



the ministry messenger

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Crisis Control Ministry

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Clients Affected by COVID-19

By Chelsea Franzese, Assistant Director of Client Services



The staff and volunteers of Crisis Control Ministry often have the conversation that no two client stories are alike. After 15 years, I am still amazed by some of our clients' circumstances and experiences. COVID-19 has sent the world and our Ministry a curve ball we never could have imagined. The Ministry has adapted and begun telephone interviews, and we are relieved by the amount of state and federal aid available to clients. Even with these new safety nets, many people are still in limbo as they wait for their unemployment, stimulus funds, and reopening of their employers. As always, CCM is here to help those with nowhere else to turn.

We are seeing many people who have never had to seek assistance. Three clients in particular have stuck out to me the most.

Catherine, a single mother, had been unemployed since November. She drew unemployment until February, lived on savings and her tax return in March, and then was to begin a new full-time job in April. Once the virus began sweeping the country, her new job was put on hold. She had worked for years to build her savings and was distraught she had exhausted it. Stimulus money was the answer to pay her bills in April, but she came to us for help with May. One may ask, "Well, why didn't she

just grab a job at one of the essential businesses that are hiring?" Well, in her case, she has elderly parents that require skilled care. One of those parents was exposed to COVID-19 and subsequently, Catherine was, too. The entire family was on a 14-day quarantine so there was no way she could find a job before the courts reopen and evictions resume. CCM was able to assist with her very modest rent and allow her time to complete quarantine and find a new job. At the end of the call, she burst into tears. She was so grateful for our assistance and said she felt like she could finally breathe.

Another person I encountered was an airline employee whose pay per hour was reduced as well as her hours per week. Now, the bulk of her paycheck goes to her health insurance deductions and she is left with \$200/week to live on. One of the first things she said to me was, "I just hope the company does not go bankrupt." She came to us to help while she waits for her unemployment and stimulus funds. CCM was able to help with her rent and power bills since it is unlikely she will have income before Duke Energy reinstates disconnections and the courts reopen for rental evictions. To complicate her situation, she did not receive her stimulus or tax refunds for the last two years due to an issue with identity theft. Many

of the people we have assisted have had a blockage of their stimulus funds due to an issue with a prior tax return or a slowed response to their unemployment request. The stress people are under during this time can be unimaginable.

Finally, I will share the story of Sam, a single man in his late fifties. He owns a handyman business and has never struggled to pay his bills. He was recently awarded a contract to rehab a downtown building, but once the Stay at Home order took effect, Sam's job was placed on hold and he isn't sure when or if it will be possible to work again. He had filed an extension on his 2018 taxes which subsequently delayed his stimulus payment. During the Stay at Home order, the only way to apply for unemployment was to do so online. He got it done but it took some extra time. CCM staff thought he would not receive any funds before his landlord would have been able to file for eviction, so CCM assisted him with his rent, electricity, and provided food. He was on the verge of tears and gave me an air hug when he came to CCM.

Every day at CCM we encounter people at the end of their rope. We are grateful for our supporters that allow us to assist our neighbors in need when all other options are exhausted.

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Forsyth County First Responders will compete to win the annual Battle of the Badges Charity Softball Tournament on Saturday, July 11th, at the David Couch Ballpark located at 401 Deacon Blvd. in Winston-Salem.

Come out to cheer on your favorite team and bid on silent auction items!

Admission is 3 non-perishable food items for Crisis Control Ministry.

Grand Prize Raffle

2020 Chevy Silverado 1500LT Crew Cab
Sponsored by Modern Chevrolet



\$100 Raffle Ticket

Only 1500 tickets available
(750 tickets must be sold or revert to a 50/50 cash prize.)

Purchase raffle tickets online
at crisiscontrol.org.

RECEIVE "THE MINISTRY MESSENGER" ELECTRONICALLY

To receive CCM newsletters electronically or to notify us of a change of address, email give@crisiscontrol.org.

CCM does not share donor information with anyone.



Kernersville Church Helps Neighbors in Need Get Access to Food

By Abbey Riesett, Special Events & Marketing Manager



The Summit Church of Kernersville has been a generous donor of Crisis Control Ministry for years. When the Coronavirus pandemic began, they reached out to Kathy Hoffner, Director of Kernersville, to ask how they could help. Gina Newnum, Serve Director of the Kernersville location of Summit Church, shared, "With more people having the time during the day due to changes in work schedules along with the increase in need, we were able to become more involved. So many members of our congregation wanted to help and make a difference." It didn't take long until a new collaboration emerged between the Summit Church, Crisis Control Ministry, and Robinwood Senior Living Community to help senior citizens receive food assistance.

Robinwood Senior Living Community is an affordable housing apartment complex that Crisis Control Ministry refers some of their clients to for cheaper housing. "We knew there was a need. Residents who depended on transportation had no way to get to the grocery store

since their bus had temporarily stopped running its route due to COVID-19, and residents who had transportation were afraid to go out in public," said Kathy Hoffner. Together with the help of volunteers from the Summit Church and the generosity of the Kernersville community, seniors living at Robinwood were able to fill out a list of food items they needed and got their groceries delivered to their doors. One of the volunteers from the Summit Church who delivers the groceries stated, "We enjoy knowing we are making a difference in a senior's life and are touched by how appreciative the residents of Robinwood are." Another volunteer said, "The residents at Robinwood are so sweet. They always want to help me get carts to load up their groceries. Sweet people!"

This collaborative effort is expected to last until the end of June, if not longer. At that time the need will be reevaluated. If you'd like to join us in feeding seniors in need, please consider making a financial gift towards our food pantries.



Join the FUN!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH

A virtual community celebration with live music, giveaways, activities for the whole family, and more. Follow Crisis Control Ministry on social media to tune in.



