

# PERSPECTIVE

## FROM THE FRONTLINES

CELEBRATING OUR 41ST YEAR OF RESTORING HOPE



From Our Chief Executive Officer, Ed Hosack

## CARING FOR OUR WIDOWS (AND WIDOWERS)

How is it possible  
that we limit  
Mother's Day to one  
month or one day?

Nearly every day we hear the stories: "She was managing okay while her rent was \$800 per month but when it increased to \$900 per month she started visiting our food pantry on a monthly basis. She just received notice that her rent is going up again, this time to \$1,050 per month. If she would like her lease to be monthly, it will be an additional \$50 (\$1,100) per month."

They are not in the evictions statistics; they would never let that happen. Their generation has a "we will get through this" resolve. Only there is no "we" anymore! She is alone now and about to lose her housing. No matter the words you choose to label it, she is about to be homeless.

*"How could this happen so quickly, he's only been gone a few years?" She waited for him while he defended his country, they toughed it out and they both worked hard to raise the son they lost too early and a daughter whose family cannot help. Illness robbed them of their savings and their dreams. Her benefits simply cannot keep up with the pace of today.*

The fastest growing category of homeless in Cabarrus County is Senior Adults. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) most extremely low-income (ELI) renters are sixty-two years old or older. Many of those are widows, mothers and grandmothers. A growing number of them are being forced out by escalating rent or being taken advantage of for their fixed income. Worse still, many are living in constant fear of losing their housing.

continued >>

# EXPERTS IN HOUSING RELIEF

# CRISIS

ONCE  
I WAS  
LIKE YOU

**CCM**  
CRISIS TO RESTORATION

COOPERATIVE  
CHRISTIAN  
MINISTRY

When Marv died suddenly, Tina’s income dropped immediately. She was not prepared. He had handled everything, she said. If there were a viable solution to keep her housing, she would not know how to pursue it. For women in Tina’s circumstance, without family that is capable of helping, there is no solution. When I consider this reality and ask the question, how can this be in our community? The only answer I can live with is; we did not know this is happening.

Whether she ever had children or not, if her children are still living or not, if she was married, ever worked outside the home, made mistakes along the way or just did her best for those she loved, our community will be a reflection of how we respond to her. James 1:27 (MSG) “Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless (widows and orphans) in their plight...”

There is a solution on the horizon, for our lowest-income neighbors who are Seniors, or Disabled, our Veterans or their Widows. **Grace Place** is designed to be a transitional housing program of CCM that provides the basic needs of food, housing and community for extremely low-income seniors in an environment that is extremely affordable, ultra-efficient, easily accessed, community-based, and pet friendly. The program is sensitive to the desire for independence, and the need to restore dignity and purpose.

*I need your help and I need a favor; can I build a place for her in your neighborhood?*

## IN THIS EDITION...

From Our Chief Relationship Officer.....	3
2025 New Horizon Strategic Plan Updates .....	4
Community NEWS.....	5
Thank You! .....	6
Recent Events.....	7

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

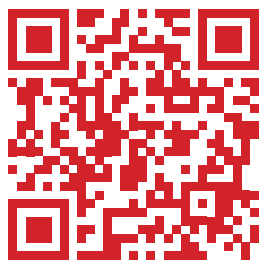


...ARE TEAMING UP WITH



**Join us for Elder Orphan Care Night at the Ballpark!**

**Friday, June 2, 7:00 PM**



**Join us for a fun night as the Cannon Ballers face the Woodpeckers!**

Come check out our info booth, raffle, and food drive!

Tickets MUST be purchased through the QR code on the left or click the **link on our website, [elderorphan.com](https://elderorphan.com)**, for us to receive your donation.

