



Join our Volunteer Team

It only takes a few hours a month to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Food Shelf Packers fill visiting neighbors' groceries in the CES food shelf based off an individual order form and bring to the client.

Food Shelf Intake Volunteers assist neighbors in completing their food order form.

Home Delivery Packers prepare individualized non-perishable groceries for clients based on their food preference.

Home Delivery Volunteers meet CES staff at an apartment complex and deliver the groceries to each homebound client.

SOS Ambassador (Supporting our Seniors) Volunteers make monthly phone calls with Home Delivery recipients prior to packing and delivering their groceries based on individual preferences.

TeleCare Volunteers: Through weekly conversations with MOW clients, volunteers share information about CES programs, provide resources, and ensure clients have what they need.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer or learning more about these opportunities, contact:

Linda Velez
Volunteer Engagement Director
 612.870.1125 ext.107 or
lvelez@cesmn.org



Thank You Twin Cities Co-op Partners

Twin Cities Co-op Partners, including Wedge and Lindon Hills Co-ops, asked their members to "round up" in August to the tune of **\$12,304.10**. Thank you for helping homebound seniors in our community!



Current Needs: Jean's Closet

Jean's Closet is in need of the following items. If you can help with these shortages, drop them off any weekday between 9 - 5 pm.

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|--------|-------------|-------------|
| Towels | New pillows | Can openers |
| Sheets | Blankets | Silverware |



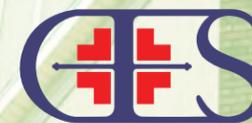
Top left, left, and above: CES volunteers hard at work!

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.

September
 2020



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Community Emergency Service

The Spotlight Newsletter

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

How is CES Doing? – Emily Ralph, Food Shelf Coordinator



I often receive this question as CES' food shelf coordinator. The challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic followed by the unrest in our city after the murder of George Floyd has required much adaptability and flexibility.

In late March, we began distributing outdoors with pre-packed food bags paired with dairy, meat, and bakery choices. We cancelled our Bonus Friday produce giveaway, knowing that the weekly draw of 100-150 visitors would not be safe as Covid-19 cases were spreading throughout the state.

As we moved into spring, an increase in monetary donations and Covid-19 emergen-

cy funding enabled us to add more meat and produce options to our distribution. Even with these great improvements, our pre-packed shelf-stable foods were not meeting the needs of our visitors, especially the Hispanic or increasing number of West and East African food shelf visitors. We knew we needed to make some changes.

Through our surveying and conversations, many of our visitors highly desired produce and meat over canned and boxed foods. We eventually developed 4 different food bag options, each featuring culturally relevant foods that target

the groups we are serving. With the generous increase of funding and donations, we are able to purchase a wide variety of produce from our food banks. On any given day, our neighbors can take home 8-10 different kinds of produce, including avocados, onions, oranges, and limes. In addition, our partnership with LEAFF (Local Emergency Assistance Farmer Fund) brought 2-3 more seasonal varieties into the mix.

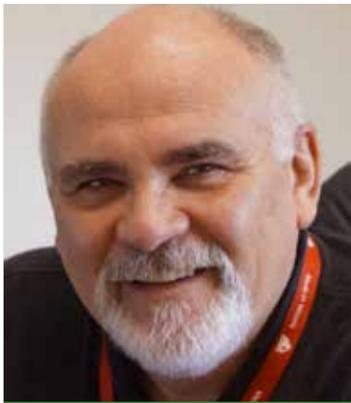
Our meat options have also increased, ensuring that we have a variety of culturally-relevant options for all of our visitors. Special grant funding has enabled us to consistently offer lean

meats, fish, and goat meat to help meet the diverse food needs of our neighbors.

So, how is the food shelf doing, you ask?

We've seen our community come together in beautiful and creative ways and been able to share some of our generous food drive donations with satellite food distributions done by Mt. Olive Lutheran, Sanctuary Covenant and Holy Trinity Lutheran. They are serving families most affected by the June riots in their neighborhoods. We've partnered with other churches to repackage bulk rice—Knox Church, dry beans—Calvary Lutheran Church, and corn flour—City Church. These efforts have helped us increase our distributions of our cultural food choices. And, we've gained some amazing new volunteers into the CES family.

