

the spotlight newsletter

BEYOND BREAD TO THE BREAD OF LIFE . . .
BEYOND OURSELVES TO JESUS CHRIST



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YOU ARE HELPING BUILD STABILITY FOR HER FAMILY.

In 2000, Farzana fled Afghanistan with her five young children seeking a better life in America. The Taliban was making life very hard and unsafe. Her husband was recently killed on his way to work one morning, and shortly after her youngest child became very sick and died. Farzana had a cousin who sponsored her so she packed up her family to move to America.

Life in Minneapolis was very hard at first. She didn't know the language and wasn't able to get hired for work because of her physical disabilities.

A neighbor told Farzana about CES and brought her to visit. She was welcomed with kindness, compassion, and culturally appropriate foods like goat meat, rice, and fish.

"Food is expensive, and I had no money," shared Farzana. "I was on disability, and after paying the bills I had no money left for food. I like the food at CES--vegetables, bread, fish, and chicken. You are so nice and help me a lot."

Today, Farzana is honest in saying that life is still hard. "But it is better." Many of her children are married now and her seventh grandchild was just born. Farzana's children are doing well and she has stable housing. The food she receives at CES is a huge source of support for her family.

Your generosity welcomed Farzana with kindness, compassion, and culturally appropriate foods. Farzana shared that volunteers' small acts of kindness make her feel welcomed--like a bottle of cold water on a hot day and helping her carry her groceries to the bus. Your generosity ensures Farzana receives healthy and culturally appropriate foods, which is vital to helping her manage her health issues.

THANK YOU for helping ease many of the challenges in Farzana's life.



Food Shelf volunteer, Lorraine, displays the culturally appropriate foods she is packing for a local family including pollock, milk, eggs, fresh fruit, maseca flour, and more.

75% OF RECENT VISITORS TO CES FOOD SHELF SELF-IDENTIFY AS BLACK, INDIGENOUS, OR A PERSON OF COLOR

YOUR GIFT WILL HELP CES SECURE AN **EXTRA \$4,000** VIA THE OPEN YOUR HEART SUMMER CHALLENGE.

YOU HAVE REACHED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS



A recent study by McKinsey found that the average life span of companies listed in Standard & Poor's 500 was 61 years in 1958. Today, it is less than 18 years. Culture, economics and technology accelerate the rate

of change and often work against longevity. The point is simply that it is incredibly challenging for any organization to exist for 50 years.

Community Emergency Service is celebrating our 50th year of service. We are proud we have had literally millions of visitors in that time. We are proud our service has brought hope to all who HAVE come to Community Emergency Service.

Longevity is not the measure of the impact of an organization. However, God has richly blessed our efforts as we continue to prosper while remaining steadfast in our calling to serve the people in our gateway community, a community that is ethnically rich and economically disadvantaged.

Today, we build on the efforts of many who served before us. We honor the commitment and hard work of past donors, volunteers, board, and staff.

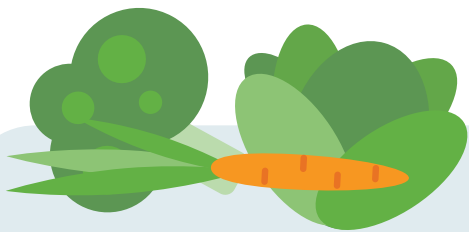
While it is wonderful to celebrate such a momentous accomplishment, **we remain committed to continuing to serve the ever-changing population of people with evolving needs**, but more important, then what we do, is why we do it. We serve people, as Christ would have us do, without test and in love.

To commemorate this landmark in our history, we have created a new logo for CES. At the heart of the logo is a cross, which pays homage to our continued Christ like service. Yet, we remain committed to Community and to Service. The arrows point to the history of CES, but also to the future, as we seek to be a place where “people come hungry and leave hopeful.”

Thank you for all that you have done to support the work of CES and for your partnership into the future as we continue 50 more years and beyond.

With gratitude,

Mike Lloyd
Executive Director



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

CES thanks these long-time Meals on Wheels and Home Delivery partners who bring nourishing meals and vital socialization to homebound seniors.



Stevens Square Foundation
DIGNITY, INDEPENDENCE, & QUALITY OF LIFE

NOURISHING FOOD & COMPANIONSHIP FOR DEB AND HER PETS

“CES Meals on Wheels and Ani-Meals mean everything to me!”-Deb

Deb had physical limitations that made grocery shopping and meal preparation difficult. “In fact, I often wasn’t eating very good and my health suffered,” Deb shared. Life was difficult.

About seven years ago, she started receiving Meals on Wheels. With the daily well-balanced meals, Deb’s health started to improve.

As Deb’s health improved, she was able to adopt two pets—Skunk (a cat) and Doby (a dog). Deb shared, “Skunk and Doby came when I was going through an emotional time, so they became my support. They all bring me such joy!”

