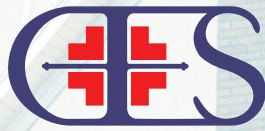


CES Mission

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.

February
2019



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Community Emergency Service

The Spotlight Newsletter

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

City Church - Faithful Friends



City Church packed Christmas presents (quilted placemats and blankets) for Meals on Wheels recipients to receive on Christmas Eve day with their meal.

On December 22, CES held its annual Christmas party. For the past four years, City Church has partnered both financially and with a strong volunteer effort.

The event has transformed from a food distribution to a true Christmas party. Songs are sung; fresh baked cookies, coffee and cider are served. Over 30 volunteers flood the sanctuary to help hand out food, do crafts with kids, take Christmas photos of neighbors, and give neighbors rides home with their holiday baskets.

City Church, you bless us!

A Generous Heart – Chris Nelson, Director of Development

Many of our neighbors come to CES needing food. It can be the lack of food or the fear of running out that brings them to our shelves. It requires humility on the part of the giver and the recipient. We see stress lifted as our neighbors pack up their groceries and prepare for the trek home. And, it feels good to deliver tangible help to someone in need.

Recently, CES received a delightful gift that we need to share with all our friends and donors. The following is a thank you note from a neighbor

who received a holiday basket at the CES Christmas party in December:

"Dear Staff and Volunteers,

Once again, you all have gone above the call of duty. Thank you for the \$20 Aldi gift-card, the entertainment, the cookies (so big and sweet) and the bag of groceries. This season you all out-did yourselves. It seems it was a better party than last year... I will always remember Dec. 22, 2018 at CES.

Each year I look forward to

your parties. Thank you to the staff and volunteers who care to give of their talents and time. With no family, it gets lonely but you all fulfilled that need.

May our God continue to give you all the resources to continue this ministry. God bless!"

We hope this expression of gratitude will excite and encourage you as we continue CES' mission together.



A neighbor sits for a photo at our Christmas Party

Christmas Party



Director's Discourse

Happy New Year my friends,

We are so fortunate to have people like yourselves who have been so generous to CES and those we serve. You have blessed us these past few months. We've had a great outpouring of food donations - the greatest I have seen in my tenure with CES. While these donations may seem like more than we can share, the truth is that this reserve of food will carry us through the early months of 2019 to our March Foodshare drive. Our need is greater now than ever before, and your generosity

will help us be prepared for the needs in our community.

The financial gifts we received in November and December were also a blessing to us. We rely heavily on the gifts given by our partner congregations and from people like you. Your outpouring was amazing, and we are eternally grateful for your support. In this month's newsletter, we share pictures and stories of how this blessing manifests itself in the lives of our neighbors. The dedication of staff and volunteers makes it happen each day, and our faithful partners make it happen throughout the year.

Continue to remember us with your time, talent and treasure as this work continues.

Bless you,

Mike Lloyd
Executive Director

Client Story

"I'd like to thank you for helping me to feel very special this month. I got Italian Limonchin Biscuits and Namaste Gluten Free Pizza Crust Mix loaded with goodness!

I can't get over your inventory, and sometimes I wonder how we can be so lucky! I guess when we depend upon God to provide, He gets us what we really need.

I just went down to CES to talk about my situation. I left fully prepared to weather another week safe and sound behind my door.

Thanks again for caring about us. Be well, and hang in there for the longest part of the year."

As we move into these cold months ahead, remember those whose simple gratitude is a pizza crust from the CES food shelf.

Thank you for caring for our neighbors with your time, talent and gifts.

2019 MN March Foodshare

February 25 – April 7
Fight for a Hunger Free Minnesota – Support Your Local Food Shelf

Minnesota FoodShare, along with the local CES Food Shelf, invite you to join our efforts and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity and poverty in our communities. Will your congregation, work or civic group be a part of the CES MN FoodShare March Campaign?

For more info, visit:
www.cesmn.org/help/food-drive



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