

PERSPECTIVE

FROM THE FRONTLINES

CELEBRATING 44 YEARS OF RESTORING HOPE



HAPPY
Mother's
DAY



**CABARRUS
COUNTY**

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

They say, "it takes a village."

I didn't fully understand the depth of that phrase until four months ago, when I gave birth to my first child.

In these early months of motherhood, that truth has become very real. What once felt like a simple saying now carries profound meaning as I've experienced the physical, emotional, and spiritual demands of being a first-time mom. More than anything, I've become deeply aware of the incredible community surrounding me—the people who have stepped in to support, encourage, and help carry the load. Whether through meals, prayers, or simply showing up, my "village" has made all the difference. I truly don't know how I would have navigated this season without them.

At the same time, I think about the many mothers who are walking this journey alone. Over the past two years, I've had the privilege of working in a housing program, coaching women navigating motherhood under incredibly difficult circumstances. I've always admired their resilience, but now my respect for them has deepened even more. The weight they carry each day—for their children and their futures—is immense.

This perspective makes our mission feel even more urgent. What a powerful opportunity we have to step into these mothers' lives and become the village they're missing. We are called to be the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27) and to live out our faith by caring for those in need, as James reminds us.

This season has been eye-opening. Experiencing how my own burdens have been lightened has given me a clearer understanding of



COOPERATIVE
CHRISTIAN
MINISTRY

IN THIS EDITION

It Takes a Village	1
Summer Needs	2
Caremoor Ad	3
Program Area Updates	4
Thank You	5
Upcoming Events	6

how we can come alongside others—through both big gestures and small, faithful acts of care.

Thank you for being part of this community and for the ways you continue to step into the gap through supporting CCM. Because of you, mothers who might otherwise feel alone are experiencing care, dignity, and hope.

Thank you for being part of the village.

- Kyra Horton, CCM Housing Team

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:27

SUMMER NEEDS

When the school year ends, many students look forward to the freedom and relaxation of summer. But for a significant number of children and families in our community, the transition away from school brings serious challenges. Schools are not just places of learning—they are critical hubs of stability, providing meals, structure, supervision, and access to supportive services. When those systems pause for the summer, vulnerable students can face heightened risks that affect their well-being and development.

One of the most immediate concerns is food insecurity. During the academic year, thousands of Cabarrus County Schools students rely on free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch programs to meet their daily nutritional needs. Many Cabarrus County schools, including Winecoff supported by CCM, also have weekend “backpack” programs where a bag of non-perishable food items are sent home every Friday. When school is out, those consistent meals disappear, placing additional strain on families already struggling to make ends meet.

Summer also introduces gaps in supervision that can impact both safety and development. Working parents may not have access to affordable childcare, leaving children home alone or in informal arrangements that may not provide adequate oversight. This lack of structure can increase the likelihood of accidents, exposure to unsafe environments, or engagement in risky behaviors. School Social Workers try to bridge this gap by helping families gain access to affordable camps, tutoring, or extracurricular opportunities.

Equally important—and often overlooked—are the mental health needs of students over summer break. Our schools serve as access points for counseling, social-emotional support, and trusted adult relationships. Cabarrus County Schools works to reduce barriers, such as insurance and transportation,



to mental health services for students by partnering with community mental health providers to offer school-based counseling throughout the county. When those connections and services are interrupted, students who rely on them may feel isolated and unsupported.

Cabarrus County School Social Workers work diligently to connect families and students to community-based resources over summer. We send home information on local food pantries and locations of blessing boxes. We connect parents to camps and childcare options that offer scholarships and sliding scale fees. Links to services are available for parents on our CCS School Social Work webpage CCS Family Support Services. Cabarrus County Schools also work with our School Based Mental Health providers to help continue services over summer, including some providers, such as Atrium, offering virtual sessions.

For many students, school provides a sense of safety and predictability that is difficult to replace. Addressing seasonal gaps in resources requires a coordinated community effort, beyond school staff. We rely on our community partners to see those needs and help fill those gaps to ensure that students continue to receive the nourishment, supervision, and care they need year-round.

- Jennifer Schmidt, LCSW Cabarrus County School Social Worker



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PROGRAM AREA UPDATES

FOOD PROGRAM

This month, CCM's Crisis Center Food Pantry served 860 households, reaching 3,189 individuals, and distributed 30,777 pounds of food to our community. Our nine satellite pantries helped extend this impact even further, serving an additional 474 households, supporting 1,357 individuals, and distributing 19,032 pounds of food. We also hosted our first mobile food pantry of the year on April 9, serving 211 households. The event ran smoothly, and we are deeply grateful to Elevation Church in Concord for hosting, along with our sponsors, Calvary Lutheran Church and Connect Christian Church. Their partnership makes this outreach possible.



