March 2017





"Teaching Perseverance and Restoring Hope"

on the FRONTLINES with CCM

Did you know?

CCM's Financial Assistance Program distributes nearly \$4,000 each week to prevent individuals and families from losing utility services or becoming homeless due to eviction. In order to accomplish this, CCM invests another \$3,500 each week to provide the staff, counseling, training, utilities,



insurance and other facility costs required to help our neighbors in crisis.

Financial Assistance Real people. Real life.

"Brittany" came to CCM seeking assistance with past due rent. She is 8 months pregnant and finds herself abandoned. She is out of work, and there is no income coming into her home. Brittany knows that she will be out of work when the baby is born, and does not know how she will be able to make it. Brittany's



landlord is demanding payment and threatening to file for her eviction. CCM was able to assist Brittany with her rent through our Financial Assistance Program. Her housing is secured for another 30 days. As tough as it is to read Brittany's story, it is even tougher to experience the deep hurt and rejection Brittany feels. These are real people with real problems.

Where would you be if the paycheck you were expecting in your bank account

never came? Where would you be if you lost your job and used all your savings to survive? Imagine where you would be. Past due and disconnection notices would start



showing up in your mailbox. Your landlord would be calling demanding payment. Imagine the stress! Imagine the pressure! Your children and their needs! This is the reality many of our clients face every day. The goal of our Financial Assistance Program is to provide relief in the areas of utilities, rent/mortgage, and prescription medications.

Resources Running Low!!

The funding resources that CCM relies on to assist households in need with rent are months behind in their reimbursements. Other local resources have already exhausted their funds for the year, leaving CCM as the sole source among providers.

At the current rate, of 18 people per month, CCM may run out of funds. Since July 2016, CCM has helped 145 households avoid evictions. Once funds are exhausted, families will face eviction without assistance from CCM due to lack of resources. Please help us fill the gap for families in crisis.

Click Here to Help the Financial Assistance Program

I Love My City Weekend!

April 28-30, 2017

When a community of people develops the habit of looking beyond their own priorities to identify a need and then actively engages to address that need- the community becomes stronger. Everybody wins!

Concord, Harrisburg, Kannapolis, Midland and Mount Pleasant will be participating in "I Love My City Weekend!"

Visit our website to sign up for projects:

I Love My City Weekend - Official website



Check out the NEW "I Love My City Weekend" video!



Volunteers Needed!!

Mother's & Children Housing Ministry

Tutors desperately needed for our Shelter and Housing Ministry. Tutors needed for grades kindergarten - 8th grade. Tutors will be responsible for all subjects, tracking child's progress each week, assisting with homework, reading, sight words, hands-on activities, online work and research for projects. For more information, please email



Pam Smith psmith@cooperativeministry.com or

Sam Merchak <u>smerchak@cooperativeministry.com</u>

Inside CCM - Volunteer Spotlight Muriel Price, 89 years old

Her role...

Crisis Center Receptionist on Wednesdays. She greets clients and visitors. Muriel directs them according to their needs.

How it makes her feel...

"It humbles me to see how fortunate that I am. It also allows me to help someone and feel that I am accomplishing something in my day."

Why she keeps coming back...

"I enjoy the people and everyone is friendly. It also gives me a feeling of being needed. I remember a man that came in to make a donation and he said he had kept track of all that CCM had done for him and he was now stable and working and able to give back. This touched my heart."

Hobbies...

She enjoys cooking, knitting, sewing, and gardening. At one time, she used to have a coffee and bake shop in New York.

"Getting Ahead" A new educational program coming to CCM

CCM needs facilitators for an exciting new program which will help those living in poverty lead happier, more prosperous lives. This educational program is based on **Bridges Out of Poverty** which provides a basis to help address and reduce poverty in a comprehensive way.

Getting Ahead uses a workbook curriculum to help people living in poverty learn about how poverty impacts them and their communities, how to build needed resources to help them improve their economic class, and how to set goals for beginning to increase those resources. Getting Ahead facilitators are trained in Bridges Out of Poverty concepts and will also take a two-day online class in Getting Ahead facilitator training.

If you or someone you know might be interested in becoming a **Getting Ahead** facilitator, please have them contact Mark Jasmine at markjasmine@ymail.com

Please share with your ministry colleagues within your church.

If you are **new** to this newsletter and would like to receive these monthly updates, please join our mailing list below.

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