



Community Emergency Service

The Spotlight Newsletter

November 2016

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

Mission In Motion



**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.**

Hope in a Bag!

This time of the year is often hard for our neighbors. Supplying food for special holiday dinners can be stressful. Without help from places like CES, some would not have a dignified Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner.

Each year, on the **Saturday before Thanksgiving and Christmas**, individual, business and congregational volunteers, gather to distribute holiday baskets to those in need in our community. There is a festive atmosphere with many smiling faces. Every neighbor receives a couple bags of food, a choice of meat and a gift card to a local store.

Come be a part of our community to help provide food and hope at these upcoming distributions.

Join the CES Food Distributions

**Thanksgiving—Saturday, November 19
10 am-noon**

**Christmas—Saturday, December 17
10 am-noon**

Set up volunteers are needed Friday evening before the distribution as well as on Saturday.

Contact Melanie at 612.870.1125 or mlapointe@cesmn.org with questions or to reserve your spot.

Thank You Mister



Chloe, volunteer helper from the 2015 Thanksgiving Distribution helps a father and his children with their food

Mary* gathered a coat without buttons around her shoulders, trying to keep it closed as she bundled up her young daughter and gathered her newly acquired bags for her Thanksgiving meal. Her daughter was excited as she peered into the bags, smiling. Mary was obviously in a hurry and was struggling to hold onto her daughter with one hand while keeping the bags from slipping off her shoulder. Having yet another bag on the floor to carry, one of the volunteer university students approached her, asking if she would like some help. His offer was declined, “It’s cold out there and I’m just going to the bus stop. I’ll be fine.”

“Helping to carry bags is why I am here. Maybe you would like a ride from one of drivers instead.” he replied with a smile. Letting him carry two of the bags, Mary

hurried down the stairs with one bag, her daughter in tow, letting him know that she didn’t want a ride and didn’t want to miss her bus. “Number 7 will get me closest to my apartment, but number 3 is ok.” As they headed toward Franklin Avenue, the number 3 bus was at the curb ready to leave. As she hurried across the street to catch the bus, she began wheezing and coughing, but did not slow down for fear of missing her ride.

Thankfully, just then, the number 7 bus pulled in behind the first bus. Five or six people were waiting in line, so Mary had plenty of time and breathed a sigh of relief.

With labored breathing, Mary and her daughter climbed slowly up the stairs. The student went in after her, now carrying all the bags. He made sure the driver knew he was just helping and would get off the bus.

It was only then that Mary whispered, out of breath from rushing, “Thank you so much for your kindness. This is a special Thanksgiving for us as my little boy just got out of the hospital, and I have been sick as well. With this food, we will be able to have a great Thanksgiving meal and will not go hungry.” The daughter smiled shyly and said, “Thank you, Mister!”

As the student descended the bus steps, the driver smiled. “Happy Thanksgiving!” He must have been curious. The five people in front of Mary all had the same bags of food—all from CES!

*Client’s names have been changed to protect their anonymity

Give to the Max Day—November 17



There’s still time to give.

This one day state-wide movement encourages generosity to local non-profits like CES.

Join us by:

- Sending your check to CES with GTTMD on the memo line,
- Donating directly to CES at cesmn.org/donate or
- Clicking on the link to GTTM

Questions: Contact Chris Nelson at 612.870.1125 x105 or cnelson@cesmn.org

Thank you SEWARD COMMUNITY CO-OP



Seed Round Up at Seward Co-op

From October 1-31, Seward shoppers and owners rounded up for CES to help provide holiday baskets for our neighbors in need.

As of October, the total was \$21,000 and counting!

Volunteer of the Month: Arden Zipf, Bonus Friday Distribution



“Hey you, come over here and get some food,” a red haired lady behind a walker called as Arden rode past CES on his bike over 10 years ago. He soon came for food at

CES, bringing others with him. Making friends with volunteer Ken Stewart, Arden asked if he could help, thus beginning his 10+ years as a volunteer himself. Arden has been around the food industry, first with North Central Airlines Food Service and then at the Nutrition Center for the Minneapolis

Public Schools until he retired, so CES is a perfect fit!

What do you do at CES? “I come on Friday afternoons to help with the food distribution line and then stay to the very end to clean up, making sure that everything is clean and put away properly. I like to make sure all the cardboard is taken to the recycling bin and get all the garbage from all over the building so all is ready for next week. It is a pleasure.”

What keeps you coming back? Arden explained that he brings his friends to CES for food, helping them get their food home. He went on to explain,

“Yes, the food is nice, but it is the people that I work with that keeps me coming back! There are so many nice and understanding people. Also, I meet many people from the neighborhood. Most are nice and only a few stinkers! But, the way the staff deals with them is great.”

How have you been impacted? Arden shared that helping on Fridays is a way that he can give back. “I have learned to be early and do a helpful job—be kind and courteous. I greet everyone the way I would like to be treated.”

Thank you Arden for your years of service!

Opportunities of Blessing

Walk to End Hunger

Thursday, November 24
7-10 AM

Join CES & Meals on Wheels
with your family & friends

Give back before you give thanks!



Come join us at Mall of America to build awareness that 1 in 10 Minnesotans go hungry on a regular basis.

