



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

Volume 4, Issue 6

June 2021

Our Mission: Bringing together an ecumenical coalition of Quad City area churches to help feed the hungry, offer emergency assistance to those in crisis, and provide a transitional housing program for women and children who are victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.

Worries

One Sunday, a pastor closed out his sermon about worries by saying, “Job worries, financial difficulties, health concerns, family issues...each one of these issues is out of our control to some extent. The only thing that is under our control is our response to these difficult issues when they show up in our lives.” Then he passed out blank sheets of paper to his members. Each person in the church that morning was instructed to list all the things that were troubling them, regardless of how big or small. They were then instructed to place the list in the envelopes and to address the envelopes to themselves. During the closing hymn, the pastor encouraged the members to bring those worries they just wrote down to the altar and lay them down. “We’ll let Jesus take care of them for a while and then we will see how we feel about those same issues.”

One month later, the pastor mailed out the envelopes to his congregation. With few exceptions, most of the congregation saw their month-old concerns in an entirely different light. Though some troubles were ongoing in the peoples’ lives, the majority of the worries that seemed to be enormous at the time had diminished drastically in urgency and intensity. Financial issues had been taken care of, arguments had been resolved, problems at work had changed, and health problems had been diagnosed and, in some cases, healed. This experiment taught the congregation a lesson about the nature of worry that many would not forget.

As our community and churches slowly return to a new state of normal, there are still many issues that will cause us concerns and even anxiety. When this does occur, and it will, remember the words of Jesus concerning worry: “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life -- whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing?” (Matthew 6:25 NLT) “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.” (Matthew 6:33 NLT)

Blessings!

Mel

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June 1, 2021



Dear Member Churches,

Thank you for your continued membership. As we celebrate our 60th year as an organization, we look forward to growing and changing to respond to the needs of our community.

During the past year, we have watched the world change in unimaginable ways. At Churches United, we have responded by continuing to serve the poor by supporting our food pantries, providing financial assistance through our CareLINK program, and by sheltering women and their children in need.

Responding to the demands on our organization this year forced us to do some soul searching because we could not continue to operate in the way we had been and remain financially viable. Many of you responded to our November Emergency Appeal and we are grateful. We have made changes to make sure our financial position is strong and sustainable. We also took steps to make sure that our CareLINK program was funded. As housing challenges persist, we will need to take further steps to build up the CareLINK program so we can maintain our commitment to helping individuals and families with rent assistance and utility bill payments. Winnie's Place, our shelter, was draining assets at a time when our resources were needed the most throughout our community. In January of this year, our Board of Directors approved a collaboration with Project NOW to become a part of their Rapid Rehousing Program. This partnership will generate income for our organization, while enabling us to continue to serve women and children fleeing domestic abuse. We are moving away from a shelter model to a transitional housing model, which will allow our clients to benefit from the resources of Project Now and to stay in our housing for up to a year. We will still be ministering to those in our housing. For us to comply with the partnership, we need to make improvements to the building so we can meet HUD guidelines. Our most immediate and expensive need is to update the three-tiered deck. All the units will require some renovations.

We are asking you, our member churches, to contribute financially to our organization. We also are in need of individuals and groups to assist with renovations at Winnie's Transitional Housing by cleaning, painting, and/or contributing carpentry skills to upgrade our units.

I ask you to prayerfully consider donating and/or volunteering your church members to help our ministries. For more information, please contact me at (563) 332-5002 or send me an e-mail at: mgrimes@cuqca.org.

Blessings!

Mel

Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes

Executive Director

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Food Rescue Volunteers

Food rescuers serve 1-2 days per week and deliver to two other agencies. It takes about 1-1.5 hours, including transportation. If you have time, your own transportation, and a heart to serve those in need in our community, please consider volunteering for this position. For more information, contact our associate director, Betsy Vanausdeln, at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.

Winnie's Transitional Housing Committee Members

We're looking for people who are passionate about helping women and their children escape domestic abuse and human trafficking. This committee will provide insight and oversight for Winnie's Transitional Housing. If you are interested, please contact our executive director, Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes at 563-332-5002 or by email at mgrimes@cuqca.org.

Hunger Committee Members

Do you want to help combat hunger in our community? Our Hunger Committee needs members. For more information, contact our associate director, Betsy Vanausdeln, at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.



Thanksgiving in July is back and we need your help. Our annual food collection drive and fundraiser to support our hunger ministries needs sponsors. We encourage churches and area businesses to participate. There is no fee for sponsorship. Sponsors are asked to host a collection box during the month of July. Sponsor logos will be featured prominently on collection boxes, in our newsletter, and on social media. All proceeds from the food drive will remain in the Quad Cities area.

For more information, contact Betsy Vanausdeln at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.



2020 Sponsors



Churches United of the Quad City Area

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For newsletter submissions, contact Susan Schwartz, our social media director at sschwartz@cuqca.org



On the Web

www.cuqca.org

Give Today to Churches United

Online at <http://www.cuqca.org/donate.php>

Call us at (563) 332-5002

Mail or drop off your gift:
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2535 Tech Drive, Suite 205
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Thank You!

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Support CUQCA by designating us as your charity and by purchasing items from our Wish List.

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/19QO2R6L5908/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist



You're Invited.

Quarterly Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, July 6th at 6:30PM

The meeting will be run by our Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes.

This is an opportunity for you to get updates, ask questions, and provide input.

Reservations are required and due by Friday, July 2nd. To reserve your spot, contact our office at (563) 332-5002.



You can support Churches United by donating to Birdies for Charity.

Our bird # is 572.