

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

New Beginnings on 143 South Main



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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THE COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS CENTER WINTER 2024 ISSUE

On July 1, 2024, Compassionate Connections Center proudly opened the doors to its new *home* at 143 S. Main Street in Clintonville. This milestone marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter, made possible through the hard work and dedication of countless volunteers, supporters, and partners.

Since moving into this welcoming space, The CCC has experienced remarkable growth. In just our first month, diaper and hygiene pantry traffic increased by 31%, and since then, usage has jumped nearly 60%. This growth reflects not only a growing need but also the strength of the alliances that empower us to meet it..

One of the most impactful changes has been our seamless collaboration with The Clintonville Area Food Pantry. By uniting under one roof, we've created a one-stop hub for essential services, ensuring accessibility and efficiency for everyone we serve.

The design and functionality of our new home has also played a pivotal role in our success. Thoughtfully crafted with both practicality and warmth in mind, every corner of the space reflects our commitment to making every visitor feel valued and supported.



Fox Communities Credit Union Partner Annex Ribbon Cutting



Community Clothes Closet



Waupaca County Public Health

STRONGER TOGETHER

At The Compassionate Connections Center, collaboration has proven to be the key to unlocking our potential and enhancing the support we provide to the Clintonville community. Since the day we opened, agencies from outside of our service area have been using our space to expand their reach to individuals in the Clintonville area. The struggle was always finding a dedicated space where we could host these vital agencies and the services they provide.

This past spring, The Compassionate Connections Center embarked on an exciting new journey with the launch of our Solid Foundation Campaign. The goal? To create the ideal space for collaboration within the community - a hub where partnerships could flourish,

and community impact could reach new heights.

Looking back it does seem a bit chaotic to move your entire business, all your programs and two office cats at the same time as launching a huge fundraising campaign for this space, but that is how we roll here at The CCC. Clintonville may be small but it is mighty and boy did this community show up and support. From small to large, the donations poured in and to our surprise we raised nearly \$38,000 in less than a month for the new Annex building. We started construction on May 28th and held our ribbon cutting on June 28th; like I said, that's how we roll! Less than two weeks later we held our first official event in our brand new space and served more than 300 students by providing free, new Back

to School clothing and School Supplies. Not bad for moving in less than three weeks before all of this.

Since then barely a week goes by without an event, from free car seat safety checks to volunteers sorting birthday bundles for the Food Pantry. The Annex is the hottest spot in town! Starting in December, the Clintonville Farmers Market will be using this space for a monthly Winter Market. From a Traveling Clothes Closet to home for family playgroups, the Fox Communities Credit Union Partner Annex met our immediate need but has become so much more in six short months.



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

The Community Partner Annex has become a hub for hosting large events and gatherings, enabling us to bring the community together for education, outreach, and celebration.

Equally impactful is our Community Resource Office, designed to provide a private, welcoming environment for individual services. Here, we work with specialized partners to address the unique needs of community members on a one-on-one basis. Every month, our office hosts partners offering a range of essential services, including:

- **Mental Health Navigation:** Connecting individuals with the resources and guidance needed to support mental well-being.
- **ADRC Disability Benefits Assistance:** Helping individuals access and navigate the benefits they're entitled to.
- **Health Insurance Navigation:** Providing support to find and understand health insurance options.
- **Telehealth Appointments:** Ensuring access to healthcare through technology, making it easier for clients to receive care.

COMING SOON!

- **Bridging Language Barriers with Jolyne Zaldivar:** Breaking down communication obstacles and ensuring everyone in our community can access the support they need.

NEW STAFF FOR A NEW LOCATION

Doris Krueger has been a dedicated volunteer since the CCC opened its doors, working primarily with The Nutrition Mission. Doris became a more frequent volunteer soon after learning we didn't have a real firm grasp of how the alphabet works and quickly turned her one hour a week volunteering to a full time job here at The C.C.C. From filing to being the full time manager of our Hygiene Pantry, Doris works tirelessly to make sure our pantry shelves are stocked with items that would

make the most chic grocery store jealous. Doris takes the time to get to know every single one of our pantry clients and makes every experience a special one for every person that walks through our door. When complimented on the kind words she has for everyone that she helps, Doris answered "I try to find something to make our clients feel beautiful and special". Her compassion and tender manner with which she treats people shines through to people coming in on some of their hardest days. Walking through the door of a service organization like ours takes courage but once a client meets Doris, the fear and trepidation melt away.



THE CRITICAL IMPACT OF THE CCC'S DIAPER AND PERSONAL HYGIENE PANTRY

Diapers and personal hygiene products are essential for maintaining health and dignity, yet they are often out of reach for low-income families. These items are not covered by many assistance programs, leaving financially strained households with tough decisions about how to allocate their limited resources.



On average, our monthly hygiene pantry users **save \$75.00** on essential items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products. This savings allow families to reallocate those funds to other critical needs.

EVERY PACKAGE OF DIAPERS AND EVERY BOTTLE OF SHAMPOO PROVIDED IS MORE THAN JUST A PRODUCT—IT'S A STEP TOWARD STABILITY, HEALTH, AND HOPE FOR FAMILIES WHO NEED IT MOST.



For families with young children, the diaper pantry offers additional relief, **saving \$48.00 per month per child** by providing a weekly supply of diapers and wipes. Having access to free diapers reduces stress and supports a healthier, more stable environment for growth and learning.

