

Community Resources In Service to People

ANNUAL REPORT



2023

Calendar Year January Through December

What do we do?

Over the past year CRISP continued to connect with families in the community, providing much needed services. Our basic programs of School Supplies for Kids, Winter Wear for Kids and Christmas for Kids were in high demand and we were able to assist many families in crisis with utilities, rent, food, transportation and more. We greatly appreciate the additional assistance from our board of directors and dedicated volunteers in helping to get this done in 2023!

Staff Highlight

This year we have a special 10 year anniversary for our assistant Carol Liechty! Carol has been an immeasurable asset to CRISP since 2013. She is a retired teacher who taught at Winterset Schools for 33 years. She taught 4th, 5th, and 7th grades.

She is a proud grandparent of 5 grandchildren with the newest one being born in October.

As the director, I could not do my job well without Carol. She is always here to support in whatever endeavors we are working on with clients and programming. Thank you so much Carol!!!



Bonnie & Kathleen at the CRISP office

Board of Directors

Erin Hardisty - President
Kate Allen - Vice President
Bonnie Forsyth - Secretary
Jen Simon - Treasurer
Natalie Montross
Jacque Mohs
Jennifer Stover

We welcomed three new Volunteer Board Members in March 2023:

Jacque Mohs, Jen Simon and Jennifer Stover.

Starting in 2024 CRISP will be welcoming Jayci Kuhns to the Board!

Thank you Board Members for your hard work and dedication to CRISP families.

CRISP Staff:

Director: Kathleen Rush
Assistant: Carol Liechty

www.wintersetcrisp.org

210 W. Green St. Winterset, IA

Amy Nolan Memorial Fund Established

As many of you know, our previous director, Amy Nolan lost her battle with cancer and passed away January 25th, 2023. Amy was a great leader in the community. Her generous and compassionate heart has influenced countless community members. Amy was committed to helping people in their time of need.

Amy's commitment lives on through the memorial funds that were dedicated to CRISP in her honor. These funds have been set aside for a special use, to help someone achieve their goals. In 2023 Amy's Fund helped a parent continue their education and improve their current job situation. We would like to thank Jeff Nolan and Amy's family for this continued support of Madison County families in need.

CRISP Programs:

School Supplies4Kids

We provided 166 backpacks with school supplies this year to Madison County children.

We continue to encourage clients to reuse backpacks in good condition, in an effort to stretch our donors' dollars.

Thank you to the many caring citizens and businesses who made monetary donations for the purchase of school supplies!



Flourish Chiropractic
School Supply Drive

Kindergarten backpacks
from Modern Heating & Air



Toys for Tots
Optimist Club

Christmas4Kids

CRISP teamed up with MATURA's Operation Santa Claus program again this year to help serve the Madison County community with gifts, a food box and a grocery store gift card! We coordinated gifts for 95 families in 2023. That totals 265 children! Of those families 91 of them received a food box and gift card as well. The generous donation from the water board allowed us to purchase the grocery gift cards to put in each food box.

This adopt-a-family type program is a great success due to the many donors and volunteers who work hard to make it happen. Whether you shopped for a family, donated funds or donated your time sorting gifts, your efforts were greatly appreciated and contributed to the success of the program and many happy children at Christmas time.

Winter Wear4Kids

We provided 210 winter wear items to Madison County children.

We received many donations of new and gently used winter gear, which is greatly appreciated. CRISP takes donations of these items year round.



WCSD: Winter Warmth Drive

Generous Donors:

We have many generous kind-hearted donors here in Madison County. It is beautiful to see the support given to the children and families here. Some of these financial donations came through monthly payroll deductions from Winterset Community Schools teachers and staff, United Way funds dedicated to CRISP, local service clubs, local churches and businesses.

Along with financial donations we have dedicated volunteers who have donated their precious time. In 2023 over **65 hours** of volunteer time were recorded at the CRISP office! This does not include the time that the Board Members put in for meetings or events that are being planned.

