

Summertime Drive

Each summer we rally support around those in our midst who are in need of food. Please join us for the Summertime Food and Fund Drive. See the insert or go online to see how you can be a part of this effort.

Here are some ideas to help you with your Summertime Drive:

- Organization or office drives
- Church or Youth Group food drive
- Donate a portion of your groceries
- Families asking neighbors
- Collecting cans of food at a 4th of July party
- Scouts/Brownies asking friends and neighbors
- Sports team food drives
- Collect food for birthday gifts

Needs List:

Canned Meats	Tooth Brushes
Canned and Dried Fruit	Tooth Paste
100% Fruit Juice	Bar Soap
Spaghetti Sauce	Deodorant
Diced Tomatoes	Shampoo
Canned Pasta Meals	Conditioner
Beef Stew	Feminine Products
Chili	Shaving Cream
Soup	Razors
Jelly, Jam	Toilet Paper
Oil	Powdered Laundry Soap
Flour	Dishwashing Soap
Sugar	(More information on our website)
Coffee—Small Bags	

Recent Volunteers



Grace Lutheran Church Waseca came in Saturday, April 7th from Urban Immersion. Great group - they got a lot done!



The volunteers from Bethlehem Lutheran came June 2nd and spent more than two hours sorting food from the US Post Office Food Drive.



First Lutheran from New Rockford, ND came in on Bonus Friday, June 15th, and were a huge help. They planted flowers, sorted vegetables, washed the Meals on Wheels ovens and trays, painted faces, helped children paint, and then helped clean everything up.

CES Mission

Rooted in God's loving grace, Community Emergency Service transforms lives by serving neighbors, sharing resources and becoming community

~
a place where people come hungry and leave hopeful.

June/July
2018



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Community Emergency Service

The Spotlight Newsletter

Beyond Bread to the Bread of Life... Beyond Ourselves to Jesus Christ



Jean Anderson standing in Jean's Closet

Jean's Closet Now Open – by Juanita Lindgren

"Do you know where I can find a blanket and some sheets? Where can I get a can opener to open my cans of food? I was wondering if you have a pan to heat some soup." These questions greeted Jean Anderson as she sat at the CES Front Desk.

Jean began occasionally volunteering at CES in the 1980's with Hope Lutheran Church, but became a regular through Hosanna Lutheran Church in 2009 as volunteers came to help with the Friday Distribution. Volunteering at the St. Steven's Shelter for homeless people, Jean became aware of the need for bedding and began to collect. As Jean became more involved with CES, some from

St. Steven's recognized her. The questions about needed items began, and **Jean's Closet** was launched. At first, it was just a little here and there, but the demand grew. Around the same time, Jean was offered a paid part-time position at St. Steven's and used her money to buy requested items for CES.

"Over the years, the requests kept coming," Jean shared, "And, God supplied in miraculous ways."

- When going to estate or garage sales, Jean would mention why she was purchasing. Many said, "Oh, just take it."

- Upon going to Kohl's to

buy one dozen pillows, she was asked why she was buying so many. After hearing, the woman said, "Let me help," and gave her some cash. With her 30% discount, the 40% sale, a gift card previously given and the promotional Kohl's cash, Jean spent only \$2 a pillow!

- A person that Jean gave rides to thanked Jean by giving her money to use for her ministry of giving to those in need.

Comments from recipients:

- "This made my day. It was exactly what I needed."
- "Thank you for the wonderful gifts. I am so grateful for the useful and pretty things you gave me."
- "In a world where smiles

are hard to find, the items I received really made my day and gave me a smile."

- "Coming into a half-way house, I needed blankets to stay warm in the winter. Thanks."
- "Wow, thanks for the can opener. Now I can eat something!"

Jean shared, "I saw God at work so many times. A need would come up and I would find the item on sale or for free. God provided, lives were touched and I was given the opportunity to help those in need and pay it forward. That's what we each are meant to do!"

As Jean's life changed, she is no longer able to keep up with Jean's Closet. Thanks, Jean, for your vision and for reaching out to those in need.

Augustana Lutheran Church and specifically, **Anne and J Paul Carlson**, stepped up in Jean's stead. They have created an inventory of the most needed items, as well as organizing and maintaining Jean's Closet as a sustainable program of the Food Shelf. **However, we need your help in keeping it stocked** with new or nicely used items. Because of space and demand, we are only accepting certain items. See the list on **Page 3** for those items.