We are continually inspired by the generosity of our community. Time and again, individuals, businesses, and organizations come together to support our mission of providing essential hygiene products to neighbors in need.

This outpouring of kindness enables us to stock our Diaper and Personal Hygiene Pantry, ensuring that no family has to go without the basic necessities required to maintain health and dignity.



MONTHLY HYGIENE PANTRY WISHLIST

- ♥ January: Chapstick & Band-aids
- ♥ February: Dish Soap & Clorox Wipes
- ♥ March: Tissues & Toilet Paper
- ♥ April: Men's & Women's Deodorant
- ♥ May: Shampoo & Conditioner
- ♥ June: Body Wash & Hand Soap
- ♥ July: Feminine Hygiene: Tampons & Pads
- ♥ August: Q-tips & Paper Towel
- ♥ September: Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- ♥ October: Laundry Soap: Liquid & Pods, & Powder
- ♥ November: Diapers and Pull-ups
- ♥ December: Batteries

EVERY DAY COUNTS FOR THE NUTRITION MISSION

We've all heard the old adage, "It takes a village to raise a child." But when it comes to The Nutrition Mission, Compassionate Connections Center's Weekend Food Backpack Program, it takes an army.

In just four years, the program has grown from serving 50 students a week in 2021 to an incredible 275 students in the fall of 2024. Meeting this rising need has required not only expanded resources but also a dynamic and dedicated team of staff and volunteers working together like a well-oiled machine. Managing this scale of growth is no small feat. Sourcing quality, cost-effective food for 275 backpacks weekly is almost a full-time job for Sophie Huettnner, Senior Project Manager for The Nutrition Mission. Sophie orders food a month at a time, ensuring every item meets nutritional and budgetary goals. When the delivery trucks roll in, CCC staff jump into action, grateful for their trusty elevator that saves us hours of heavy lifting. But once the food is in-house, the real work begins...



Every **Monday** Joy Krubsack and Marge Wichmann show up to cut, count and stack 275 handouts and vouchers for each food bag. Bags are then labeled each week by volunteer Toni Jirikovic. On **Tuesday**, inventory and packing prep are spearheaded by Mari Hintz and Tina Mueller, who ensure all menu items are ready for Wednesday's packing frenzy.

At 4 p.m. sharp each **Wednesday**, 10–15 volunteers arrive, bringing unmatched enthusiasm. In just 25 minutes, they fill 275 backpacks and pack them into 33 giant totes. The efficiency and camaraderie are so inspiring that volunteer sign-ups for the entire school year fill up immediately.

Thursday marks the first wave of deliveries, with Mr. Clintonville himself, Tom Lederer, delivering bags to Headstart. Tom's joy rivals that of the children receiving the food, making this task a highlight of the week.

Friday is the program's biggest delivery day, with over 200 backpacks distributed. To manage this herculean task, The CCC has enlisted "The A Teams": Steve & Sheryl Lorge, Jeanine Supanich, Laurie Vollrath, and Butch Donaldson. These delivery dynamos ensure every tote is not only delivered but also promptly returned for the next week's use. By Monday, the process begins again. Week after week during the school year, CCC's Nutrition Mission Army ensures no school-age child in the district goes without the food they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

TESTIMONIALS FROM REAL CLIENTS



“COMPASSIONATE CONNECTION IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS HELPED MY FAMILY A LOT, WITH DIAPERS, CLOTHES AND SHOES FOR MY FAMILY, GOD BLESS COMPASSIONATE CONNECTION.” ~G.C.

“OVER THE LAST 2 YEARS I HAVE HAD TO RELY HEAVILY ON THE CCC AND THEIR RESOURCES. WHEN I HAVE NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO THE LADIES OF THE CCC HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THERE WITH HUGS, SUPPORT, KINDNESS, NECESSITIES, ADVICE, RESOURCES AND SO MUCH MORE. MY BABIES AND I ALWAYS FEEL WELCOME AND SUPPORTED WHEN WE VISIT OR ASK FOR ASSISTANCE. THERE ARE TIMES THEY REACH OUT TO US JUST TO OFFER WHEN THEY KNOW WE ARE IN NEED. CCC IS A COMMUNITY CENTER THAT ACTUALLY HELPS PEOPLE, AND BUILT INTO THE COMMUNITY, IT’S APPARENT THE VOLUNTEERS REALLY CARE AND THEY WORK HARD. I WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO THE CCC FOR ALL THEY HAVE DONE FOR ME AND MY CHILDREN, I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN I CAN GIVE BACK.” ~T.T.H

“CCC HAS DONE SO MUCH TO HELP US GET BACK ON OUR FEET!

WE LOVE AND THANK YOU GUYS SO MUCH. ABSOLUTELY RECOMMEND 110%! THANK YOU SO MUCH!” ~C.H.

LET’S CONNECT!

Email: help@compassionateconnect.com

Phone: (715) 460-3517

Website: www.compassionateconnect.com

HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 10am - 4pm

Friday: By appointment only

Saturday + Sunday: CLOSED

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COMPASSIONATE
CONNECTIONS INC.



WISHING YOU A _____ 
Happy Holidays

FROM THE CCC TEAM!



Donate Today and Support Our Work
In The Clintonville Community

