

Soles for Christ distribution dates set

Continued from pg 1...

Please keep in mind that athletic (tennis) shoes are best, as some schools do not allow flip-flop or slip-on styles. Since the program is for school-age children, we ask that shoes are youth size 10 or larger. Monetary donations are also welcome, and all donations are tax deductible. Monetary donations are used to make specific purchases for children if we run out of a size or if they have unique or special needs.

Shoes can be dropped off at the agency's front office, 1203 N. 6th St., no later than Wednesday, August 5th. Hours for drop off are 8 am - 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Volunteers are also needed to help set up for the program and to size and fit the children with their shoes. If interested in volunteering, please contact our office at 816.364.1131.

The program goal is to provide every school-age child in need with a new pair of shoes for their first day of school. It has been found the shoes boost the child's self esteem and enthusiasm for the coming school year. It also aids the many parents who struggle to afford new shoes along with the other costs associated with the start of the school year. In some families the shoes provided through this program are the only new shoes the child ever receives.

Soles for Christ began as an outreach project by Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. The first collection of shoes took place in August 2003, with our agency becoming a partner to distribute the footwear. More than 200 pairs of shoes were given away that inaugural year. Last year, 1,237 students received new shoes. As the popularity of this program has grown, so has the need for donations.

AFL-CIO Community Services
1203 N. Sixth St.
Saint Joseph, MO 64501

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Help Me Headlines



AFL-CIO Community Services

Spring 2015

1203 N. 6th St., St. Joseph, MO 64501

816.364.1131

www.helpmenow.org

Director's Note

As you take a glimpse at this newsletter you will notice several references to our agency's annual "Christmas in July FUNdraiser. We hate to sound like a broken record but we really want to stress how important all these events are to our agency. Like all non-profits, we had to find additional streams of income to keep the agency operating at the level the community has come to know and trust, while trying to continuously improve.

Over the last three years, the staff have brainstormed, concocted and conceived our "Christmas in July" events and they have proven to be a big hit with participants. Each year, the number of contestants has grown, as have the profits. We hope to have an even better turnout this year, and to do so we need YOUR help.

If you have never taken part, you do not know what you are missing. Everyone who participated had only good things to say. Look over the calendar of events and pick out one or two events, or join us at all of them. We guarantee a fun filled evening that will delight your spirit. So gather your friends for an evening of frolicking follies and crazy laughter... extreme fun and outrageous antics... zany contests and delirious escapades...all while helping our agency. I promise there will be many Kodak moments!

Jenny
Penny B. Adams
Executive Director



Local students proudly show the shoes they donated for other children to Soles for Christ during the 2014 program.

Christmas in July promises FUN

In 2014, AFL-CIO Community Services hosted its annual Christmas in July FUNdraiser, to raise money for the many programs supported by AFL-CIO Community Services. More than 250 people helped raise more than \$11,066 by attending and participating in events throughout the month of July.

Events for this year include Trivia Night, Christmas in July sale, Raffle & Toy Drive, Mustangs' Christmas Extravaganza and Scavenger Hunt & Pub Crawl.

During the Raffle & Toy Drive, for every \$10 toy or cash donation, you get a ticket for one of three prizes: \$50 or \$100 K-Mart gift card or \$500 CASH. All other events have giveaways and prizes for the first place teams.

The highlight of this FUNdraiser is the FUN part. We offer a variety of events to appeal to all ages to give our donors something back for the dollars they donate. The Trivia Night and Scavenger Hunt & Pub Crawl are great team-building, family and friend-time events and the Mustangs game is a great chance to support our agency and St. Joseph's very own home team! For a full list of events and dates, please see the calendar of events page inside.

Please attend one of the many Christmas in July events. The funds raised during these events all filter directly back into the programs. None of the donations leave the St. Joseph area and the funds will be used to help your neighbors who are in need. We promise you will have FUN!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 29 - July 31: Toy Drive & Raffle - For every toy of a \$10 value or more or equivalent cash donation, donors are given a ticket. At the end of the month, a \$500 winner will be drawn. Toys will be accepted the entire month at all events and daily at the office, 1203 N. 6th St.

