

MN FoodShare Needs

Fill bags, boxes or cans with grocery and hygiene items, and donate monetary gifts to help your neighbors who face hunger.

Return your donations to CES by **Monday April 12, 2020**.

Contact Emily Ralph with in-kind donation questions:
eralph@cesmn.org, 612-870-1125 x111

Needs List:

Herbs, Spices & Seasonings
Soups, Chili, Beef Stews
Whole Grain Pastas (plain)
Whole Grain Cereals
Canned Tuna & Salmon
Canned Chicken
Cooking Oils (especially Olive Oil)
Sugar (4 lb. bags)
Coffee & Tea
Toilet Paper
Paper bags with handles, plastic bags, or reusable bags

CES General Needs

Meals on Wheels Drivers

CES has both paid and volunteer driver positions available. Drivers **must** have reliable transportation.

Contact Mike Lloyd: mlloyd@cesmn.org

Home Delivery Volunteers

We have several volunteer positions open. See our previous newsletter or contact us for details.

Contact Sandra Holden: sholden@cesmn.org

Supporter Spotlight

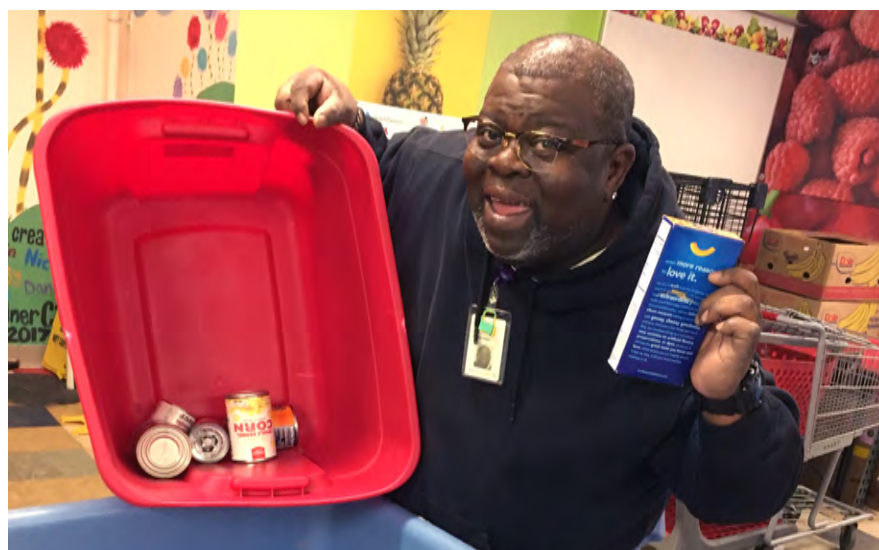
Thank you to **Luther Auto Foundation** for your ongoing support of CES!



Recent Volunteers



Matt White, a Piper Jaffray employee, took some mandatory vacation time and worked at CES for a week. This qualified CES to receive a grant for his volunteer work. Great job, Matt!



SEIU Healthcare, Phillips Eye Institute: Donated 108 pounds of food



A team of Bethlehem Lutheran All-Stars: In 2 hours, they removed food from the shelves, washed and put it all back, cleaned 3 large coolers, cleaned general places in the Food Shelf, made double bags for clients, packed 30 5-pound cat food bags, mopped the inside of the cooler and washed MOW bags!

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.

March
2020



1900 11th Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55404
www.cesmn.org

Phone: 612.870.1125
Fax: 612.870.1485
ces@cesmn.org

Community Emergency Service

The Spotlight Newsletter

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

Need Food – Juanita Lindgren

"Food Shelf here?" was the question from a lady standing at the Intake desk.

A smile and a gracious "Yes" followed from the person at the desk.

"Thank you! Family needs food."

After several attempts at communication, she, hopefully, understood the CES process. The front desk had the correct information; the visitor was given a number, and asked to wait. However, she did not understand.

The area surrounding CES is called a "Gateway Community" due to the many ethnicities that live close by. Many only speak broken English, but still need the services of a Food Shelf like CES. There are a growing number of Hispanic and East African households, many who need help understanding our ways.

Today, the visitor was from an East African country and was quite nervous since it was her first time at CES. She called someone on the phone and soon a young girl appeared who knew some English. What a relief for everyone!

