

Volunteer Engagement Leadership

It was two years ago last month that we, CES leadership and Board of Directors, came up with four priorities that would guide all our decisions. We resolutely focused on Seniors, Volunteers, the Phillips Community, and Us (reinvesting in CES.) Of these priorities, it was decided to first invest in cultivating and caring for our volunteers, causing a ripple effect across our entire organization.

our work with volunteers in the community. Her professionalism and expertise have confirmed the need and value of Volunteer Engagement at CES.

When asked in a recent interview, Linda acknowledged the importance of volunteers to the mission of the organization:

"Volunteers are the face of CES; they are the people carrying out our programs and are an essential part of our Team. Investing in them is an investment in our community and I feel blessed to be a member of the team."

- Linda Velez, CES Volunteer Engagement Director



In January 2020, with more than 80% of the funds promised or donated, CES hired Linda Velez as the first Volunteer Engagement Director. Her presence during this challenging time in our state and country's history have been vital to connecting and carrying out

Help Support our VEL Campaign

The **Volunteer Engagement Leadership (VEL) Campaign** is a \$300,000 two-year fundraising campaign.

With the support of generous board members, grantors, and individual donors, **we are only \$21,000 away from completing the goal.**

If you have not given to CES this year and want to help the VEL Campaign, give online or write "VEL" on the bottom of your check.

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



OBT \$10,000 Matching Grant

Otto Bremer Trust has provided CES a 1:1 matching grant for up to \$10,000.

or IRA distributions will qualify for this match up to \$10K.

Thank you for your generosity.

Contact Chris Nelson @ cnelson@cesmn.org with questions.

This grant was given as a way to encourage new and ongoing donations by individual donors. Each donation: online, by check, donor advised funds

Volunteer Opportunities

Warehouse

Help sort and put away food donations
9am – 1 pm Mondays

Food Shelf

Need: Spanish speaking volunteers
Assist with intake of Spanish speaking clients
12:45 am – 4:15 pm

Home Delivery

Packing:
Pack bags for future HD distributions
Times vary

Pack & Delivery:
Delivery to specific sites, assisting with delivery of groceries to apartments, observing CDC and social distancing guidelines
Times vary

Meals on Wheels

Substitute Drivers
Sign up to be on call for meal distribution
10:30 am – noon

Contact Linda Velez @ 612-870-1125 ext. 107

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.



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www.cesmn.org ces@cesmn.org

Community Emergency Service The Spotlight Newsletter

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

A Holiday Zoom Call with CES? Some Socially-Distanced Smiles from Our Staff to You!



Kim Aaron, Food Shelf



Armand DeJong, MOW



Sarah Clochie, MOW



Danny Bryant, Warehouse



Sahra Ali, HD



Chuck Depietri, Warehouse



Kelsey Hansen, Development



Elyse Haugen, Development



Shawnda Hobson, MOW



Sandra Holden, HD



Krista Hong, HD



Melanie LaPointe, Volunteers



Charles Lewis, Warehouse



Juanita Lindgren, Admin



Mike Lloyd, Executive Director



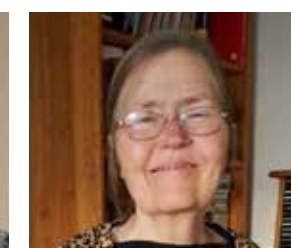
Mike Lynch, HD



Chris Nelson, Development



Bob Nepple, MOW



Debbie Nepple, Daily Volunteer



Emily Ralph, Food Shelf



Ward Rubrecht, MOW



Linda Velez, Volunteers



Rebecca Washington, HD & MOW

HD = Home Delivery
MOW = Meals on Wheels

Staff Reflections On The Past 9 Months

From Mike Lloyd

The last nine months have been some of the most challenging of my professional life.

Starting in March, it has seemed that much of what is happening each day is outside our control. It has been a real walk of faith and has tested the resolve, patience, and ingenuity of our staff. Also, it has been incredibly hard on the people in our neighborhood.