July 11: Trivia Night - Come test your knowledge at our holiday trivia contest. 7 pm, Green Acres Ballroom, 3500 N. Village Dr. (by Hollywood Theaters). Each player is \$20, with a 10 person team maximum. Early bird sign-up \$15; deadline June 19.

July 18: Mustangs night - Come out and cheer the Mustangs on at their last home game of the season. Game time is 7 pm Agency receives portion of \$7 ticket when you buy by calling 364.1131 or buy at 1203 N. 6th St.



July 25: Scavenger Hunt - You may think you know your way around St. Joseph, but this scavenger hunt list may even stump you! Bring a digital camera and four of your friends and join in the fun! Registration starts at 5 pm, and the hunt begins at 6 pm at the Letter Carrier's Hall, 2301 St. Joseph Ave. \$15 per person, five person team limit.

July 30: Christmas in July Sale - We've held back the good stuff for one night of can't-be-beat bargains in the Community Clothes Closet. For every \$25 you spend, you'll earn \$5 in Closet Cash for your next visit. 4:30 to 7 pm, 1203 N. 6th St.

LABOR DAY SALE
September 4, 2015
Community Clothes Closet

It's our GIANT end of the season sale so don't miss out on these great deals. Everything from decor to shoes, and furniture to jewelry. Clothes for every season! Bag sale on summer clothes plus more great deals! Noon to 7 pm, 1203 N. 6th St.



AFL-CIO Community Services and United Way Partnership

AFL-CIO Community Services

Spring 2015



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

GIVE MONEY

The success of all AFL-CIO Community Service programs is due to the generosity of community members and businesses that provide financial support to our programs. By making an unrestricted monetary donation, you are allowing us to respond to the program with the most current needs. Because many of our programs are seasonal, by making a monetary donation you are ensuring the success of the programs rather than restricting the funds to a limited period of use. To make a donation, visit our website at helpmenow.org, complete and return the included donation envelope or call 816.364.1131.

GIVE YOUR TIME

Volunteers are the backbone of many of our programs. In 2014, volunteers distributed shoes to school-age children, helped sort and distribute clothing and household essentials in the Community Clothes Closet, distributed and repaired formal wear for young ladies in our community through Cinderella's Closet, and adopted, shopped for and distributed Christmas gifts to almost 1,000 families living in the St. Joseph area. The options for volunteers are endless and we can always find a match for your talents. To give time, please visit our website at helpmenow.org or call 816.364.1131.

GIVE GIFTS

The opportunities and the options for giving are numerous for donors interested in giving items, and every item received goes to good use. New and gently used clothing and household items are always welcome in the Community Clothes Closet. We are always happy to pick up yard sale leftovers, or take items you can no longer use when you do your Spring cleaning. Formal wear and accessories are always needed in Cinderella's Closet; used eyeglasses can be donated to the Lion's Club eyeglasses program; new shoes can be given to the Soles for Christ Shoe program; and diapers are always appreciated for distribution through the Diaper Depot program. Donate by calling 816.364.1131.



August 10 & 11, 2015

Donations of new tennis shoes would be greatly appreciated. To donate or volunteer, please call 816.364.1131 or come to 1203 N. 6th St.

...Article continued inside

Agency seeks funds to support I&R service

You are an 80 year old widow living on a small pension and your social security. You receive a slight increase in social security benefits, but it causes your rent to go up and your food stamps to drop to the point you can't afford half the food you were buying before and the co-pays on your medication. What do you do? Where can you turn for help?

Nothing is more uncomfortable than having to ask someone else for help. No one likes the feelings of inadequacy that come with not being able to handle things themselves. Yet everyone has their own problems and issues, and not everyone has the ability or financial capabilities to handle it themselves. Sudden illnesses or job losses can mean eviction or utility shut-offs to many people living in our community. Many times, those who are in these situations have no idea where to turn for help. That's where our core service comes in.

