

the ministry messenger

Winter 2021
A Publication of
Crisis Control Ministry

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

COVID-19 Continues to Leave Neighbors Struggling to Pay Their Bills

Written by Abbey McCall, Director of Community & Volunteer Relations

December was another busy month for the Client Services staff and volunteers at Crisis Control Ministry. In December, the Client Services team interviewed 539 neighbors needing assistance. Of those neighbors who went through a phone interview, the ministry assisted 78% of them. Many of our neighbors are without jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. With less income coming in to support the household, neighbors are facing financial hardship. Families are worried about how they are going to stay in their homes, keep the heat running this winter, pay for essential medications without health insurance, and even put food on the table. The stress and anxiety of it all can overwhelm you if you do not have a good support system. Thankfully, there is an organization in our community that can assist

our neighbors to get back on track with their bills and provide hope for tomorrow. That place is Crisis Control Ministry (CCM). Neighbors like Tyla, Sid, and Chef Bill are grateful to the ministry and its supporters.

Tyla became a first-time client of Crisis Control Ministry this past November. When she went through her phone interview for assistance, she shared with an interviewer that she was actively looking for a new job since she lost her job six months ago due to the pandemic. She has been able to survive so long with little income because she used her savings and the stimulus money she received to pay her bills. That was not enough though and she eventually got behind. She was able to set up an affordable payment plan with her mortgage company and has a few potential job interviews lined up. Crisis Control Ministry paid her electricity, gas, and water bills to help her get caught up on her bills.

Sid is another person Crisis Control Ministry has assisted. He also lost his job because of COVID-19. He had been working for almost three years as a subcontractor. He was



denied unemployment benefits. He has been doing odd jobs like yard work and home repairs to make his rent payments and keep food on the table. He needed help paying his power bill so he could keep the heat on this winter. Crisis Control Ministry paid his \$532 electricity bill.

Similarly, Crisis Control Ministry assisted Chef Bill with his Duke Energy payment, so his power would not be cut off. Chef Bill was another first-time visitor to CCM and has been struggling to find permanent employment since the restaurant industry has been hit so hard due to the pandemic. He also had unexpected car repairs after a tree fell on his car. Thankfully, he is receiving unemployment benefits. However, it was only enough to cover his rent.

It is because of your prayers and generosity that Crisis Control Ministry continues to be a beacon of hope for many in this community. Thank you for continuing to support the ministry and help our neighbors impacted by the pandemic.



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Gift of the Month

January: Beef Stew

February: Instant Potatoes

March: Instant Grits

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.

Current Hours

CCM continues to conduct phone interviews with neighbors needing assistance. We are slowly welcoming volunteers back into the office buildings and are even starting to welcome several new volunteers. Please visit crisiscontrol.org for the latest information.

Hours (including drop off):

Winston-Salem:

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Kernersville:

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - Noon



Do you want to help Crisis Control Ministry make a difference in the community AND DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT?

Ask your employer if they have a matching donation program. Many companies will match your personal donations to Crisis Control Ministry. If your company does offer a matching program, let us know about it. Email give@crisiscontrol.org.

CCM does not share donor information with anyone. To notify us about a change of address or to receive CCM newsletters electronically, please email us at give@crisiscontrol.org.

Community Collaborations Make the Season Bright

Written by The Rev. George C. Banks, Director of Philanthropy

At Crisis Control Ministry (CCM), our mission is to assist our neighbors in crisis by helping them meet essential life needs and to become self-sufficient. We understand that we, as one nonprofit, cannot completely accomplish that goal by ourselves in a way that has long-lasting effects on those who need assistance. To help our neighbors move to self-sustainability, it takes an entire community working together. We are grateful that we live in a community where stakeholders work collaboratively to ensure that every person in our community has a chance to live a better life. This holiday season, CCM partnered with several groups to provide much-needed food for those in the community.

On November 6, 2020, CCM joined six community partners - First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue, Grace Presbyterian Church, La Deara Crest Estates, Kimberley Park Elementary, Bolton Elementary, and Pivot Ministries - to provide a Thanksgiving meal for neighbors in our community. The CCM Thanksgiving Giveaway provided each of the six agencies with vouchers that those in their network could use to pick up the Thanksgiving meal. Volunteers from the Sheriff's Office, students from WSSU Nursing School, and CCM staff greeted each family. Each meal consisted of a 47-pound box of food with the necessary items to make a Thanksgiving feast, including a large turkey. A big thank you to the Stopyra family and their friends for hosting the Turkey Drive again this year. We are appreciative of all our community



partners who helped to make this happen.

On Saturday morning, December 6, 2020, amid a cold, windy day, CCM partnered with Imprints Cares to provide 160 Christmas meal boxes to families in their "Parents as Teachers" program. All program participants have incomes that fall below the poverty line. Each year, Imprints Cares has a special holiday event for these families with Santa and his elves in attendance. This was another great community collaborative event. The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office provided funds for age-appropriate gifts for the children. The Downtown Health Plaza provided their parking lot for the festivities as well as first aid kits. Other community partners donated books for the families. Crisis Control Ministry was so pleased to join this effort because we know that many people in the community are struggling to feed their families. The BB&T Lighthouse Project and Knollwood Baptist Church donated funds to make it possible for CCM to purchase the food for this effort. Family educators from Imprints Cares have reported that many of the families that they serve have experienced significant food insecurity over the past few months, so this was truly a special event. It was so wonderful to see the smiling faces of the kids as the cars came to pick up their meal boxes. The excitement in their eyes reminded all of us of the magic of the season and the indomitable nature of the human spirit. Many thanks to all the volunteers, donors, and staff for helping us make the season bright for our neighbors.