HOUSING

Over the past year, one mother in CCM's housing program has made incredible strides toward independence. She entered the program with an eviction on her record, no driver's license, no vehicle, and very limited driving experience. Through consistent work, careful budgeting, and determination, she began saving money and partnered with another resident to study for her learner's permit, which she successfully earned. In the months that followed, she paid off her eviction, opening the door to future housing opportunities for her and her child. With support from the CCM team and the generosity of our community, she was also able to purchase an affordable car. After just a few weeks of practice, she earned her driver's license and is now driving herself to work. Her journey is a powerful example of perseverance and growth. What was once a major barrier, transportation, has become a source of confidence, independence, and new opportunity.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

This past month, CCM was able to support an individual who had been struggling to keep up with bills and feeling overwhelmed. They shared, "I can't begin to express how much has been lifted off my shoulders. For the past three months, I've been going in circles trying to keep up with my bills, often feeling completely hopeless. Thanks to CCM's support, I finally have relief, and I'm so incredibly grateful."

CRISIS RELIEF

Last year, CCM had the privilege of serving 392 women, which was 83% of the individuals served with receiving financial assistance to help them navigate challenging seasons and move toward stability!



THANK YOU

STAFF DAY RECAP

CCM's Maintenance Staff is always appreciative of all that our volunteers do for the ministry. Over the past couple weeks we provided our CCM Staff an opportunity to experience the satisfaction and joy that our Volunteer Groups do when they complete a project. Staff teams showed their willingness to pitch in at our Caremoor, Brown Mill and Admin Office locations with landscaping, site demo, and organization projects. Thanks to everyone who participated!



APRIL FOOD DRIVES

Farmers & Hunters Feeding
the hungry 1,200 lbs.

Concord Wildlife
Alliance 200 lbs.

Lifeline 1,815 lbs.

2026 VOLUNTEER PICNIC FOLLOW UP



Thursday, April 16, 2026, was my first year planning the Volunteer Picnic. During this time, we like to bring our volunteers together to recognize them and say thank you for their faithful service to CCM and the community. First and foremost, all glory goes to God for a successful event and day to celebrate our volunteers. The sun was shining brightly, it was a bit hot, but the weather was really beautiful for a day to have a picnic. There were around 120-130 individuals present from volunteers to spouses to friends, relatives to staff members to board members. We all had a great time of fellowship, gathered around tables for a meal (thank you Troutman's BBQ), heard from a

couple staff members and volunteers to hear from their hearts about CCM. We also had some volunteers from our satellite food pantries present, housing department, and many plus ones to attend the event. The whole ministry was well represented with our volunteers, but there were many who were not able to attend. To those who couldn't attend, we say THANK YOU and please keep partnering with us to serve Cabarrus County and Kannapolis areas. This is an annual event, and I look forward to participating in next year's event. I was really blessed by the CCM team/staff who each played such a key role in helping from decorating (Christy's Nursery provided us with beautiful center pieces for our tables), serving and then cleaning up after the event. It is an honor to be serving alongside such faithful men and women who honor the Lord so well with their roles at CCM.

- Michelle McPherson, CCM Volunteer Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

**Attention all Nonprofit
Leaders, Staff, and Volunteers!**
JOIN US!

SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

CABARRUS COUNTY
NONPROFIT WORKSHOP
AUGUST 27, 2025

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

2026 MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

St. James the Greater Catholic Church
139 Manor Ave. SW. Concord, NC

YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE FOOD.

Limit one per household. This is a drive-through event. Registration will begin about 30 minutes before the start time.

At registration, we will ask for the following:

- **Your name**
- **Number of people in your family**
- **Your address**
- **Number of family members by age group**

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER, THE MOBILE PANTRY WILL BE CANCELED





OUR PARTNERS LOOK LIKE YOU

COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUESTS

Join with us in supporting our community through prayer. Watch as God works around us through our faithful prayers.

PRAY WITH US

FOOD RESOURCES

The 'Cabarrus County Food Resource Map', which was created by the Hunger Task Force, is available on our website. Please share this valuable resource with the community.

VIEW MAP



SENIOR RESOURCE GUIDE

We provide resources for housing, health, transportation, and more. Click the button to see all the resources we provide.

LEARN MORE



HELP with HOUSING

Our housing programs provide the opportunity for families with children, senior adults, and other adult individuals to stop the cycle of loss, establish sustainability, and achieve housing stability.

LEARN MORE



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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