Since its inception in 1978, AFL-CIO Community Services has provided an Information and Referral (I&R) service to this community and the 18 counties surrounding St. Joseph.

The Help Me Hotline is a 24 hour/365 day referral service that directs persons needing information or assistance to appropriate health and human services. Individuals contact the agency when they are searching for assistance and are given a comprehensive list of organizations or agencies that address the issue they are having. If there are multiple issues, several referrals may be given.

To determine appropriate resources and make a referral, I&R Call Specialists use a database. Our agency creates and maintains a database of agencies and programs that address health and human service needs. The database (IRIS 3.0) contains a detailed description of agencies and programs provided by community, social, health and government organizations and is maintained by a Resource Specialist.

When a referral is given, clients are instructed to make calls themselves. Our goal is to empower the caller to handle his or her own crisis and to feel they have some control at a time when things seem to be out their of control.

Needs

To effectively provide this service, three things are required: a Resource Specialist position, improved software programs, and computer hardware that can effectively run the program.

Resource Specialist— In 2013, funds were secured to cover wages for the Resource Specialist position. Prior to 2013, the database was sporadically updated and Call Specialists had to rely on notes, paper lists and their memory. Additional time was spent on each case because research was needed before providing a referral. With the Resource Specialist, it is guaranteed that the database is updated and all referrals given are accurate and current.

Database Software— The program currently being used was purchased more than 20 years ago. While usable, the software is outdated and hinders the agency's goal of having the database available for community residents and other agencies online. To create a web-based version, new software must be purchased.

Computer Hardware— The agency's server must be updated to properly run the new software and maintain the other software programs regularly used by staff. Without the proper capacity, the agency's long-term, online goals cannot be met.

Goals

These updates would make it possible for our agency to better provide for our clients while also helping the general public. For those people who want to try to resolve their problems on their own, they will have access via the internet to a current, accurate, database where they can search to find resources. Agencies will also be able to access the database when they are working with their clients in real time.

In 2014, the I&R program served 27,317 people in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas. Because the Help Me Hotline is the foundational program of the agency and because it serves so many in our community, it is imperative that the I&R program can continue to help individuals in need.

In total, the agency must raise \$21,420 in additional funds to meet its goal. You can help to continue and improve this program by attending one of the many Christmas in July events or by making a monetary donation. For more information on how you could help, please call 364.1131.

