

**AUGUST 2023 - ANNIVERSARY EDITION** 

# PERSPECTIVE

FROM THE FRONTLINES

From Our Chief Executive Officer, Ed Hosack

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY CCM!**



Cooperative Christian
Ministry (CCM) was born
out of adversity in 1981.
The national economy
presented double digits
in both inflation and
interest rates. Locally, the
transition from a century
of family ownership and
the textile-manufacturing
environment in general,
created great uncertainty.

Cabarrus County responded by embracing a local faith-based nonprofit to address the needs of friends and neighbors who were negatively impacted by the economy. CCM was shaped in the 1980s into the basic framework of the organization today, but the impact of CCM and its influence in our community is of much greater magnitude in 2023. Through every economic disaster of the last two decades, CCM has been called upon by local,

state and national leaders to assist in the response for Cabarrus County.

After 42 years, CCM is still a local independent faith-based nonprofit supported by and engaging with our community on a daily basis, responding to the needs of our neighbors in Concord, Harrisburg, Kannapolis, Midland, Mount Pleasant and surrounding areas. CCM has grown by four times over the last two decades. Now, CCM is poised to grow again in response to an escalating crisis in our region.

The national economy and its growing impact in our communities is forcing many families with children and fixed income seniors into housing crisis. CCM is responding with two major initiatives to provide new transitional housing capacity and the supportive programming that will help local households regain stability and restore their homes and families. The next three years will see dynamic growth in CCM's Hunger Fighting, Financial

continued ≫



#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY CCM! CONT.

Assistance and Educational programs through the 2025 New Horizon Strategic Plan. By 2030, The Rebuilders Campus at Brown Mill Commons, Grace Place Kannapolis and an expanded Food Program will achieve new capacities that will ready CCM to respond to crisis and strengthen our community for the next generation of challenges.

We hope you will take this window of opportunity to be a part of the groundbreaking, foundation-setting, life-building work of CCM.

**Happy Birthday CCM!** 

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# A NEW HORIZON 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

giving focus on the challenge of the next five years.

## WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY

for transitional housing capacity to address a growing homeless population.

## SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

Non-profit workshops to provide information on crisis assistance.

### From Our Chief Relationship Officer, Jeremy Burleson

## Back to School - FUN, Yet CHALLENGING



As the anticipation of a new school year quickly approaches, excitement grows for the kiddos as they look forward to reuniting with old friends, and even meeting new ones. But even for the most enthusiastic learner, nervousness and uncertainty are natural feelings that become quite customary.

In most cases, it then becomes the role of mom, dad, grandparents or simply the caregiver to help the child work through that uncertainty. It's not uncommon to see the anxiety that a child might face spill over and effect the caregiver just the same.



Often times, it's not just the children who face various challenges as the school year begins. As CCM has seen time after time through testimony of our resident families, back to school also means the stress associated with purchasing school supplies and clothing for their kids. Those purchases often add pressure to an already stretched budget. It likely means not only ensuring their kids have adequate and safe transportation to and from the school each day, but also figuring after school activity into the schedule and the associated levels of stress.

Back to school challenges also impact another population in which we serve, in our senior adults. We have seniors that spend significant amounts of time caring for grandchildren or nieces/nephews during the summer months. As the kids head back to school, that means that individual is facing periods of loneliness once again. For a population that thrives on community, that's a tough transition.

Even through the challenges that back to school might bring, regardless of population, we can rest assured in knowing that God's love conquers our fears for today and our worries for tomorrow!

"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love."

- Romans 8:38-39

We invite you to **PRAY** alongside us, and **ENGAGE** with CCM. **CLICK HERE** to learn more about the impact that CCM has in this community, and how **YOU** can be a part of sharing God's love through giving.

**BLESSINGS!** 



# **Our Education & Support** Services team has been busy!

We Can Heal Our Bodies With Food - Simple Cooking for Your Health

ESS recently held a workshop and cooking demonstration to challenge participants to change their perspective about eating healthy and to encourage them to apply new practices and ways of preparing healthier food options.

The workshop was held in partnership with the City of Concord Housing Department at their Neighborhood Network Technology Center, as part of our Pathway to Progress series.





Dawnuelle Wells of Legacy Body, LLC, was guest speaker and also did a cooking demonstration, emphasizing that "balancing and being conscious of what you eat is important." She also provided the benefits of the various food items used in the recipes to reiterate that we can actually "heal our bodies with food." Guests were able to sample the various dishes she prepared and received copies of the recipes presented during the demonstration.

Our (ESS) mission with The WAY is creating space for people to "pursue" wellness and to "invest" in THEMSELVES.



On July 17-20, 2023, Cabarrus Health Alliance in conjunction with CCM held a Mobile Dental Clinic at Grace Lutheran Church.



The Offices of Rural Health offers a Community Health Grant for dental services that can only be used at Cabarrus Health Alliance Dental. It is a \$500.00 grant for Cabarrus County and Kannapolis City residents who qualify.



During those four days 25 recipients were able to use the grant for needed dental services such as exams. x-rays and cleanings.

