

Community Resources in Service to People - CRISP 2019 Annual Report

Calendar Year January through December 2019

Overview

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Community Resources in Service to People (CRISP) is blessed to have the generous support of the greater Madison County community! Your generosity enables us to connect families in need to local resources and continue our basic programs of School Supplies for Kids, Winter Wear for Kids and Christmas for Kids. It also helps provide for those families in crisis situations - homelessness, utilities disconnect, food insecurity, and more.

The CRISP office is open, 9-noon, Monday through Thursday, and by appointment. We are staffed by two part time employees, but expand to include our board of directors and many dedicated volunteers during our busy times. Thanks to all who were a part of the CRISP team this year!

2019 Accomplishments

We moved! We relocated our offices this past year (thanks to some GREAT community volunteers, the high school football and cross country teams, and Silver Cord volunteers) and are now at home in the basement of the First United Presbyterian Church at 210 W. Green Street in Winterset.

School Supplies4KIDS kept us busy as ever this year, with 127 children served and additional



backpacks going to each of the schools for students in need. Thanks to Kiwanis and Verizon for backpacks and our many caring citizens for donations to purchase the school supplies! We also partnered with Earlham Lions to provide school supplies for Madison County students attending Earlham Schools. We were excited to be the recipient of Circus tickets as part of the Winterset High School Band fundraiser, and through the generosity of many local individuals and businesses, we were

able to provide these to our CRISP families during backpack distribution!

We are excited to announce that we awarded a **Bluebird Fund** Scholarship this past summer.



The money enabled a single mom to pay off some debts and take some of the weight off her shoulders while she goes back to school and focuses on new career options after losing her job. Initial funding for the Bluebird Fund was put in place by anonymous donors and provides financial support to assist with educational, skills development, and self-sustainability goals of single mothers in Madison County. Fund recipients are identified at CRISP through ongoing contact as clients and invited to participate by CRISP staff. One participant is invited every one to two years, depending on funding availability and length of time it takes to move the previous recipient forward. Donor contributions are welcome.

The Winterset Rotary club provided us with 140 pairs of new winter boots for our **Winter Wear4KIDS** program! These were added to other generous donations of coats, snow pants, hats and gloves to stock our closets for winter weather.

This fall, many of you supported our annual **Nuts and Candy Fundraiser**. We had a banner year raising over \$3,000 and greatly appreciate your patronage of this annual event! All of these monies go toward a little less glamorous, but no less important cause - keeping our office up and running.

Christmas4KIDS experienced a delightful problem this year. . .we had more individuals, businesses and organizations wanting to spread Christmas joy than we had families to support! WOW! Our caring, compassionate supporters provided 219 Madison County children with gifts this year! Gifts included 4 dolls with clothing made by the Jr. High textile classes. The High School child development classes also donated funds to help purchase the dolls. Additional donors provided grocery and gas gift cards, which we use year round to meet client needs.



Generous Donors

The Verano Fund donated \$7,000 to CRISP this year! Additionally, we received a check for over \$2,000 from the roundup event hosted by Fareway in December and a check for over \$1,000 from McGowan Hurst Clark and Smith offices as part of their 2019 Holiday Project! These phenomenal gifts go a long way in supporting CRISP programming and the many families we serve. And of course, we can't forget our many donors who help us out on a daily basis - churches, community service clubs, businesses and individuals. We are so fortunate to live in such a caring community!



Needs Served

We are currently serving 168 Madison County families through CRISP. This number includes 419 children and 32 new families since January of 2019. Additional children are served directly through the schools and are not included in our family numbers.

Specific Aid Included:

- 237 winter wear items
- Assistance for 20 families who were homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Helped pay rent amounting to over \$5200
- Distributed gas cards to 21 families
- Provided 8 Birthdays-in-a-Bag
- Helped with over \$800 in car repairs/towing

- Helped pay utilities 26 times amounting to over \$5600
- Assisted with emergency childcare
- 127 school supply filled backpacks

In addition to the above needs served by CRISP, we also made 114 referrals to over 15 agencies and community organizations. One of the most important services CRISP provides is that first step in matching families to the right resource based on their current needs and unique situation.

FUNdraisers

Covered Bridges Winery hosted BINGO to benefit CRISP in March! In May we received a check from the Knights of Columbus as part of their fish fry fundraiser. Many of you came out to support CRISP and Prevent Child Abuse Madison County at the Pastries on the Patio event (complete with violin music!) hosted by 1st Avenue Collective in June.



Staff and board members prepared and served homemade ice cream and brownies at the July Chamber summer concert in the park event (we ran out of ice cream!) We also received donations from Union State Bank for a RAGBRAI fundraiser and The Cellar for their



CRISPmas in July event. In August we enjoyed some yummy meals at Easton's Food Truck as part of their CRISP fundraiser. We were flipping over pancakes in September at the Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast to benefit our work. In October we sold Nuts & Candy and in November hosted our first Thirty-One bag online party. We rounded out our fundraising with "Round-Up"

events hosted by both Fareway and Hy-Vee in December.

You can support CRISP year round through Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon that offers the same wide selection of products (and in fact, looks almost identical to the Amazon site). The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization you select. When first visiting the site, you are prompted to select a charitable organization prior to continuing your browsing/shopping experience. In the case of CRISP, please select Community Resources in Service to People Inc., in Winterset. There are no costs or fees to CRISP or the customer and the shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com! What an easy way to make a difference!

A Word from the Program Manager

It has been a whirlwind since I took over as Program Manager in April - meeting with clients, activities, meetings, distributions, fundraisers and, of course, lots of learning! While I still have a long way to go on the learning, I am finding the position very rewarding. As I have told several people, I was always aware there were needs in Madison County, but had no idea of the extent. It has been quite an eye opening experience both to see the need and to see the response

to that need from churches, organizations, businesses and individuals county wide. I am so amazed at the generosity and feel so blessed to live in Madison County, Iowa!

I cannot thank everyone in the community enough for supporting CRISP's mission! Whether it was a financial donation, volunteer work, donation of winter wear, or purchasing a box of candy, you helped make the difference in the life of a child.

Amy Nolan, Program Manager



“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.” – Nelson Mandela