***For more info or to purchase large groups of tickets call 704-433-5779***

From Our Chief Relationship Officer, Jeremy Burleson

## A BRIGHT FUTURE



For more than 12 years now, Cooperative Christian Ministry has focused its housing programming in the area of transitional housing, helping to bridge the gap between emergency and stable (or affordable) housing here in Cabarrus County. By nature of CCM's congregate living approach during the first two stages in the continuum, our ministry has developed an attention toward single moms with children. Those single mothers, which fall into the category of the largest homeless population in our county currently, have consistently shown a resiliency and determination to protect their children. Because of that willingness to do whatever it takes to protect those children, these mothers are creating that opportunity for a BRIGHT FUTURE, for themselves AND their children!

**“Have I not commanded you? Be STRONG and COURAGEOUS. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go”**

**– Joshua 1:9**

Single moms know that there will always be challenges; times of uncertainty and difficulty, but overcoming those times of trial are what helps our CCM residents thrive. Here are a few tips from our resident single moms through their various journeys, as understood from physical, mental, emotional and spiritual perspectives:

- † **Physical transformation:** Health is important for hard work and perseverance, intentionally choosing healthier food options, adequate amounts of sleep, and exercise.
- † **Overcoming mental struggles:** Read for growth or just for fun, track your thoughts with journaling, try something new or do something you love, and filter out unnecessary information (e.g. social media).
- † **Grow emotionally:** Focus your vulnerability on God and talk to Him about things, and communicate feelings to people you can trust.
- † **Spiritually thrive:** Give your life to Jesus, read and marinate on Scripture, invest in a prayer life, and find community.

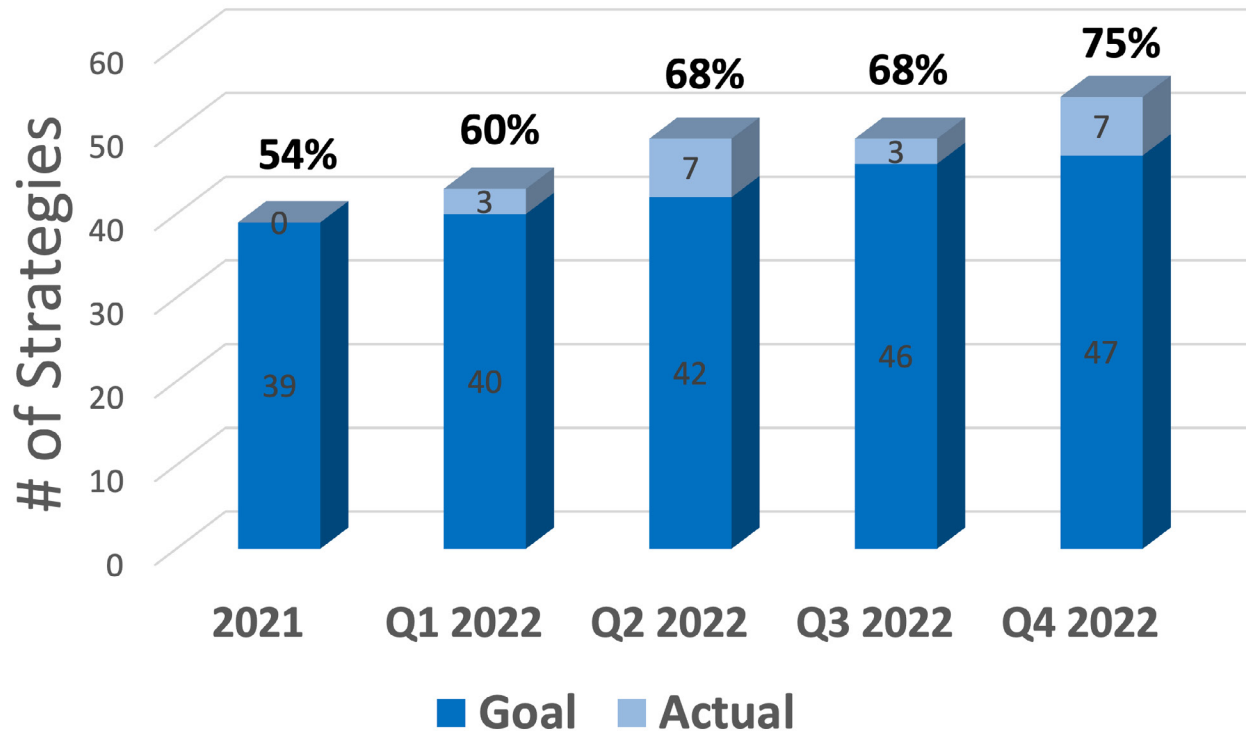
God has and continues to bless those residents that show a willingness to seek Him through overcoming uncertainty. Our ministry eagerly anticipates an ability to serve at a greater capacity of single mothers here in Cabarrus County as we expand onto the **Rebuilder's Campus at Brown Mill.**