Director's Discourse

Dear Friends,

Greetings from all of us at CES. Summer is upon us, without much advanced notice, I might add. This is a difficult time for those living in the Loring Nicollet, Phillips, and the South and North Minneapolis neighborhoods. Recently, the very hot temperatures and humid conditions have hit our neighbors very hard. It is difficult for some neighbors to get out into the community to meet their basic needs, and many do not have air conditioning or transportation. Our neighborhood programs have seen a steady increase. The daily Food Shelf has been very busy. Our Friday Food Distribution has some of our highest numbers again. Despite improving job markets, many we serve remain unaffected and in need. At the same time, we historically see summer as one of our lowest times for

support, both in food and finances.

Here is a story that Juanita Lindgren, Office Manager, shared with me that speaks to the situation of many of our neighbors:

Each day, neighbors come to CES to shop for groceries to supplement their monthly food needs. Although they have different stories, one fact remains the same. They come to CES because they don't want to be hungry.

Take Ben*, who has been coming to CES for four years. He walks with a limp and wears a brace due to a job injury that put him on the disabled list. Smiling, he commented, "I like coming here because I am not just a number. People care for me and even pray about my concerns. I really need CES, especially now. Recently, I went on Medicare, which I thought would be good. As a result, my SNAP (food stamps) were cut to only \$16 a month. That is not enough to put food on my table. It is hard to manage. Thank you for being here for me."

Ben's situation is like so many who come to CES. Although Ben appreciates the help he receives from SNAP payments, it does

not begin to meet his food needs. With the cost of rent, utilities and other living expenses, Ben would have to choose between his bills or food most months if it were not for the help he receives from CES, and ultimately from people like you.

Although Ben is in a hard place, he has a positive attitude. He tells the Advocate that when he comes to CES, he feels hope and is often assured that he will be able to survive as he leaves with groceries.

During the summer months, the food and funds often dwindle. Won't you help people like Ben who so desperately need the food and care that CES can offer?

Thank you in advance for your graciousness. Your generous support is life changing for Ben and many others we serve.

Lord Bless you!

Mike Lloyd, CES Executive Director

**names are changed to protect client anonymity*



Friday Kids Program activities

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

- **Home Delivery** – People needed to pack, deliver and interact at the sites
- **Friday Kids** – Volunteers needed to assist with kids, play music & face paint
- **Meals On Wheels** – Drivers needed to fill in on routes, which take 1 hour
- **Other Volunteer Needs:**
 - Afternoon Client Advocates (especially those who speak Spanish)
 - Office Work
 - Food Shelf
 - Outside Projects
 - Building Projects
 - Gardening

Interested in volunteering?

Contact **Melanie LaPointe** at 612.870.1125 x128.



Volunteers from Vinton, Iowa doing a food sort



Above and Right: Home Delivery event

Supplies for Jean's Closet

The items we're looking for are listed below. Donations or Questions: contact **Sara Denzer**, Food Shelf Coordinator at 612.870.1125 x111 or sdenzer@cesmn.org

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|------------------|---------------------|
| Kitchen | Bath |
| Pots | Bath Towels |
| Frying Pans | Wash Cloths |
| Baking Pan/Sheet | Hand Towels |
| Serving Spoons | |
| Flippers | Table |
| Can Openers | Utensils (Set of 6) |
| Knives (Small) | Plates (Set of 2) |
| Knives (Large) | Bowls (Set of 2) |
| Spatulas | Glassware |
| Mixing Bowls | Cups/Mugs |
| Pot Holders | |
| Dish Towel | Bedding |
| Dish Cloth | Sheet Set Queen |
| | Sheet Set Double |
| | Sheet Set Single |
| | Pillows and Cases |
| | Blankets |



Open Your Heart Match



Food & Fund Match for July

During the month of July we receive a bonus match from **Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless**. This grant is given in proportion to the food and financial donations received at CES.

Thank you for your generosity!
Check out the enclosed insert and go online for resources.



Special Requests

We are always in need of **paper bags with handles** for our Food Shelf program. We are also seeking **Spanish-speaking Advocates** to help with language barrier issues so we may better serve our neighbors.

Bring in paper bags any week day, and contact Melanie LaPointe to learn about volunteering: 612.870.1125 x128