Deb shared “With better nutrition, I became healthier. Still, I needed to feed my pets.” Deb began sharing her meals with Skunk and Doby, but kept some for herself. She shared, “They especially loved the stew and pork chops!”

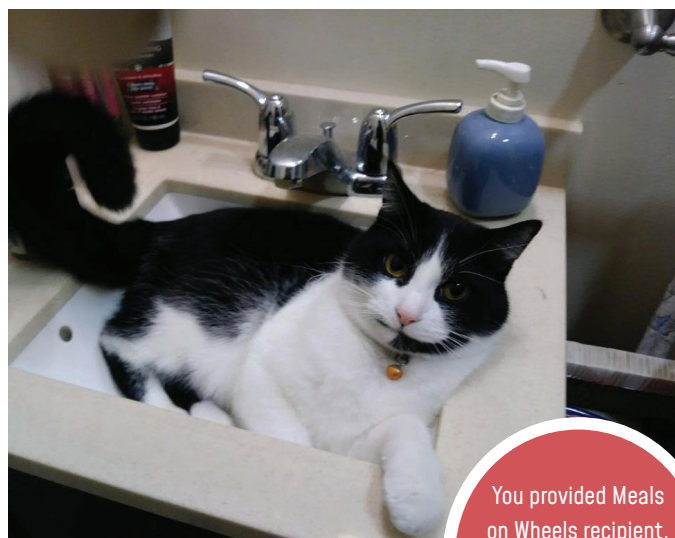
Deb heard about Ani-Meals. Ani-Meals delivers dog and cat food to Deb’s pets each month so she doesn’t need to share her meals with them.

“Recently, I received my monthly Ani-Meals delivery of treats and pet food. Skunk found the catnip and I found a special treat for myself, Girl Scout cookies. It’s fun that even the pet parent gets a special treat!”

Today, Deb continues to receive nourishing meals that help her manage her health conditions. Ani-Meals ensures she doesn’t need to share her meals with her Skunk and Doby—unless it’s their favorite, stew and porkchops.



Your support ensures volunteers, Cheryl and Andrew, can provide monthly deliveries of pet food to Deb and others.



You provided Meals on Wheels recipient, Deb, with pet food for her pets, Doby and Skunk.



“I can’t thank everyone enough for all the help that I have received!” -Deb

LAST YEAR, ANI-MEALS PROVIDED HEALTHY FOOD, SUPPLIES, AND VETERINARY CARE TO 187 PETS (CARED FOR BY 105 HOMEBOUND SENIORS).

YOU PROVIDED HEALTHY FOOD AND HOPE DURING THE PANDEMIC

“It feels good to know there is a place in our community where you can go for help of all kinds.”-Reggie

Last fall, as a wave of COVID-19 hit our community, Reggie visited the CES Food Shelf. The Food Shelf was operating outdoors, rain or shine, to ensure proper social distancing. Reggie received a gas gift card and bags of healthy food including fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, and bread.

While visiting, Reggie filled out a prayer card and requested a phone call. He was surprised to quickly receive a call from a CES staff member.

As Reggie and the staff member talked, he opened up and shared that over the past year he had been struggling and was even suicidal at one point. He had gone through rehab and had since stayed on the right path.

The CES staff member listened to Reggie with kindness and empathy and shared words of encouragement. Reggie took up the staff member’s offer and they prayed together.

Beyond food, Reggie found hope and a supportive and welcoming community. At the end of call, Reggie shared that his spirits were lifted. In Reggie’s words, “Every day is a day to make right choices.” For Reggie, finding a welcoming, safe, and supportive community is helpful to maintaining his well-being.



Reggie came to CES hungry and left hopeful. Reggie is grateful for finding CES and continues to visit when he needs food or a supportive conversation. He said, **“When people come to CES Food Shelf, they receive hope.”**

THANK YOU for ensuring that each person visiting CES is met with kindness, respect, and the resources they need to overcome life’s challenges.

“You are blessing to many people with what you do here, especially at this time of great need during COVID-19”-Reggie

CES FOOD SHELF IS REACHING 24% MORE PEOPLE PER DAY THAN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC.

3 WAYS YOU CAN HELP A NEIGHBOR IN NEED

HELP CES MEET THE OPEN YOUR HEART SUMMER CHALLENGE

To help CES meet the need of more neighbors, like Reggie, we need your help!

Your donation by July 31st will help CES raise up to 4,000 via the Open Your Heart Summer Challenge.

Complete the enclosed donation form or make your gift online at cesmn.org/help/donate-now.

Donate new or gently used household items including silverware, dinner plates, can-openers, or queen-sized sheets.

Donations are accepted Monday through Friday, 9 am – 12 pm, or contact Alyssa to schedule a different time (amartinson@cesmn.org, 612-870-1125 x123)

Volunteer to stock the CES Food Shelf, deliver Meals on Wheels, pack groceries for Home Delivery orders, and much more.

Learn more and sign up at cesmn.org/help/volunteer.