



Helping Hands Reaching Out

REACH OUT



Please join the Bed Races organized for

PROGRAM UPDATES

FOOD SHELF – Serving nearly 600 families each month (1,800 people), the food program is switching to a shopping model in which families will choose the food best suited to their family's needs.

MEALS ON WHEELS – Serving over 100 participants per year, is strategizing to switch to a sliding scale fee so many more people who need home delivered meals will be able to access them.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE - Serving nearly 300 families each year focused on housing stability –CROSS is expanding our prevention work to include helping homeless families get out of shelter and back into a home.

"Thank you so much for your help. I will be working hard to get back on track to pay my rent on the first next month. I so appreciate your help."

- Housing Client

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION – Serving 200 families each month (800 people), the clothing program is moving to a \$.50 per lb. shopping model in which families will purchase items at prices low enough to be affordable, yet providing a dignified experience for shoppers. Free vouchers are available through case worker staff.

"I just want to thank you so much for everything you have done for my girls. I was praying for a long time wondering how I could get presents this Christmas with all the hospital visits with my 3 year old daughter. The presents were in the hospital room when my girls woke up and the smiles on their faces were priceless."

- Christmas Toy Shop Family

SCHOOL SUPPLIES, BIRTHDAY GIFTS, HOLIDAY ITEMS FOR CHILDREN –

Serving over 1,200 children throughout the year, CROSS is allocating building space to have school supplies and gifts displayed for families to choose the products they need for their children.

PARTNERS WORKING ON-SITE WITH CROSS FAMILIES

CROSS' renovation project will create office space for agency partners at CROSS. Our partners include:

- Hennepin County Satellite - Caseworker reviews clients' financial requests
- CAPSH – Food/Energy applications
- Jewish Vocational Services – Resume Writing, Job Search
- Wellness Check- Health checks by doctors

NEW PARTNERS IN 2013:

MOBILE HOPE - We are excited about an opportunity to partner with Mobile Hope whose mission is "To honor God by creating a culture of achievement in mobile home communities where families succeed, students excel, and the community shares a hope for today and for the future." Mobile Hope received a grant for a community center at the mobile home community, Maple Hill Estates in Corcoran and CROSS will place a staff person a few hours each week at the center to provide food and other CROSS services to families living at the mobile community of which ninety-eight (98%) are low or extremely low income.

The \$225,000 grant received by Mobile Hope covers about 85% of the cost of the building project leaving a gap of

15% - approximately \$40,000 left to secure. If you have a heart for this mobile home community, please send a donation to CROSS and mark your donation "Mobile Hope Partnership." For more information about Mobile Hope go to www.mobilehopemn.org

FARMERS MARKETS – CROSS booth for food rescue at Maple Grove and Rogers Farmers Markets – Let us know if you and your family want to volunteer at the booth on a Wednesday or Thursday evening.

KIDPACK – Weekend Food – Children snacks at specific Osseo/Rogers schools... Let us know if you want to help.

PEACE OF MIND HOUSING FUND established by First Class Mortgage of Maple Grove – Matching Fund Opportunity: First Class Mortgage is a local family owned mortgage company on Main Street in Maple Grove that helps people purchase homes or refinance existing home loans. They also have a heart for people at risk of losing their home due to job loss, health issues, and other life changing events. They are offering matching dollars up to \$10,000 hoping to increase CROSS' assistance fund by at least \$20,000 to help local families prevent losing their homes during a financial crisis. *Please donate to this fund if you have the same desire to help families remain in their homes during a family crisis.*

CAR CARE MINISTRY – A volunteer car repair team led by Tim Hiller fixing cars for working families struggling financially. Please check with CROSS if you need a referral to this low cost service

Thank you for your help as we expand our collaborations, partnerships, and work to address needs for hurting people in our community. *If you want to donate toward any specific area, please make sure you note it on our check.*



A Message from the Executive Director

WHY DOES CROSS EXIST?

CROSS serves Champlin (west of Hwy 169), Rogers, Osseo, Corcoran, Maple Grove, and Dayton. We are currently assisting over **1,500** households annually, yet there are many more families at risk and in need of our services.

THE CROSS SERVICE AREA

- Has over **6,000** families with household incomes less than **\$40,000**, the amount the JobsNOW Coalition states it takes in Minnesota (\$39,520 for a family of 2) to meet their "average annual cost of meeting basic needs" leaving no money for savings or emergencies. www.jobsnwcoalition.org
- Has a cost of living **23%** higher than the average in Minnesota which means it actually takes **\$24.00** per hour earnings to meet the basic needs and still with no reserves to weather a financial crisis.
- Has a median monthly housing rate of **\$1,493** which means that over **6,000** families in our community spend **45%** or more of their income just for their monthly housing cost.

During a recent survey of CROSS clients, we found that 39% of the families served by CROSS have no health insurance which again puts them at an even higher risk of financial crisis when added stress and other factors lead to health concerns.

CROSS Board of Directors has been strategically finding ways to broaden our reach to increase the number of people we serve and help address even more needs in our community.