We invite you to **PRAY** alongside us, and **ENGAGE** with CCM. **CLICK HERE** to learn more about our CCM Housing program!



## STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT



**CCM's 2025 New Horizon Strategic Plan** consists of 5 goals, 22 objectives, 72 strategies and more than 200 action steps. At the end of year 2 (2022), we took a deep dive specifically into the 'strategies' portion of our measurement tactics. As you see represented via the chart above, CCM has engaged in 75% of those 72 strategies as of year-end '22.

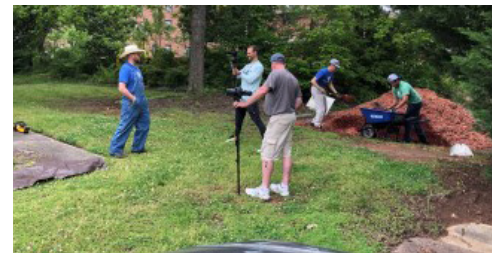
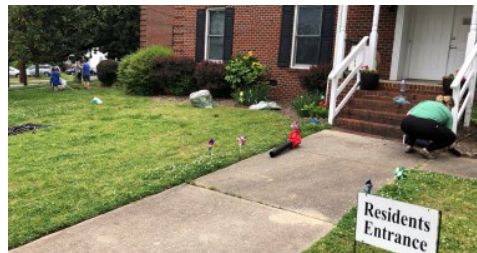
We continue to see tremendous progress in and through our plan, as we develop those strategies into action steps and eventually results!



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS



**Crossroads Church** and **Elder Orphan Care** teamed up to get Ms. Wilma's house in better shape via an **I Love My City** project! A great group of volunteers made her yard beautiful and safe to walk in.



Thank you **West Cabarrus church** for all your help with our **I Love My City Spring Beautification project** at the Crisis Center Food Pantry and the Mothers and Children's Home (MaC). The group helped prune bushes, pull weeds and plant flowers.

## Breaking Free

Financial Literacy Month is celebrated during the month of April as an effort to bring awareness to the benefits of gaining and maintaining healthy financial habits and teaching people how to improve their understanding of many common financial issues and pitfalls. In celebration of Financial Literacy Month, CCM's Education and Supportive Services (ESS), held a graduation on April 4th for those who participated in their 5-week Breaking Free Financial Literacy Class. The workshops were held in partnership with NOVA Credit Union, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) and Prosperity Unlimited, Inc.

*"This course was better than expected. It was fun, informative and taught me a lot. I have confidence in my ability to meet my financial goals. Just in the last five weeks, I've improved spending habits and implemented things I've learned."*

*"Excellent course and I am glad that I was able to be a part."*

*"I recommend this course to people of all ages."*



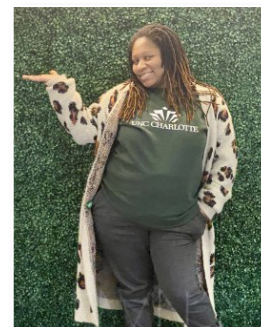


# Thank you!

Thank you to the **City of Concord, CSR group**, for volunteering at our Crisis Center food pantry last month. They bagged 400 lbs. of beans and rice and handed out snacks and water to our clients.