Meet CCM's Newest Board Members

By way of a Zoom board meeting, Crisis Control Ministry welcomed five new Board members.



Mark Boynton is a trial attorney with Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, LLP where he focuses on contract negotiation, crisis management and litigation. He also consults on leadership coaching, communication/messaging and executive board team building. He also is an adjunct faculty member at WFU School of Law and serves as the Trial Teams Coordinator.



Carter Cook has worked since 2004 in the Legal Department at Wake Forest University, providing advice on matters relating to contracts, intellectual property, charitable giving and debt finance. While participating in Leadership Winston-Salem (Class of 2011), he recorded an album of instrumental hymn arrangements and founded Piano vs. Poverty, a non-profit record label that distributes all of its income to charitable organizations directly involved with alleviating the effects of poverty.



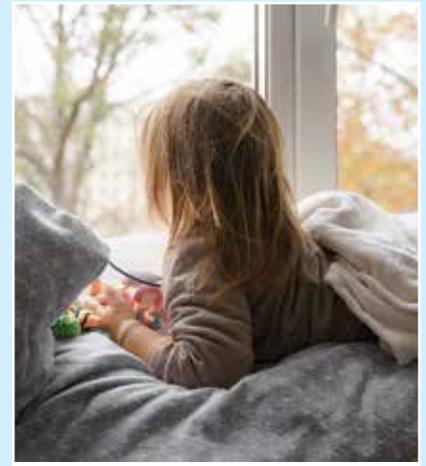
London Mickle is employed at Winston-Salem State University as a University Program Specialist, responsible for the management and assessment of budgetary matters, curriculum development, and data management for the Office of the Provost. She works with the Emergency Assistance Program within the Division of Student Affairs, interviewing students and processing requests.



Leslie Mullinix is the Project Coordinator of the local Pre-K Initiative, convened by Family Services, Inc. She supports the system change work to increase opportunities to all of Forsyth County's children to have accessible and affordable high-quality Pre-K opportunities. Prior to non-profit and social work, she had a career at Nike, HanesBrands and Renfro. After journeying the road of international adoption with her children from Russia, Leslie's experience with early childhood trauma led her to pursue social work.



Kevin Owen is President of Owen Architecture. He specializes in commercial architecture, paying particular attention to rehabilitation, reuse, and repurposing of older buildings. Prior to opening his own firm he worked in several of NC's larger firms. In 2017, Kevin was granted membership in the "Arts for Art Sake" community of artists and has been in numerous shows in their Red Dog Gallery. Kevin has served on the Board of CCM previously as well as on the boards of the American Institute of Architecture and the Winston-Salem Little Theatre.



Contributions to Share the Warmth help neighbors like Leila, who lost her job due to the COVID-19 pandemic when her employer closed its doors. Leila was able to secure another job, but like most parents, Leila needed to stay home and teach her children. Leila has been able to pay her rent, but with the help of Crisis Control Ministry, she was able to pay more than \$700 toward her power bill to keep her home warm as temperatures began to drop this winter.

Every day, people come to Crisis Control Ministry for help paying their utility bills. If you haven't already contributed, you can help CCM continue to share the warmth this winter. Consider making a secure donation at crisiscontrol.org.

Save the Date





Crisis Control
MINISTRY

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wee Care! Cereal Drive March 2021

Young children throughout Forsyth County donate cereal boxes to help families and children in need. To find out how your daycare or school can get involved, contact Maggie Sandy, Special Events and Marketing Manager, at msandy@crisiscontrol.org.

Appreciation for Dave & Anita Wesson

Written by Margaret Elliott, Executive Director



At Crisis Control Ministry (CCM), we are fortunate to work with volunteers who, as we often say, are the moving force or vital spark of our work and service here at CCM! Recently we learned of the death of one of those faithful volunteers, Anita Wesson, age 90. Anita Wesson began her volunteer service with us in 1991, as an interviewer and then pharmacy volunteer, and later a Board member. Her husband Dave Wesson, who died in 2019 at the age of 88, began his volunteer service with us in 1989 as an interviewer.

Anita and Dave met at Swarthmore College in PA while performing in a play together during Anita's

freshman year. They married in 1951 and moved to Charleston, SC, while Dave served in the Navy. They moved to Winston-Salem in 1955. Dave worked for Western Electric for 34 years. He was also an accomplished musician, singing in the choir of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, playing French horn in various symphonies, piano in jazz bands and even played the accordion! Anita loved traveling, swimming, and the arts. She once said her favorite place in the world was in a chair in the audience of any theater. She was also an ardent reader, belonging to book clubs.

I remember Anita and Dave well and the stories they shared with

me about people they had met while interviewing here at CCM. Both of them shared a deep faith and cared deeply about the people who requested assistance. Anita would insist that I read the latest book on social justice and would try to figure out a way to implement them immediately in our work and practice.

In our day-to-day lives here at CCM, we never want to forget that we are working with volunteers who often are "storehouses of wisdom" and are helping us to live out our unifying principles by making our community a better place to live for all people.



Our Unifying Principles...

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