Our planning and vision are to ensure:

- 1) CROSS stakeholders are client focused
- 2) CROSS has brand recognition & brand consistency
- 3) CROSS is described as a grateful, collaborative, and responsive organization
- 4) CROSS secures the financial resources to expand our agency's reach

We are so grateful for the generosity of this community during our transition of new leadership, program and facility changes.

Even as we work toward more cost - effective measures making the most of every donation, the summer months are especially hard.

DURING THE SUMMER:

- Donations are typically far less than our monthly operating demands (CROSS operating budget is just under \$42,000 each month with over 46,000 lbs. of food going out to families each month),
- Families' food needs increase due to children at home and not eating at school,
- CROSS provides more food to families during the summer as we add kid friendly, easy-to-prepare snacks for kids at home while parents are working.

YOU CAN HELP!

- 1) Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless has provided \$150,000 matching dollars for the 4th Annual Summer Food Shelf Challenge. The more that you donate to CROSS in July 2013, the larger CROSS' Food Shelf's portion will be from the Open Your Heart grant. Help CROSS food shelf fill empty plates this summer!
- 2) Thank you for covering the postage when you mail in your donation.
- 3) Please provide us with your email address to save postage when possible to communicate by email.

I cannot express how blessed I feel to be a part of this incredible organization. The people I have met in the last 5 months have demonstrated that this is a community that cares about its families. These communities have a drive to make life better for everyone and it is this spirit that makes CROSS such an integral piece of that vision. Thank you for your generous support as CROSS continues to grow to meet the needs in our community.

Elizabeth Johnson
Executive Director



CROSS UPDATES

 **LOGO** - With a grant from Hunger Free MN, and the design work of Spangler Design Team, CROSS has a new look!

Building greater awareness for those in our community needing services is a large part of reducing the high number of missing meals in our community.

FACILITY CHANGES – Thanks to the Hunger Free grant, many individual volunteers, along with volunteer groups such as Osseo and Roger Lions, Church of the Open Door, Advent Lutheran, and Word of Peace, all supported by the volunteer architectural work of Bill Beaupre, CROSS is able to:

- 1) Add 4 offices
- 2) Double the size of clothing shopping area
- 3) Switch to a shopping model food shelf
- 4) Fix an entrance ramp in need of repair
- 5) Hire a Program Manager

A HUGE "THANK YOU" to the GENEROUS material & labor donations from Home Depot and Malark Companies in Maple Grove for the renovation project.

A BIG SHOUT OUT to Scott Hartkopf, Owner of High Tower Group (son of CROSS Board Member, Allan "Bucky" Hartkopf) for the gift of furniture for our new conference room. Check them out online! www.hightower.com Thank you Bucky and Scott!

NEW POLICIES | PROCESSES

- 1) CROSS no longer distributes medicine or vitamins. Only First Aid and external ointment donations will be given to clients.
- 2) Donation receipts are being mailed monthly offering a lower cost way to thank donors while providing a tax receipt (CROSS is now saving \$.30 postage per letter). We include information about upcoming events in the "thanks" as well. A CROSS volunteer donates time to do all the data entry and has been working hard to automate the process. We apology for any confusion our receipt process may have caused. A hand written record is available at the donation drop off area if requested by donor.

Dear Stephanie & all the wonderful people at Meals on Wheels,

My dad began receiving MOW last month and is always raving about the delicious meals that you serve. Thank you so very much for providing this amazing program. It is a true blessing. Many, many thanks!

- Daughter of Recipient



Helping Hands Reaching Out

SUMMER FUN:

- **Father Hennepin Festival**
Friday, June 7th
- **Rogers' Farmers Markets**
Wednesday's from 3pm to 7pm starting June 12th
- **Maple Grove Farmers Markets**
Thursday's from 3pm to 7pm starting June 13th
- **Hennepin County Fair**
June 13th thru June 16th
- **Maple Grove Days**
July 10th thru July 14th
- **3rd Annual Dean Eggert Memorial Motorcycle Ride**
June 22, 2013
- **Malone's Restaurant in Maple Grove donating 50% of your lunch ticket to CROSS**
on Saturday, July 13th between 11am to 2pm
- **Cross Community Players present: Children of Eden**
July 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28
Go to www.crossplayers.org for times and details
- **Get Your Cape On**
July 18th The Shoppes of Arbor Lake
– Check out the CROSS website for more information on how to get involved.



We are thrilled to welcome **Daisy Barton**, CROSS' new Program Manager. Daisy comes to CROSS with over 19 years of management and direct client service experience. Her field of work has been focused on collaborating with housing agencies, social service providers, and landlords advocating for stable housing for families. At CROSS, Daisy will continue this housing work, as well as support the outreach efforts to reach more people experiencing food insecurity, working directly with CROSS families and our agency partners. Thank you Hunger Free and NWHHSC for supporting CROSS financially to bring on such a highly qualified and much needed manager.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **Give to the Max Day**
Friday, November 15, 2013
- **Maynard's of Rogers Fundraiser**
Monday, December 2, 2013
- **CROSS Community Gathering**
Tuesday, October 15, 2013

VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

- **Clothing Area**
- **Front Desk**
- **Event Support**

For event information or to volunteer:

- Please call **763-425-1050**
- Go to www.CROSSservices.org

Another easy way to support CROSS

- Drop off your old used ink cartridges at CROSS. We can turn them into cash!