How can you volunteer for CRISP? Our board of directors are all volunteer positions, volunteers also come in on a regular basis to help organize incoming donations and keep the office tidy. Some have helped sort and organize incoming Christmas gifts. We have also had a few High School students working on Inventory and organizing school supplies to earn hours towards their Silver Cord!

We truly could not do the great work that we do without the support of so many.

Needs Served:

We are currently serving 140 Madison County Families through CRISP.

In those families there are 347 children being served.

Additional children are served through the schools and are not included in our family numbers.

At this time, there are 24 students considered homeless in the Winterset School District.

Specific Aid Included:

- Helped pay rent or mortgage: \$4,060
- Helped Pay additional housing costs such as hotel rooms, camping expenses, etc: \$510
- Helped pay utilities: \$1,487
- Helped pay for gas/transportation: \$475
- Food cards: \$469 (not including the cards given at Christmas to all clients receiving a food box.)
- Helped with car repairs: \$3,745
- Helped pay phone or internet bills: \$672
- Student fees: \$503
- Therapy fees: \$315
- Shoes & Clothing: \$797
- Feel Good Funds:
 - Lessons/Sports fees: \$250
 - Pool Passes: \$300

In addition to the above needs served by CRISP, we also made over 228 referrals to over 24 different agencies, community organizations, and churches. We assisted clients in applying for Medicaid, SSI/SSDI, and SNAP benefits. We provided budgeting materials and services to families. We provided 13 families with a "Birthday in a Bag." One of the most important services CRISP provides is that first step in matching families to the right resources based on their current needs and unique situation.



2nd grade class counting Paw Pantry donations at F&M bank

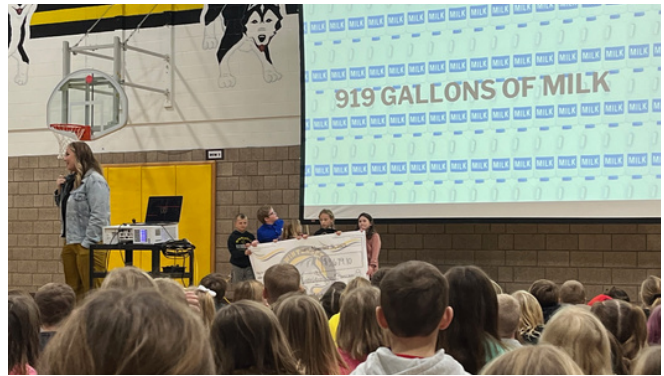
We worked closely with the Paw Pantry to provide an additional food source for families in the community. We accepted over \$21,000 in donations for the pantry in 2023. The Paw Pantry is consistently serving 65-70 families every other week. CRISP continues to take donations for the Paw Pantry. If you 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.

Fundraisers:

Fareway held a Round-up for CRISP allowing shoppers to round-up to the nearest dollar (or beyond), with the extra change going to CRISP.

WCSD Elementary Students did a competition coin drive where each grade at the elementary school tried to raise the most \$ in coins for the Paw Pantry. The students raised \$3,679.10 and received a matching check from F&M Bank!

CRISP Board of Directors Coordinated a Holiday Tour of Homes where 7 homes in the Winterset area were open to tour at the holidays. Jennifer Stover and Jacque Mohs headed up this project. The hope was to sell around 300 tickets. They exceeded their goal by over double that. There were many volunteers and community members involved in this project that worked hard to make it happen. It was a fun event and a great success!



Elementary School assembly after fundraiser



Holiday Tour of Homes Pictures



The CRISP office hours have fluctuated a bit over the past year allowing us to help out the elementary school with some subbing support in the mornings. Our current office hours are 8am to 11am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Summer hours are 9am-noon Monday - Thursday. By appointment, as needed. We are located in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church at 210 W. Green Street in Winterset. Please call before stopping by, in case we are out of the office. If you call and aren't able to reach us, please leave a message or text us and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Thank you to ALL our supporters, for supporting CRISP's mission! We really can impact lives and make a difference. Whether it was a financial donation, volunteer work, donation of winter wear, attending a fundraiser event, you helped make the difference in the life of a child.