They nervously sat in one of the pews to wait their turn. The Volunteer Advocate soon called their name, smiled, and began a conversation. The family had five children and were out of food. The man of the house had only a part time job that took care of the rent and a few other things, but they were unsure of where to turn for food.

CES Food Shelf to the rescue.

As they went to shop in the Super Shelf, their eyes lit up as they saw the produce, dairy, meat and other essentials. Approaching the last shelf, the girl pointed to the spices and started laughing. "That our spice, but too much to buy here!" Happily, they put the spice in their bag.

As they packed their bags, the young girl translated, "You so wonderful and welcoming! We come back!"

As we enter March Food-Share Campaign month, please remember those in need in our ethnically diverse neighborhood.



A neighbor selects some produce in our Food Shelf

MN FoodShare 2020



March 1-April 12

Our goal:

**\$150,000 &
65,000 lbs**

More information inside



Director's Discourse

Hello again from CES.

I hope you are all having a good winter. If you are one of the fortunate, you have been able to get away into a warmer climate to receive some mid-winter relief.

We are certainly looking forward to warming temperatures as we move into March. It has been a long winter for the staff at CES. The flu has hit us very hard this year. For the last month and a half, we have probably never had a day when we were at full strength. Four staff contracted Influenza Type A, and two ended up in the hospital.

We average over 800 people per week coming through our doors either to serve or to receive services from CES. That makes us quite a petri dish for illness.

Many bottles of hand sanitizer are around the building and we do fist bumps instead of handshakes. So please continue to pray for staff, volunteers and our neighbors.

It has been a hard winter for our neighbors as well in terms of health concerns. The hunger needs in our communities of North and South Minneapolis continue, as do significant shortages of affordable housing and many other services for which we make nearly 1,000 referrals annually.

As we move into March, our hope runs high. Not only do we look forward to the promise of the coming spring, but March is one of our most significant months for raising of funds and food drives during the March FoodShare Campaign.

Through a special drive, we were able to raise funds for a new initiative to launch a more robust volunteer reengagement program. Consequently, we were fortunate to hire a new Volunteer Engagement Director, Linda Velez, who has a long career in developing successful volunteer engagement programs with other non-profit organizations.

Volunteer Engagement is one of the most critical focuses in order to secure long-term sustainability for CES. You will hear more about this as we move into the spring and in our next Spotlight Newsletter.

Additionally, we are also excited about several new initiatives we will launch this spring to reenergize our Meals on Wheels program, so look for more in the future about these developments.

In this month's Spotlight, you will see a number of pictures of volunteers and a story about the people we serve. We hope this gives you a sense of why what we do is so vitally important to the people in this community. Read about March FoodShare and how you can help to make this year's March drive another huge success. Once again, thank you for your sacrifice and support, without which CES would not exist, to serve those in two of the most economically disadvantaged areas of Minnesota, North and South Minneapolis.

God bless you!

Mike Lloyd, Executive Director



Wooddale Church members are big supporters of CES during MN FoodShare

Together, We Can Ensure Food For All MN

March 1 - April 12

Be a part of the State's largest food and fund drive. Help CES restock both our food and funds!

Did You Know?

- Over 3 million visits are made to Minnesota food shelves each year
- Both children and seniors in Minnesota struggle with hunger
- Nearly 1 in 11 Minnesotans experience food insecurity
- Local food shelves can often stretch your \$1 into food for 2 or more meals



Members of Zeta Psi and Alpha Sigma Kappa groups ran a food drive for last year's MN FoodShare

Four Steps to Launch Your Campaign

Plan.

- A food/hygiene/cash drive with your congregation, club or family. Be creative!
- Food collection barrels and boxes are available for delivery and pick up
- Invite CES staff to share with your group
- Pray for generosity of your community

Start.

- Educate your group
- Resources: www.cesmn.org/food-drive-downloads

Collect.

- Fill barrels & boxes with food/hygiene items
- Weigh food/hygiene items, count donations weekly, and give frequent updates
- Let CES host a service event for your group

Deliver.

- Bring your donations to CES with your group
- Tour CES and sign our MN FoodShare board
- Schedule a pick up if needed

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

See page 4 for a list of needed items.



MNFS donations given by Trinity First students