The challenges in our community are far from over and food needs are expected to rise. As we approach the fall and winter months, please continue giving of your time, your treasure, and your talents—it all matters. Together, we are changing our community!



Director's Discourse

Almost nine months into 2020, we have seen a continual frenzy of activities and of unparalleled change in the history of CES. Despite the chaos and confusion of March, April, and May and the unrest of the summer months, we have seen God move in so many ways. We have seen record breaking need, yet an outpouring of love and grace from the community for those hurting and needy.

When we initially lost our usual volunteers due to the need for isolation, some working from home, or because of the vulnerability of age, God provided. Despite the challenges, our congregational partners, existing donors, new grant-

ors, new financial supporters and a new cadre of volunteers stepped up with food, funds, and service. They helped meet the hunger needs, but also showed love and support for the struggles of our community.

In this Spotlight, you will hear of the sacrifices and generosity of one of our congregational partners. Also, you will receive an update on the success of our Food Shelf program while struggling with the pandemic.

People in our community have been greatly impacted. Unemployment statewide is nearly 9%, but much higher in our neighborhood. Hospitality jobs and restaurants are severely impacted and many of these jobs will not return. Yet, there were many who answered our call to engage as new volunteers to meet the growing needs.

As we enter into the fall and winter, we know these are always some of our hardest months in the neighborhoods we serve. While things are starting to

improve with people going back to work in many parts of the state, we still see businesses boarded up in our neighborhoods, which will likely be the reality well into the future.

CES serves some of most ethnically rich neighborhoods in Minnesota, but also some of the most economically disadvantaged. Although our neighborhoods continue to suffer, CES will keep striving to strengthen families and individuals, helping move our neighbors beyond crisis to stability, emotional health, personal growth and spiritual depth.

Through direct aid relief, advocacy, referral, guidance and prayer support, CES seeks to strengthen our community. Please continue to stand with us in our God given calling of service with your time, talent, and treasures.

God bless you!

Mike Lloyd
Executive Director

Supporter Spotlight - Steven's Square Foundation



This month, we'd like to give special thanks to **Steven's Square Foundation**.

Their generous support over the past decade has helped us sustain the nutrition of homebound seniors and families with children. They are invaluable partners, and in this difficult year, we are more grateful for their partnership than ever.

Thank you, Steven's Square Foundation!



Knox Church Rises to Meet the Need - John Kingery, Knox Church

"What do we do with these food donations? How can we sort as well as serve the food to all the people?" was the cry we heard from CES.

March's statewide shutdown doubled CES' Food Shelf clients while forcing CES staff to quickly implement changes to all their processes. Both space and volunteers were at a premium.

Located in SW Minneapolis, Knox Church has partnered with CES for years in many ways. With the craziness of 2020, new opportunities arose from the unique challenges.

Hence, Knox offered to process **all** the groceries donated to CES. A large room in our church was cleared and set up with two 34-category sorting stations

to allow us to maintain social distancing.

March 27th, CES brought the first of many truckloads to Knox. Our volunteers unloaded the truck, used shopping carts and wheeled racks to move food through the church, and brought it to long rows of tables in the sorting room. Volunteers sorted the food into the infamous banana boxes and stored them until they were needed at CES.

Unable to procure rice in small distributable sizes, CES needed help again! So we cleared out another large room at Knox, procured 50 pound bags of rice, and volunteers repackaged the rice into one pound, sealed and labeled bags.

At the end of May, civil unrest hit CES' neighborhood, and their client load doubled again. They were blessed with massive donations of food and hygiene products and Knox handled all CES could send.

From April through July, Knox volunteers received, unloaded, hauled, sorted, boxed, stored, and shipped back over to CES 47,000 pounds of donated food.

Additionally, we procured and repackaged over 6,000 pounds of rice for CES to distribute to its clients. We gladly volunteered over 600 hours during these months, working in the background to assist CES, who was on the frontlines for thousands needing food.



An avalanche of banana boxes waiting to be filled



A mound of generous donations filling Knox Church's great room