I remember serving our food shelf clients in the snow in March and delivering frozen Meals on Wheels meals to our seniors who now have to heat their own meals each day. We lost access to many of our high-rise apartment building community rooms, where Home Delivery clients were served. This changed what and how we were able to deliver to these homebound seniors.

During this challenging time, I was most effected by the generosity of all of our supporters, congregations, and grantors whose outpouring has made it possible for us to continue to serve those in need in our community. Likewise, the resilience of our staff who have endured so much, has been inspiring. This has indeed been a "time to try men's souls," including my own struggles with contracting COVID-19. Yet, all of this has made us much stronger.

These past nine months have again reminded me of God's faithfulness to His people. He remembered the suffering in this community and His outpouring has sustained us.

Praise be to God!

From Juanita Lindgren

As the days became weeks and the weeks became months with the onset of the virus, it was sometimes challenging to face what might come next. Early on, we heard the heart-ache and needs of so many. There were numerous guidelines to understand, and we experienced changes in the operation within CES. In spite of the challenges, I was astounded by the outpouring of concern, funding from new and past grantors, volunteers who wanted to help and the joy of working as a team at CES.

During one especially overwhelming week of countless emails, numerous grants, CDC guidelines to implement and some anxiety about how I could accomplish all this, I was reminded, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. . . Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit." Philippians 4:23

Suffice it to say, God has given grace during this time and will continue as we navigate the coming months.

A special thanks to all CES supporters and volunteers!

You make a difference and allow CES to continue to reach out to our neighbors. Your continued support during this season is greatly appreciated.



Above & Below: 1,200 pounds of food donated by Bikes & Bites



Clients receive warm, beautiful handmade quilts

A Day in the Life of a Home Delivery Volunteer

"Mask, check; hand sanitizer, check; address of apartment building, check; bike helmet, check." Gary was on his way to the apartment complex for the delivery of groceries today. "I really love Home Delivery and look forward to my volunteer time," Gary shared.

Gary, who lives in South Minneapolis, came to CES during the beginning of COVID-19 after hearing about Home Delivery. Since Gary is a bike commuter, he rides his bike to join others at several sites to help distribute groceries to those who are homebound and in need of food.

After Gary rides his bike to join others, his day becomes full of activity. He helps unpack the van, sets up two sets of bags – one is filled with staple items that each client has asked for, the other is packed with produce, fruit, milk, eggs, and meat. He makes sure the cart is disinfected, puts on gloves and loads the cart. As he enters the building wearing his mask, he smells "the wonderful aroma of the different spices wafting down the hall" on the way to an apartment. Gary knocks on the door, sets the bags down, steps back to wait for the door



Gary Nelson getting ready to make a delivery

to open. They exchange greetings, sometimes in two different languages. After a grateful thank you, Gary heads back to pick up more bags. Of course, he makes sure to change his gloves and disinfect the cart.

Sometimes Gary engages in conversation at the door, other times in the elevator, still other conversations are by the use of gestures if language is a barrier, but always Gary hears the gratitude in their voices. Gary shared how fear and worry

have taken over for so many, but being a part of CES Home Delivery is taking away that worry and is making a difference.

"You can't stop me. I'm having too much fun!" was Gary's closing comment.

Thank you Gary and all the volunteers who so faithfully come to serve.

Want to volunteer? Contact Linda at lvelez@cesmn.org or call 612.870.1125 x107.

Paid Staff Open Positions

Reception and Intake Coordinator

This part-time Spanish/English speaking staff member will welcome and help neighbors navigate the food shelf intake and food selection process.

With close to 50% of all food shelf visits by Spanish speaking households, they will be an integral part of the food shelf team.

Meals on Wheels Drivers

(2 positions available)

These part-time, 9am - 2pm positions are critical in delivering smiles and meals to our Meals on Wheels neighbors living in North and South Minneapolis. They assist our volunteer drivers in helping our isolated seniors and adults with disabilities. Be part of this wonderful team!