Check this out on our website at www.cesmn.org or contact Chris Nelson at cnelson@cesmn.org or 612.870.1125 x 105.



MOW Holiday Distributions

Thanksgiving, November 24
Christmas, December 23

Give joy to those who are disabled or homebound this holiday season.

Meals are ready at 11 am.

Most routes will finish by noon.

All you need is a car, a good pair of shoes and a nice smile!

Be done in time for your Holiday Celebration



Kids from one family had fun delivering Meals on Wheels meals in the snow last year!

\$40,000 Challenge Match



Our Board and a local congregation has challenged CES donors to:

Give \$40,000 by December 31, 2016!

Are You In?

CES Christmas Distribution

Set up Friday, 5-7 pm, December 16

Distribution Saturday, 10 am-noon, December 17



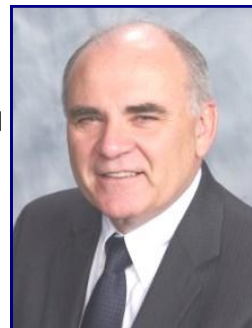
Getting in the spirit of Christmas, a family from City Church volunteered at the 2015 distribution

Christmas is a time to spread hope and extend the love of Christ.

Be a part of the fun time showing others that they can come to CES—

hungry, but leave hopeful.

Director's Discourse—"Bounty for Some" by Mike Lloyd



It is a crisp fall noon hour in South Minneapolis, overcast with light rain. The neighborhood is typical for this part of the city with small bungalow style homes, most built in the 1920s. The streets are lined with mature trees that retain a portion of their leaves with the rain soaked remainder on the sidewalk and lawns.

Walking down the street, I am on my way to deliver a Meals on Wheels meal to the home of a gentleman I will call John*. As John comes to the door, I am struck by a couple of things. First, John's house is like so many I see owned by elderly folks; it displays some state of deferred maintenance. At his age those things have become difficult. John is a person who was once over six feet tall but now is slightly stooped. He appears to be in his early to mid-seventies and lives alone. I am welcomed with a warm smile and greeting. John quickly strikes up a conversation, maybe because we are close in age, but more likely because I may be the only other person he will see today. Based on the cap he has on, he is a Vietnam vet. As the conversation continues, I begin to feel that familiar feeling – a little conflicted. He clearly wants and needs a conversation with me, or maybe anyone, and I really want to stay, but I also know I have 10 other people just like John to deliver hot meals to today. We part with a mutual sense of gratitude. John received badly needed human contact and a warm nutritious meal. For me, I was able to be a friend to someone in need. I am blessed!

CES is called to serve those in need in our community. John is one of hundreds we serve each day through our Meals on Wheels, Home Delivery, Food Shelf, East African Nutrition and Bonus Friday

programs. Yes, it often involves food but it is really about a caring ministry to those in need. People come from many different places in life, over half are elderly. Men, women and families come from different nationalities and races. We are given the gift of being able to assist those in need, all with a grateful and thankful heart.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving as a nation, it is a time when we have a custom of gathering together. Some at CES will not have the blessing and warmth of family, friends or fond memories. Some will be alone. We ask you to remember those in this community in prayer. Consider joining us as a volunteer or sharing your financial blessing with those in need.

Thank you and God bless you for your faithful support of "the least of these."

I pray you have a Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Mike Lloyd, Executive Director at CES

*Client's names have been changed to protect their anonymity

CES Events

Date	Event	Time/Action
November 19	Thanksgiving Distribution—Come Volunteer	10 am-Noon
November 24	Walk to End Hunger at Mall of America	7-10 am, Thanksgiving
November 24	MOW Thanksgiving Delivery Route Delivery Starts at 11 am	Thanksgiving Morning
December 17	Christmas Distribution—Come Volunteer	10 am-Noon
December 23	MOW Christmas Delivery Route Delivery Starts at 11 am	Morning of 23rd
December 26-31	Last Chance to give a tax-deductible gift of cash or stock	



Give Your Thanksgiving Gift

Be a financial partner with CES in a mission that feeds the body and soul with your gift:

\$12 Pays for two seniors to get a hot, delivered Meals on Wheels meal

\$500 Pays for 125 families to receive fresh produce and bread weekly for a month

\$30 Helps one African immigrant family receive a week's worth of groceries

\$1,000 Provides one day's worth of hot meals to our 150 North Minneapolis Meals on Wheels residents

\$100 Provides 88 households food for their cat or dog through Ani-Meals

Or your gift of \$ _____

For giving online go to www.cesmn.org/donate

A Change of Heart

Mabel was alone in her apartment day after day. Rarely did anyone come to visit. She became more and more withdrawn. Then, her case worker suggested she receive Meals on Wheels service. At first she sat in her chair and hardly said a word when the volunteer arrived. That did not stop our team of drivers. They greeted her by name and gave her a big smile and asked about her day. With each visit, Mabel became more and more responsive.

One day as the meal was delivered, Mabel met the volunteers at the door with a cheery hello. She was dressed, looked nice and said, "Thank you for coming. I was not sure how this meal delivery would work. But each one of you that comes is so friendly and nice that I am not so down anymore. In fact, I look forward to your arrival and decided I should show how grateful I am by being as cheery as you all. You know I don't get many visitors. Would you please sign my guest book?" A simple smile and hello can change a life.