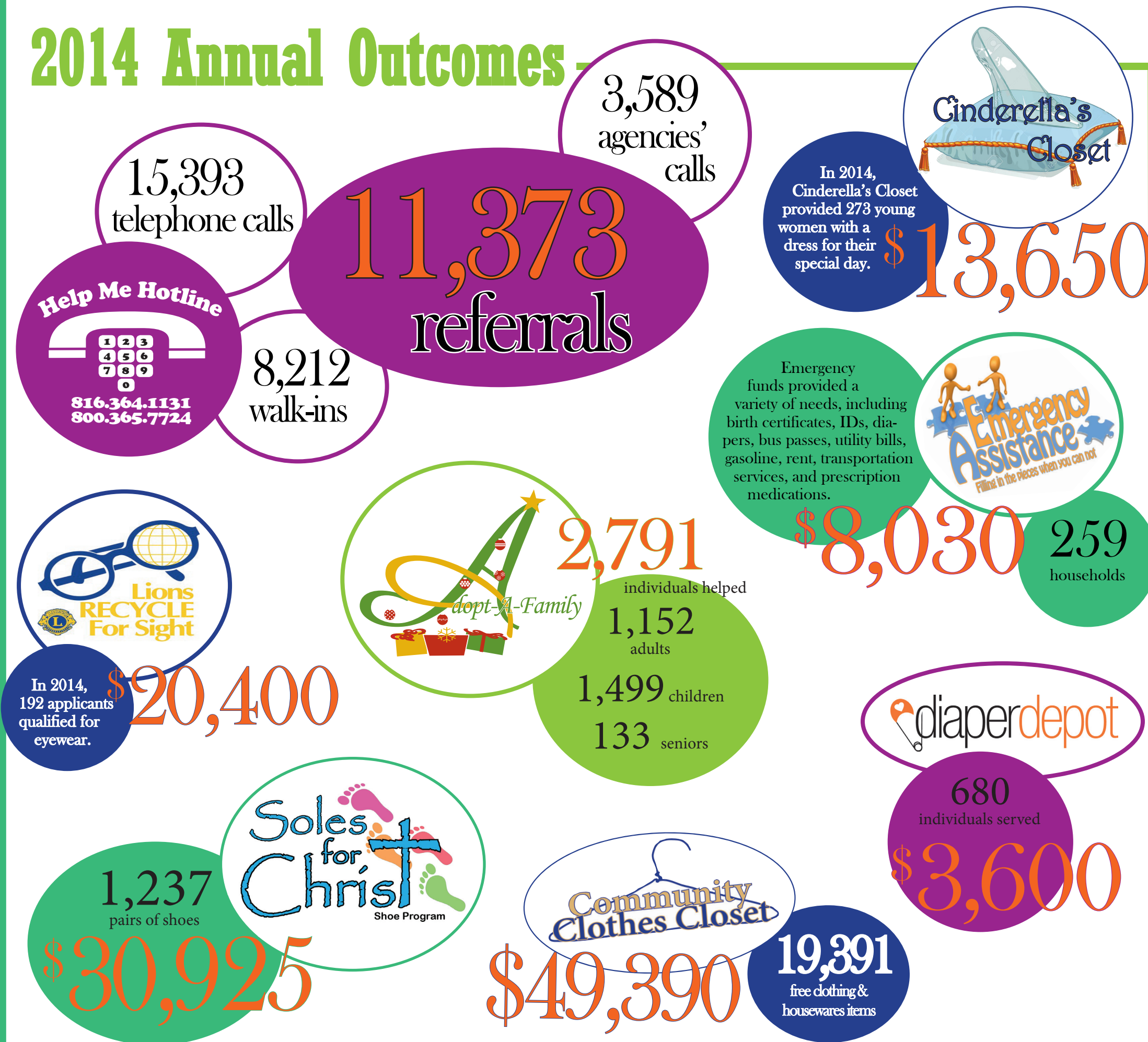
Board member serves 23 years

Anyone who has ever donated hours for a non-profit organization knows the dedication needed to keep up with the many "jobs" a volunteer may be given. AFL-CIO Community Services owes a debt of gratitude to Charlie Ham for his 23 years of service both as a board member and agency volunteer.

Charlie joined the board in 1992. He served in many capacities, including being on the committee that built the agency offices and for 17 years he faithfully worked as the caller almost every Thursday night for the agency's BINGO night. In BINGO hours alone, Charlie donated nearly 4,000 hours - more time than we could ever repay. During that time, the agency raised approximately \$850,000 hosting BINGO. In March, Charlie resigned from the board but his dedication and assistance to this agency will be long remembered. Thank you, Mr. Ham. You'll be missed.



