

PERSPECTIVE

FROM THE FRONTLINES

CELEBRATING 42 YEARS OF RESTORING HOPE



From Our Chief Executive Officer, Ed Hosack

IT'S IN THE "WANT TO"

CCM has provided groceries to individuals and families in crisis for over forty-two years. Through multiple recessions, economic disasters, and health crises, CCM has delivered food relief through periods of extremely high demand. It may surprise you that we are serving at the highest levels in our history right now. Volume records are being exceeded regularly in 2023. Food pantry inventories are being tested across the county. CCM is spending significant funds to purchase groceries to supplement regular receipts through donations and our partnership with Second Harvest.

Perhaps more ominous than the volume moving through our food ministries, is the reality behind the numbers. Demand for food relief is an early indicator of a greater financial struggle and growing household instability. With our records showing

larger households (families) and older populations seeking assistance, it is time for alarm and response!

For families and senior adults living alone, a roof over their head - whether one parent or two - is the paramount priority. The current housing market is a property owner's market. Landlords need not suffer alongside a tenant who is struggling to pay on time when another tenant is waiting and is likely willing to pay a higher rent. Consequently, many property managers will file eviction papers on the 15th day of the month after a missed payment.

Utilities in the home are equally important for health and safety but fall second in priority primarily because utility providers will often allow one to three months in arrears before taking action and will allow customers to catch up through a payment plan.

A family struggling financially will pay the rent each month to avoid eviction. Utilities are managed by balancing or alternating payments for other priorities. Groceries are often purchased with "leftover" money.

continued >>

REDUCE
HUNGER PAINS



COOPERATIVE
CHRISTIAN
MINISTRY

FOOD, FINANCIAL, AND HOUSING RELIEF MINISTRY

IT'S IN THE "WANT TO" CONT.

The strategy is common and is justified. The availability of charitable food exceeds the availability of resources to help with rent or utilities. The challenge with food relief has always been quality, quantity and distribution.

There is excellent work being done by many entities in Cabarrus County to make healthy foods available to those in need. School meal programs, open distributions, extended and weekend pantry hours, prepared meals, drive-through pickup, food preparation training, online ordering with scheduled pickup, and even food delivery to isolated populations are helping.

All of these reflect our community's responsiveness and collaborative spirit. Unfortunately, our efforts to feed hungry families and seniors are not solving the problems that cause the crisis. People seek food assistance because there is not enough money left after addressing the safety and security of the home.

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The problem requires recognizing the root causes and providing solutions that include housing infrastructure, restorative training and education, personal responsibility and employment opportunity.

Not every county has the capacity to address the priorities that will result in food security but....

Cabarrus County does and we CAN if we... WANT TO!



There is no better time than **NOW** to Give Back!

Are you and your family looking for a simple way to give back this holiday season? Why not consider adopting a family or packing a shoebox full of goodies for a Senior? You will have the opportunity to make someone's Christmas much more meaningful!

You, your family, church group or business can "Adopt-A-Family", pack a "Senior Care & Share Shoebox" or simply drop off a gift card to be given to a family in need, at our Crisis Center, located at 246 Country Club Drive NE, Concord.



For more information visit our [website](#).
To Adopt-A-Family or pack a Senior Shoebox for the holidays, contact
Lorie Williams at 704-490-4245 or lwilliams@cooperativeministry.com.



From Our Chief Relationship Officer, Jeremy Burleson

CELEBRATE HOPE 2023

On Monday evening, October 2nd, CCM held its annual "Celebrate HOPE" event, where stories of HOPE and RESTORATION were shared, and positive outcomes were celebrated. Thank you to all who joined us for the evening, and for those that supported CCM through giving, we are grateful!



A heartfelt THANK YOU to **SHOE SHOW, INC.**, and the entire Tucker family for their unwavering generosity towards CCM.

CCM is blessed to have an incredibly supportive Board of Directors, whose prayerful guidance and direction have laid a solid foundation for our Ministry in the years to come.

To our faith community partner, **Crossroads Church**, we THANK YOU for once again hosting us in your beautiful worship center. To our partnering marketing agency at **Cre8tve**, we're grateful to **Ritchie Elkins and his team** for all the graphics and branding support behind the event. To **Jennings Burchfield** at Unlocked Films & Marketing, we also say THANK YOU for the superb video content that we were able to deliver to those in attendance. Lastly, to our event partner **Angela Skeen** at Eventfully Angela, we are so very appreciative of our partnership and for your work in the planning and execution of this event year after year.



IN MEMORY OF OUR FOUNDER
ROBERT B. TUCKER
1937 - 2023



CCM acknowledges the significant impact of Mr. Bob Tucker in Cabarrus County. We are thankful that he chose to live his life worthy of his calling through Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:10). Our prayers are for the Tuckers and the entire Shoe Show family.

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Colossians 1:10



[CLICK TO VIEW
the full Strategic Plan](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

CCM's Crisis Center Food Pantry on Country Club Drive, which is open five days a week, now serves in the neighborhood of 900 households a month. However, did you know that CCM also has eight satellite food pantries and programs scattered around our service area?

We have five satellite food pantries located in churches and open to the public. Their schedules range from once a month to twice a week. They are:

- Helping Hands Food Pantry, at Bethel Baptist Church in Kannapolis
- North Kannapolis Baptist Church Food Pantry
- Kannapolis Food Pantry & Clothing Closet, at West Point Baptist Church
- Cupboard of Love Food Pantry at Westford Methodist Church, Concord
- Concord Feed the Souls Food Pantry at Bethel Church of Midland.