In addition, Cabarrus Health Alliance's Mobile Clinic ioined the Mobile Dental Clinic at Grace Lutheran Church for two days and provided immunizations for five children. Adult COVID-19 vaccinations were also available.

We thank Grace Lutheran Church for their hospitality and allowing us to use their church.

> **CLICK TO VIEW** the full Strategic Plan

LEARN MORE



## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

CCM's Summer Academic Camp was a great success with the help of the wonderful teachers, Mrs. Shoe and Mrs. Birkemeier, who hosted the math and reading learning blocks every day of the camp! They also engaged with the students in fun activities like field day and in playing mini golf at Frank Liske Park. On the second day of camp, NOVA Credit Union provided the students with a fun coin-related basketball game, money-related bingo, and goodie bags! On the fourth day of camp, Anne Jaeger from the Academic Learning Academy in Concord hosted a cool tactile science activity with the group as well as Mad Libs activities. On the fifth day, Mr. Joe Plummer from Plummer & Plummer Attorneys also stopped by to engage in conversation with the students and give them a glimpse of his career. CCM Housing staff

appreciates their time and commitment to the task! CCM is also grateful to the members of Templo Redencion in Concord for their food items donations (waffles, chicken nuggets, hot dogs, etc.) to the camp! Special thanks to Alicia, a graduate of Mount Pleasant High School, for making and preparing breakfast, lunch, and snacks for the students. We also greatly appreciate Mr. McConnell and Ms. Jeanne who stopped by on field day to provide a delicious meal of spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread and salad!











## PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

Thank You to Ketchie Inc. for supporting our Teaching House Program.

Coordinated and kicked off by Ketchie President, Courtney Silver, the volunteer team built a new storage shed for one of our teaching houses. In addition to volunteering they also donated funding to purchase all materials. The team worked well past the half-day commitment to get the job done!





# Thank you!

### **July Food Donations Highlights:**

Foxlaire Neighborhood collected 117 lbs. of food.

**Kimball Memorial Lutheran** collected 854 lbs. of food.

McGill Baptist collected 160 lbs. of food.

Baha'i Faith of Concord collected 178 lbs. of food.

Forest Hills UMC collected 138 lbs. of food.

**Snyder Packing** collected 105 lbs. of food.

Thanks also to **Lifeline Missions**, for donation of 25 cases of beans & rice meal kits (900 kits!)

Also thanks to **Calvary Lutheran** and **Bethpage Presbyterian** for on-going donations from their community gardens.



Pitts Baptist had a contest and raised \$700 during their Vacation Bible School. This donation will go to towards the families at My Father's House.



Thank you to **The City of Kannapolis** for the non-profit grant to CCM in the amount of \$3,000 to prevent utility cutoffs for Kannapolis residents. With rising inflation and housing costs, a growing number of local residents are having to choose between paying for food or keeping the lights on

and water running. Thanks to support from partners like Kannapolis, CCM is making sure that these families remain safe in their homes with their pantries stocked and their utilities intact.





West Cabarrus Youth served at CCM on 7/16 & 7/18, bagging up beans and rice for our clients and washing our CCM vehicles.

They also had a food

drive for us collecting 623lbs. of food!







Aniya Smith is current housing resident and a recent graduate of Concord High School. She recently enlisted to join the National Guard and will be in basic training for the next two months, she will then move on to AIT for an additional 2 months. Aniya has aspirations of

one day becoming nurse but has first chosen to serve her country.

**Congratulations Aniya!** 

Cameron Viard, who is a current housing resident and a student of Mallard Creek High School has been invited to join the National Society of High School Scholars. Cameron is a rising 11th grader and has shown to be an exceptional student and is interested in a career involving sports medicine.



**Congratulations Cameron!** 

# **EVENTS**



#### OUR 2023 SPEAKERS:



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Page Castrodale EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | CABARRUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Jennifer Ray TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR, APPARO



Wilmenia Gripper **FOUNDER** 1, 2, 3 JUMP

**Mike Dames** 

WORLDWIDE

CHARLOTTE



**Autumn Neck** OWNER/PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT, SCRIBE LLC



Witnie A. Martinez CEO/PRESIDENT/ FOUNDER, ABSOLUTE **IMPACT CONSULTING** 



**Rebekah Bagley** YOUTH OUTREACH DIRECTOR HOPE & EDUCATION SPECIALIST, MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA



**Ashlyn Christensen EDUCATION &** ADVOCACY SUPPORT SPECIALIST, MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA

### **Upcoming Mobile Food Pantries**

**August 10th (Thursday) Concord Elevation Church Campus** 10:00AM-12:00PM 545 Concord Pkwv N. (Church Parking Lot)

September 14th (Thursday) St. James the Greater Catholic Church 10:00AM-12:00PM

October 12th (Thursday) **Concord Elevation Church Campus** 10:00AM-12:00PM

545 Concord Pkwy N.





Sign up to round up your monthly City of Concord Utility bill to the nearest dollar and help keep the air, heat, and lights on for hundreds of families in need.

> Visit: https://concordnc.gov/Departments/Customer-Care/ Neighbor-Helping-Neighbor



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