(See page 4 for more information)

Where Could These Go?



Director's Discourse—"I Believe" by Mike Lloyd



Happy New Year to all of you,

Many people believe in good luck, others believe in fate or karma. However, **I believe that everything happens for a reason and that God has a plan for our lives** when we walk according to His perfect will. At CES, we pray that we walk according to His will and calling to serve others, and live according to His provision—all of which demand faith and discipline.

As we have endeavored to do this over the last year, we have received many blessings. One was the financial support given from our business and organizational partners, our many congregations and the many individuals who chose to help sustain the work of CES in the communities we serve.

Although there are many other organizations in need, **we are both fortunate and blessed that you have chosen to support our work.** Therefore, we seek to be good stewards of the faith you have shown in us through your financial backing, the assistance of the volunteers who help this work happen each day and, last but not least, your prayers.

Pat's story illustrates the ways lives are impacted!

Can you imagine what it is like for a person with a walker to get groceries without help or transportation? Not only do they have to use a clumsy walker, but they have to figure out a way to get up and down the steps of a bus and, once purchased, get the groceries home. Many times, they just don't leave their homes to get the necessary food.

Patricia Young is one of the grateful Home Delivery (HD) recipients of free groceries brought to her complex by wonderful CES volunteers so she does not have to go to the grocery store. Not only is she a grateful HD recipient, but Pat gives back by helping make the reminder calls. Pat calls HD recipients in her apartment complex at Ebenezer Park before each Home Delivery event. Personal bags of groceries are brought to each person along with extra produce and treats.

"Thank you for allowing me to help. And, **thank you for the food, which is helping me stay healthy.**

I suffer from anemia and low iron, and the protein foods, canned veggies and fruits help me enormously. I also look forward to the miscellaneous treats like toothbrushes, etc. Thank you for all you do. I am a believer in God and I also **love that you and your volunteers feed me spiritually."**

As we look to the future, our challenges continue, yet each month there are **stories of hope in each of our programs**, some of which are shared with you here. Read on to see information about upcoming opportunities to continue this support. We trust you will see our heart to serve. Also, we invite you to be part of what we do and to come to know those we serve.

My hope is that this newsletter will encourage you, challenge you and invite you.

Thank you for your support in helping us serve those with such great needs in South and North Minneapolis.

Blessings,

Mike Lloyd, Executive Director at CES

● ● ● ● ● **March For Meals**
● **M A R C H** ● **The 4th Annual CES**
● ● **F O R** ● ● **March for Meals in**
● **M E A L S** ● **Minneapolis will be**
● ● ● ● ● **WITH** **on Tuesday,**
MEALS on WHEELS™ **March 21, 2017**

Stay tuned for a list of restaurants
you can support

Mark Your Calendar—March 21

Volunteer of the Month: Reier Group



Volunteers from the Reier Group

Coming around the corner, I heard the sound of excited voices. A large cart full of bags, a group of people trying to figure out the system and many smiling faces greeted me. Someone wheeled a cart with an assortment of dog and cat food. You may ask, “What? Dog and cat food?”

What does dog and cat food have to do with Meals on Wheels? The Reier Group had been delivering Meals on Wheels meals for about one year. One of the

group noticed how many of those they delivered to had pets. They wondered how these pets were fed and if these companions to the elderly were sharing the Meals on Wheels meals. The answer, “Yes, until Ani-Meals.”

Ani-Meals was started by CES to feed the companions of the seniors on the Meals on Wheels routes so that the dogs and cats would be fed and the seniors would eat all of their delivered meals.

Enter the Reier Group: When the Reier Group heard about the Ani-meals program, excitement built. Several of the group had ties to and interest in animal humane organizations. What better way than to get involved in the

Ani-Meals program. As the word spread, the group teamed up with their internal “McGhees Deli” to begin collecting dog and cat food for the Meals on Wheels recipients so their companions wouldn’t go hungry. **The result: 172 pounds of pet food!**

How has this impacted the group? The participation and excitement has spread because as they deliver Meals on Wheels meals, they are also contributing to the success of the recipient. If there isn’t enough food for the pets, the health of the individual suffers. **“This is an interesting blend of helping humanity by feeding the person and their companions since they both need each other. In some ways, Ani-Meals is survival food.”** So much interest has taken place that the group brings pet food each month, started a “Go Fund Me Page” and are looking for ways to do more for the pets and their companions.

Food for the Body and the Soul A client story



Sitting in the hard wooden pews was not so bad because of

the **surrounding atmosphere of hope** that seemed to be all around. Greeted by a kind face and a welcoming smile, I felt the edge of my nervousness ease. Even though I have been to CES several times, I was still nervous. Not really wanting to come to ask for food, it was necessary if I was going to feed my children.

Sitting and looking at the beautiful stained glass windows of the CES sanctuary, my mind began to think back. It was not always this way. Although we were not rich, we had enough and were

happy until my husband died and left me with two children to care for. All I could find was a part time job, which did not provide enough for food, rent and living. We had to move to a small apartment, and now I had to come to CES.

Brought back from my thoughts as my name was called by a friendly lady, I followed her to a private cubicle where we talked about what I needed – not just food! She really cared about me and my situation, gave me some resources to look into and asked if we could pray. How refreshing! As we got up to get the groceries, **I had a new sense of hope.**

As we proceeded to shop in the small area of the food shelf, I was treated with dignity and was able to pick out the items that my family would eat. They

even had a produce table where I got potatoes, lettuce, tomatoes and beautiful strawberries. Wow, what a treat!

As I packed my food into a couple of backpacks so I could carry them easily on the bus, I was filled with gratitude not only **for the food, but for the kindness of those I met.** They helped me see my life from a better perspective.

Thanks for feeding my body and my soul!



\$94,786.00

Donated in our
\$40,000 Challenge Match
Thank you!



MFS Food Shelf Need

Food:	Hygiene:
Cooking Oil	Toothbrush/paste
Flour, 4 lb. bag	Bar Soap
Sugar, 4 lb. bag	Shampoo
Beef stew & chili	Conditioner
Canned chicken	Deodorant
Canned ham	Shaving cream
Canned tuna	Razors
Canned fruit	Feminine Products
Canned pasta meals	Adult Diapers
Canned tomatoes	(Women's)
Coffee, small bags	Toilet paper
Jelly	Laundry soap
100% fruit juice	Dishwashing soap

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.**

Minnesota March FoodShare 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 February 24.
- 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 to schedule a pick up if you can't deliver them.

For Resources Go To:

www.cesmn.org/help/food drive

Questions: Chris Nelson, cnelson@cesmn.org or call 612.870.1125 x105



Will you be a part of 2017?