

# Community Resources in Service to People - CRISP 2020 Annual Report

Calendar Year January through December 2020

## Overview

It has been a year! But, thanks to the generous support of the greater Madison County community, Community Resources in Service to People (CRISP) has continued to serve Madison County families in need, and as of 2020, has been doing so for 25 years! 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 hours continue to be 9:00-noon, Monday through Thursday, and by appointment. We are located in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church at 210 W. Green Street in Winterset. The church doors are currently locked due to the pandemic, but please feel free to call us, and leave a message. If you don't reach us, we will return your call as soon as we can. There is also a CRISP doorbell mounted on the glass doors at the main entrance. Ring the bell during office hours and we will be up to meet you at the door. 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!

## CRISP PROGRAMS

**School Supplies4KIDS** looked a little different in 2020 (what didn't!). We scheduled appointments for clients so we could meet with them one at a time to reduce traffic and



congestion in the office as a COVID precaution. However, the appointments provided an added bonus of us being able to meet the clients one on one, update their files, assess any needs they had and find out how they were getting along during the pandemic. It worked out so well, we plan to continue the scheduled backpack pickup in the future. We provided 165 Madison County youth with a backpack and grade/school specific supplies for the 2020/2021 school year. The backpack number was up from 127 last year. Backpacks also included a facemask and hand sanitizer this year. A huge SHOUT OUT to the many local seamstresses, like Bristol Tadlock, who made and donated facemasks for the backpacks and additional quantities of each size to have on hand at the schools! Thanks

to Kiwanis and Verizon for backpacks and our many caring citizens for donations to purchase the school supplies!

Like SchoolSupplies4Kids, we scheduled appointments for **WinterWear4Kids** and met with families to ensure their children were ready to face the cold winter months (and were able to go out for recess!). We distributed lots of coats, snow pants, boots, hats and gloves! Thankfully, we received a lot of donations of the same! Our Chicago area angel visited again this year with a donation of 47 new coats! CRISP takes donations of winter wear year round, so if you have items that you or your kids no longer use, please give us a call at 515-462-9400. We are in great shape with coats, but always need the heavier ski gloves in all sizes and snow pants.



**Christmas4KIDS** - Community organizations, businesses, churches, families and individuals stepped up to make Christmas a little brighter for over 200 Madison County youth in 2020! While many of the “Santas” have helped with Christmases through the years, there were also several new contributors. Many of the sponsors shopped and filled the Christmas wish lists of children of CRISP clients. Others gave monetary gifts to help round out, fill in and even out packages, or to help with those last minute needs. Both are greatly appreciated and help to make CRISP’s Christmas4Kids program a huge success.

In a very different holiday season, there were many positives. Unable to proceed with their usual holiday parties and festivities, the Winterset Hy-Vee used those monies that would have gone toward holiday celebrations and purchased sixty \$25 gift cards for CRISP clients. These cards were a nice addition to the Christmas gifts we provided to Christmas4Kids participants! Several local families decided to forgo the gift giving amongst themselves and give those dollars to CRISP, many stating how fortunate they feel to have a job, a roof over their heads and plenty of food in the pantry, and simply wanting to share their blessings.

## **Generous Donors**

The Verano Fund helped us out with another \$7,000 donation to CRISP in 2020! A group of Winterset teachers/staff and administrators really stepped up pledging to donate a set amount every month via payroll deduction! And speaking of payroll deduction, thanks to Madison

County neighbors working for Athene USA, Principal, EveryStep, Sammons Financial Group and Homesteaders Life Co. who designated their United Way contribution to CRISP! Other donations included the Madison County Chamber of Commerce donating the ten \$50 Fareway gift cards they had received from an Iowa Association of Chambers of Commerce program to us to distribute to clients. We also had several small social clubs make donations to CRISP this year. 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!



We received a Greater Madison County Community Foundation grant last spring to be used for programming to assist our clients in budgeting, stretching their food dollars and saving on utilities expenses. Unfortunately, the programs had to be delayed due to COVID, but we hope to be able to offer these in the Fall of 2021.

CRISP was also the recipient of a **Women's Giving Circle Grant** last fall. The money has been designated to our Feel Good Fund which provides those little extras that don't seem like that big of a deal, but are HUGE in the eyes of a child. So far we have used these monies to help a student purchase quilt supplies for her textiles class, partner with the Lion's Club to provide glasses for a student in need, and purchase some heavy ski gloves and missing sizes in snow pants to allow students to go out for recess.



## FUNdraisers

In continuing with the COVID theme...the pandemic also threw a wrench in our Fundraising. Our CRISP movie night fundraiser was delayed and is still on hold, but we filled our tummies during Knead Pi & Q's lasagna dinner fundraiser, which raised over \$600; reached for the stars with our Des Moines Skydivers event which raised over \$1,000 and had a blast with the Fireworks fundraiser hosted by Tony Wenck at Factory Outlet Fireworks, which raised \$5,000!