In addition, we have several non-public food pantries at various agencies in the county. For many years we have provided pre-bagged emergency groceries to the Cabarrus County Department of Human Services location on Cannon Boulevard in Kannapolis for them to provide to clients who are in need of food and cannot get to a regular pantry for a day or two. We are exploring the logistics of doing the same thing at DHS's new Milestone location off Kannapolis Parkway.

Early this year we entered into a partnership with Rowan-Cabarrus Community College's South Campus, assisting with their newly expanded food pantry for their students and staff. College students are an often overlooked

demographic when it comes to food insecurity. Many community college students are maintaining their own households, often with children, with reduced income as they focus on their studies. The RCCC pantry not only provides groceries for students to take home, but also ready-to-eat meals and snacks that can help them get through their college day.

Our newest satellite program partnership is with The Community Free Clinic (CFC). Within their Lifestyle Medicine program for diabetics, they have a "Food Pharmacy," which provides the kinds of foods important for their patients' good health, along with recipes and sometimes on-site classes. CCM now assists CFC in obtaining those healthy foods, including fresh produce.

Through these satellite food pantries and programs, CCM is able to reach a broader demographic and some specific populations who may not be able to come to our Crisis Center pantry. This past August, all of the CCM Food pantries served 5,000 individuals in 1,400 households, the most in 10 years (and in the fall of 2013 we actually had more satellite pantries!).

We are grateful to God for all these community partners and for the opportunity we have to serve a wide variety neighbors who are food insecure. We also are SO grateful for all our donor partners, who make it possible for us to accomplish these tasks God has given us!

~ Kris Edscorn, Food Program Manager

YOUR WINDOW OF
OPPORTUNITY
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

LEARN & GIVE



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CCM



Welcome Our New Intern!

Brian Crooks, from UNCC, will be assisting CCM's housing team this semester. Brian served in our country in the navy for four years and is passionate about helping the community around him. He is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in social work. Brian will be helping in our Boy's to Men program by continuing to develop great relationships with the boys in our housing program. He will instill principles, plan fun activities, and teach them about teamwork. He will also assist in our Teaching House program by transitioning our residents within our housing

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Education and Support Services (ESS) recently held a forum, "I Can't Take Another Loss: How to Cope with Multiple Loss & Change." The program was held in partnership with Luanne Stanton of Loss 101 and the City of Concord Housing Department. During the forum, Mrs. Stanton acknowledged that many people are dealing with multiple losses, some of which they are not even aware of, and that grief does not always come because someone has died. There are multiple factors involved. She spoke about the grieving process and how each person's time of grieving may differ depending upon the nature and intensity of feelings related to the individual and the uniqueness of that relationship. *"Every relationship is unique and different, therefore every loss is unique and different."*



Felicia Gaddy of Maximus - North Carolina Enrollment Broker was also on hand to provide information on Medicaid and other innovative healthcare solutions. The program was held at the Neighborhood Network Technology Center, as part of our Pathway to Progress series.

UPCOMING EVENTS



PATHWAY *to Progress*

FINANCIAL LITERACY Power of Budgeting

Thursday Oct. 19th

Concord Housing Technology Center
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
265 Salem Street SW - Concord, NC 28025

SPEAKER: CHAD EPTING (EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL)
Participants will learn How to Budget Successfully.
Topics will include setting goals and strategies for
spending, saving and debt repayment. Space is
limited so reserve your spot today!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
252-203-2555

[CLICK TO REGISTER NOW](#)

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Cabarrus County **CROP HUNGER WALK**

OCTOBER 8, 2023

CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA

[REGISTER HERE](#)



FIGHT HUNGER WITH KANNAPOLIS FIRE

Help our firefighters "Stuff the Truck" with food
to benefit Cooperative Christian Ministry

7 a.m. - 7 p.m. | October 13
Kannapolis City Hall, 401 Laureate Way

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Wednesday, October 12th
10am - 12pm

Elevation Church (parking lot)
545 Concord Pkwy. N (old K-Mart)

Wednesday, October 26th
10am - 12pm

Elevation Church (parking lot)
545 Concord Pkwy. N (old K-Mart)

Thank you!

September Food Donations Highlights:

Patton Court Neighborhood collected 263 lbs. of food.

Gilwood Presbyterian collected 298 lbs. of food.

Connect Christian Church collected 2,026 lbs. of food!

All Saints Episcopal collected 459 lbs. of food.

Also, another big thanks also to **Lifeline Missions**, for sharing another 640 lbs. of Beans & Rice meal kits with us.

Tour de Saints donated 513 lbs. of food and \$14,774 in financial support



Thank you to **Pitts Baptist Church, West Cabarrus Church and Central UMC** for inviting CCM to participate in your Missions & Outreach events!



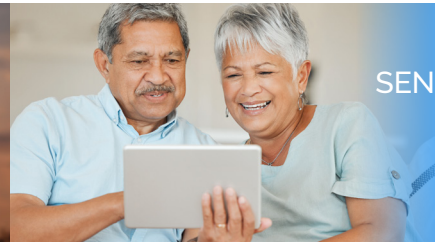
Thank you to **NCSU and Doug Vernon**, who provided sweet potato plants for our little garden at the Crisis Center. 142 lbs. of sweet potatoes were pulled last week.

“Thank you to **The Corning Incorporated Foundation** for awarding CCM a \$5,000 grant! Corning Incorporated is committed to growing vibrant communities where their employees live and work, and we are grateful for their partnership.”



**CORNING
FOUNDATION**

**HELP with
HOUSING**
HelpWithHousing.net



SENIOR RESOURCE GUIDE

[LEARN MORE](#)

**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>



COOPERATIVE
CHRISTIAN
MINISTRY

New! CCM Careers

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



GIVE ONLINE: www.CooperativeMinistry.com or **TEXT:** ccmhelps to 44321