2014 Annual Outcomes



Many thanks to 2014 volunteers

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give. —Winston Churchill

Individuals

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| George Albert | Marilyn Griggs | Pat McLamery | Cindy, Marty, Anna & Ryan Soper |
| Vicki Ausmus | Terisia Grable | Mark McMann | Kitty Spafford |
| Barb Bahr | Brianna Haberyan | Ursula McMillian | Ronda Speer |
| Billie Bartley | Myrlo Hall | Jay McVey | Caelyn Spiegler |
| Becky & Mike Barton | Charlie Ham | Karen Milbourn | Michelle Stagner |
| Dawn Benner | Connie & Rick Harris | Vince Millan | Darren Steele |
| Karen Bettis | JoAnna Harris | Jennifer Miller | Valerie Steele |
| Barb Bigelow | Norma Harris | Jill Miller | Dominik Sterzinger |
| Olga Bisig | Bobbie Harrison | Tiffany Miller | Mark Struthers |
| Lanette Bocquin | Richard Hawkins | Denise Montemayor | Lelonia Taylor |
| Jasmine Briedwell | Jeff Hayes | Elsa Morris | Mary Taylor |
| Todd Brockett | Jeff Heckman | Kathy Morris | Melinda Thomas |
| Kenny Brooks | Donna Hickok | Adrian Nolan | Hollie Thompson |
| Jessica Buckley | Krissy Hiter | Connie & Ken Newton | Ruth Thornton |
| Ruth Ann Bunker | Vanessa Hoffman | Kevin Peterson | Becky Turner |
| Debra Burnett | Scott Howell | Garry Pittman | Mike & Cynde Veale |
| Katie Burnett | Debbie Hueser | Sandy Pittman | Josh Wagers |
| Joanie Burton | Renia Huff | Kara Powelson | Nathan Wallace |
| Malisa Callaway | Becky Hughes | Randy Praiswater | Kori Weddle |
| Jon, Andrea & Sidnee Carr | Alex Hyde | Mary Prothro | Craig Westbrook |
| Cameron Carson | Darrick Insecho | Teri Ramsey | Carrie Weyer |
| Crystal Cary | Connie Jackson | Diane Redden | Marcus Whitney |
| Denise Caywood | Andrea Jacobs | Ellen Jamick | Brenda Williams |
| Carley & Teresa Chase | Pam Jamison | Sheryl Janeski | Lisa Wisniewski |
| Joni Christgen | Andrea Jennings | Jeremy Reynolds | Lori Zillner |
| Jodi & Johnnie Chriswiser | Marcia Johnson | Lisa Reynolds | Lacy Zoubek |
| George Clinton | Sue Johnson | Joyce Roberts | |
| Jon & Joy Colestock | Hazel Jones | Kathy Rose | |
| Tim Conard | Pat Jones | Rita Rouse | |
| Misty Cooley | Ray Kellogg | Shelly Roush | |
| Julie Coon | Dean & Denise Kerns | Jeanne Sample | |
| Lori Cordonnier | Helen King | Linda Sawyer | |
| Jane Crabtree | Patti Knorr | Sharon Schultz | |
| Savannah & Skip Crisp | G. Kobzej | Shelby Schultz | |
| Barry, Pam, Bryson & Nathan Crum | Bob & Sharon Koranda | Candy Sheehan | |
| Patty Davenport | Rhochard Lawrence | Linda Sherman | |
| Cheryl Deeken | Ray Leatherwood | Bernard Sheller | |
| Holly Dewar | Katherine Lewis | Linda Sheller | |
| Edward Dredge | Kay Limle | Natalie Simpson | |
| Stacy Dreier | William Littlewood | Dick Sipes | |
| Hannah Dudley | Cheryl Leverette | Deborah & Rick Smith | |
| Elizabeth Eastin | Gail Smith | Kaitlin Smith | |
| Kendal Evans | Patty Mason | Richard Smith | |
| Lisa Gabriel | Brian Maxwell | Skylor Smith | |
| Ann Garrison | Rindy McCartney | Angela McKinnon | |
| Shirley Golden | | | |
| Terra Greiner | | | |

Groups & Organizations

- Apple Market
- American Family Ins.
- AT&T/CWA Group
- East Hills Mall
- Fazoli's
- Hy-Vee
- Jimmy Johns
- KCP&L & Employees Group
- St. Joseph Woodworkers Guild

If you are a volunteer and we excluded you from this list, please let us know so we can update our files.

Online Access

AFL-CIO Community Services is online at www.helpmenow.org. In addition, many of our agency programs have their own Facebook pages. Information on our programs are updated regularly through our website and Facebook pages. Please "like" us to keep up on the latest news and to show your support for our programs.

Our website includes descriptions of our programs, service information, agency history and directions to our office. Facebook provides up to the minute updates on our programs, events and special occasions. In addition to the agency Facebook page, there are also pages for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program, Soles for Christ Shoe program, Cinderella's Closet and the Community Clothes Closet.