Both Hy-Vee and Fareway held a round-up event for CRISP allowing shoppers to round-up to the nearest dollar (or beyond), with the extra change going to CRISP. That extra change added up to over \$4,600 between the two stores! At least 3 individuals held Facebook Birthday fundraisers, which netted over \$1000 and 1st Avenue Collective sold Iowa Strong t-shirts with a portion of the sales going to CRISP.



For our annual **Nuts and Candy Fundraiser**, we relied heavily on email, phone and Facebook to advertise and sell our goodies, and had tremendous success! Dealing with our “leftover” inventory was another hurdle. In past years, we have had huge success with selling a very large chunk by setting up in a hospital room and letting hospital and clinic staff shop. This was not to be this year with COVID numbers increasing about the time our orders were received. We went back to Facebook, the CRISP website, Chamber newsletters and emailing and sold all the leftovers before December 1! A record! Also a record was our profit from the fundraiser - \$4,488.22! An increase of over \$1400 over last year!

## Needs Served

We are currently serving 130 Madison County families through CRISP. This number includes 299 children - 60 under 5 and 239 aged 5 and up. Additional children are served directly through the schools and are not included in our family numbers.

### Specific Aid Included:

- 327 winter wear items
- Assistance for 21 families who were homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Helped pay rent amounting to almost \$7400
- Distributed gas cards to 11 families
- Distributed food cards to 75 families
- Provided 51 hygiene kits for Paw Pantry
- Helped with over \$600 in car repairs/towing
- Helped pay utilities 13 times amounting to over \$3400
- Provided Trolley passes to 3 families
- Assisted with emergency childcare
- 165 school supply filled backpacks

In addition to the above needs served by CRISP, we also made over 70 referrals to 20 different 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.

We worked closely with the **Paw Pantry** this year to provide additional food supplies and another food source as some pantries closed due to the pandemic or were simply overwhelmed with the need. We accepted almost \$20,000 in donations for the pantry (including a \$5000 donation from Farmers & Merchants State Bank!) and have used close to \$17,000 for pantry purchases by the end of 2020. CRISP continues to take donations for the Paw Pantry. If you would like to donate, please make check payable to CRISP and mail to 210 W. Green Street, Winterset, IA 50273. Be sure to designate Paw Pantry in the memo line.

## A Word from the Program Manager

Happy 25th Anniversary to CRISP! That is quite a statement for the kindness and generosity of the people of Madison County! I think back on all the families we were able to assist this past year and then multiply that by 25 years...WOW! What an impact!



During a chamber coffee this last fall, I provided some information on ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences). I shared that a study on ACEs has shown that when a child experiences stress that is powerful, frequent, prolonged and/or unpredictable without adequate adult support, the child's stress response remains on at all times. This high level of stress can disrupt the development of the brain and other organs and increase the risk for poor health, poor learning and poor social outcomes. The outcomes we see in adults today (and in many of our CRISP clients) won't change in the next generation unless we take greater steps to intervene earlier.

When we respond with compassion to those who have experienced trauma and give families the tools they need to raise healthy children from the start, we develop systems that enable people to thrive, adapt and cope despite trauma. That is what we strive to do every day at CRISP.

During the nuts and candy fundraiser this fall, I met a woman who shared with me how CRISP had helped her as a single mother raising her children. Her children are now grown and she is in a much better position. She remains ever thankful for what CRISP did for her and was so happy to make a purchase and give back. Thanks to ALL our supporters, we really can impact lives and make a difference. 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

***“We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today.”*** Stacia Tauscher, dancer and artist

***“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”***  
Frederick Douglass

We would like to thank our donors for their support this past year! We have made every effort to include all those that made a monetary or in-kind donation in 2020. If we have left you off, please let us know so we can make the correction.

Shirley Addy  
Adventist Church  
Rebecca Albers  
Kendra Alexander  
American Legion Auxiliary  
American State Bank  
Linda Armstrong  
Maria & Ryan Babcock  
Tamara Bane  
Connie Banks  
Laura & Jason Barnes  
Jon & Megan Barrett  
Ann Bartelt  
Vickie Bass  
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Georgine Bellamy  
Stephanie Bellamy  
Ron & Sharon Berdine  
Jean Berger  
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Mike & Pat Dickerson  
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First Avenue Collective  
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First United Methodist Church  
First United Presbyterian Church  
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Marianne Fons & Mark Davis  
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Wendy Frost  
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Madison Co. Healthcare Wellness Comm.  
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Sandra Porter  
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Gina Robinson  
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Laurel Scholten  
Beth Schwertfeger  
Twila Seibert  
Helen Sellers  
Melissa & Greg Shahan  
Deb Sheldahl  
Brenda Sheppard  
Becca Sheridan - 4H Club

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Amanda Sickles  
Cathy & Randy Simon  
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Fran Thompson  
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Winterset H. S. Student Council  
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