**Shaunte' Barmore** has been interning with CCMs Education and Support Services Team for the 22-23 school year. During her internship with CCM, Shaunte' has also spent time working with staff in our Food and Financial Assistance Programs. She will graduate on May 13, 2023 from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with her Bachelor of Social Work degree and a Psychology Minor. After graduation, Shaunte' plans to volunteer with various local community partners before embarking on her Master of Social Work degree. We thank Shaunte' for choosing to intern with CCM and wish her the best in all her future endeavors!



## May Food Donations

**Atrium Health Cabarrus (hospital and clinics)** collected and delivered 928 lbs. of food.

**Grifols/Talecris Plasma Center** in Kannapolis collected and delivered 838 lbs.

**The DHS Debbie Kendall Memorial Food Drive** netted 622 lbs. of food and \$40 cash! Debbie was Program Manager for the Food & Nutrition Services program (food stamps) at DHS, and also was an active member of the Hunger Task Force. She blessed so many of us in the community with notices of all kinds of special events and programs that might benefit our clients.

*"We could not think of a better way to celebrate Debbie and pay tribute to the legacy she leaves behind then a food drive partnering with CCM, an organization she worked alongside to help bridge the gap for the families we serve."*

~ Diana Martin, Program Manager, Economic Services

## 2023 Volunteer Picnic

We want to say Thank You to all of our **amazing volunteers**, who help make what we do at CCM possible. On April 19th, we hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic to honor our volunteers! April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and our picnic was an awesome way to show appreciation and to thank our volunteers for their dedication and hard work. Many have volunteered for 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 plus years of service to our ministry.



*"It was a beautiful day with good food, great enthusiasm and wonderful fellowship - hopefully next year you will be joining us!"*

~ Lorie Williams, Volunteer Coordinator

# EVENTS

**Attention all Nonprofit  
Leaders, Staff, and Volunteers!**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SHAPING  
THE FUTURE  
TOGETHER**

**CABARRUS COUNTY  
NONPROFIT WORKSHOP  
AUGUST 24, 2023**

**8:30 AM – 1:00 PM AT CROSSROADS CHURCH  
220 GEORGE W. LILES PARKWAY, CONCORD**



**The annual Stamp  
Out Hunger  
Food Drive is**

**Saturday, May 13.**  
All food collected  
by the Letter  
Carriers that  
day is distributed  
to local food  
pantries. All food

collected by the Concord Parkway office  
(28027) comes to CCM, and all food  
collected by the Kannapolis office goes  
to our satellite pantry, the Kannapolis  
Food Pantry at West Point Baptist Church.  
Residents are encouraged to put out a  
bag of non-perishables by their mailbox  
for their letter carriers to pick up that day.

## Upcoming Mobile Food Pantries

**May 11 (Thursday)**

**St. James the Greater Catholic Church,  
Guadalupe Hall Parking Lot, 135 Manor  
Ave. SW, Concord 28025**

**Sponsored by Knights of Columbus**  
10:00-12:00

**June 29 (Thursday)**

**Elevation Church Concord parking lot  
545 Concord Pkwy N, Concord, 28027  
(the old K-Mart Parking Lot)**

**Sponsored by Elevation Church**  
10:00-12:00



## 2023 Mobile Food Pantry Schedule

**CONCORD  
NEIGHBOR  
HELPING  
NEIGHBOR**

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](https://concordnc.gov/Departments/Customer-Care/Neighbor-Helping-Neighbor)



**COOPERATIVE  
CHRISTIAN  
MINISTRY**

246 Country Club Drive NE, PO Box 1717  
Concord, NC 28026 TEL: 704-786-4709



**GIVE ONLINE:** [www.CooperativeMinistry.com](http://www.CooperativeMinistry.com) or **TEXT:** ccmhelps to 44321