Better Lives Through Relationship

Launched in September 2019, The Better Neighbor Project is Crisis Control Ministry's initiative to facilitate one-on-one relationships across the economic, cultural and generational divides within Forsyth County. The program also seeks to build-up relational resources for our neighbors in poverty that they can leverage to achieve their personal goals and ambitions. Ten pairs, consisting of one neighbor client and one neighbor volunteer, work to develop a genuine relationship based on mutual respect and listening over a four month period. Eileen New and Amanda, two neighbors paired together, share their experience. Tommy Burt also shares his experience of participating in the project.

Eileen New, CCM Board Member, Interviewer, and Neighbor Volunteer



I was immediately drawn to the Better Neighbor Project when Jessamyn first presented it to the Board of Directors.

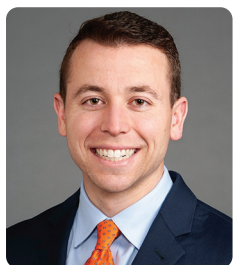
What attracted me was the opportunity to know and develop a relationship with someone in our community that I might not otherwise meet. Although I interview clients at Crisis Control, and love that work, I have always thought that it would be meaningful to develop a more long-term interaction.

I was paired with my neighbor, Amanda, and found her to be open, faith-filled, and authentic. We quickly fell into a rhythm of weekly meet-ups which led to great conversation, a time of shared faith, and an occasion of growth. I have so much respect for Amanda and the way she has dealt with the adversities of life while focusing on remaining positive and resilient. She was dedicated to meeting the goals she had set and even became a volunteer with the Poverty Simulations that Crisis Control Ministry facilitates.

I learned that when two people come together with open minds, full hearts, and a desire to truly and honestly connect, it can become a cherished friendship. Even during the COVID-19 crisis, we have been able to stay in touch to share news and offer each other words of encouragement and admiration.

Amanda G., Neighbor Client

"I really enjoyed the time that I spent in The Better Neighbor Project each week. I was blessed to be paired with Eileen; she's a real spiritual person and we learned a lot from each other. She is someone that I can talk to about all of my thoughts even when I'm having a bad day. I always look forward to us meeting up." At the conclusion of The Better Neighbor Project, Amanda achieved three personal goals of quitting smoking, saving \$20/month and achieving a healthy A1C to avoid diabetes medication.



Tommy Burt, CCM Neighbor Volunteer

I found the Better Neighbor project while searching for a way to volunteer my time to positively impact the Winston-Salem community. I was thrilled to hear about such a hands-on and relationship-based opportunity.

I decided to participate in the program to learn how I can better lean on my faith through all seasons of life.

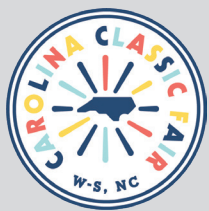
The Better Neighbor Project far exceeded my expectations. The neighbor I was paired with taught me invaluable lessons that have drastically changed my perspective. Our relationship gradually gained momentum as we began to understand each other's stories. We grew into strong friends that listen, encourage, and aren't afraid to nudge each other towards the right path if we begin falling astray. The

best way to describe our friendship is two men who fully share and engage in each other's lives each week with the goal of sharpening one another in our relationship with Christ.

The humility he embodies as one who has faced unimaginably daunting life challenges is something that will remain with me forever. He possesses a sense of self-awareness and brutal honesty that has allowed him to persist through times of heavy doubt. He helped me understand that leaning on faith to overcome major obstacles is a daily challenge. Ultimately, he trusts that the Lord is in control and strives to illuminate the world with God's love.

The Better Neighbor Project is one of the most valuable experiences of my life. It has given me an incredible friend and brother in Christ whom I will continue to lean on and grow with.

SAVE THE DATE



**FOOD DAY
at the FAIR**
Wednesday,
October 7, 2020

Bring five non-perishable food items for one FREE ticket to the fair. For even more fun, call 336-201-5290 to volunteer.



**CROP
Hunger Walk**
Sunday,
October 18, 2020

Walk to end hunger one step at a time virtually with us for the 39th annual Winston-Salem/Forsyth County CROP Hunger Walk. To sign up, visit www.crophungerwalk.org/winstonsalemnc.



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The Missing Members of Our Family

Tina Adkins, Director of Client Services

Crisis Control Ministry continues to assist our neighbors in crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic. We've made adjustments to our operations. The safety and health of everyone has been a priority since the pandemic began.

One of the most difficult safety measures has been asking our volunteers to stay home. We are a volunteer-driven ministry and without our volunteers, it has been very different for everyone. Before the pandemic, we had 60-70 volunteers to greet, check-in, interview, fill prescriptions, and grocery shop with our neighbors in the Client Services areas. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of the Ministry! Not only do

they make our jobs better and more fulfilling, they help us increase our capacity to assist our neighbors in crisis.

While we miss seeing our volunteers, we have been able to stay in contact with many of them. One volunteer told me, "Being unable to come and volunteer has been one of the most difficult changes for me during this stay at home period." Another volunteer mentioned, "Gosh! I miss you all at CCM so much; I feel so useless and wish I could help during this sad time." They are eager to return and we are ready to welcome them back when the time is right. We are family and together we can get through these trying times.

Gift of the Month

July: Peanut Butter & Jelly
August: Cooking Oil
September: Pasta

Some essential items can't be purchased with food stamps. Please consider donating one or more of the following: dish detergent, shampoo, disposable diapers, feminine hygiene supplies, bath soap, laundry detergent, and deodorant.

Hours: Due to COVID-19 our hours are fluctuating because we are following the health and safety measures recommended by the CDC. For updated hours visit crisiscontrol.org.



Our Unifying Principles...

Love • Stewardship • Listening • Grace • Truth • Collaboration • Better Lives