

January 15, 2024

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition
2023 Year In Review
Website: www.cfmissioncoalition.org

Our CFMC Mission Statement and Bible Verse

CFMC Mission Statement: *“Faithful people joining hearts and hands to be God’s Love in action for our neighbors near and far.”*

CFMC Bible Verse: Psalm 60:12 – *“With God’s help we will do mighty things.”*

General CFMC Info –

The Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition started in August 2011 with six local churches. Today our numbers include 21 local churches of various denominations and 33 local non-profit agencies and community contacts.

It costs nothing to be part of the CFMC, just a sincere desire to work together to Love God, Love People and Make a Difference in His Name!

The CFMC is comprised mostly of lay members from the Social Ministry Teams of those churches, as well as some pastors. There are also reps from the various non-profit agencies/community contacts that attend meetings and stay in touch to keep the CFMC informed of their needs and how we could help.

Here is the list of churches and non-profits that have shown an interest in the CFMC and have participated in various degrees ...

Current “Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition” Members –

Churches:

Zion United Methodist -- Trinity United Methodist -- Central Lutheran -- Our Saviour’s Lutheran -- First Presbyterian -- Landmark Christian -- English Lutheran of Bateman – St. Simeon’s & Christ Episcopal -- Crossroads Baptist -- Valley Vineyard -- Notre Dame Catholic -- Faith Lutheran -- Chippewa Valley Bible -- St. Charles Catholic – Jacob’s Well Baptist – Holy Ghost Catholic – Harvestime Assembly of God – River City Community Church – Christ Lutheran – My Haven Church

Non-Profit Agencies/Community Contacts:

St. Joe's Hospital (CHIP) – Chippewa River Ind. -- Carelink -- Salvation Army – Barnabas Ministries -- Thrivent -- Lutheran Social Services – LE Phillips CDC Chippewa Outreach – West Cap – Chippewa Co. Housing Authority – Family Support Center – Workforce Resource & Food Share – CVTC – Feed My People -- Chippewa Catholic Schools – Chippewa Co. Public Health – Chippewa Valley Street Ministry – Marshfield Community Connect – Mentor Chippewa Program – Legacy Center/Agnes' Table – St. Francesca Pantry – Touched Twice Ministries – The Hub – C.F. Voyagers – Community Foundation of Chippewa Co. – WOGO/WWIB Radio – Open Door Clinic – Helping Hands For Our Children – JONAH – Hope Village -- Romeis Apts. – Menomonie Mission Coalition

How We Connect

We meet once a month, normally on the first Monday of the month at various locations. Our meetings start at 5:00 pm and end promptly at or before 6:00 pm.

At our meetings we always focus on what we have in common, which is our belief in God and the lives He expects us to live, guided by the Holy Spirit. We never dwell on what separates us.

Our meetings start with a general prayer and end with all of us joining hands and reciting the Our Father/Lord's Prayer.

Our goal is to work together on local and global mission outreach, often helping each other with our individual mission projects. We try to stay pro-active in our community, reaching out and asking where help is required for those in need.

We're About More Than Just Mission Outreach

The CFMC is about more than helping people in our various outreach missions, we also strive to create relationships with the people we serve. Often, we are able to share our faith stories, as well as listen to theirs. We also offer prayers as requested and share those prayer requests with everyone in the CFMC.

-- MISSION OUTREACH OF THE CFMC IN 2023 --

*** Tiny Houses/Hope Village Mission for the Homeless (On Going)**

– Mike Cohoon -- Website: www.hopevillagechippewafalls.org

Tiny Houses/Hope Village was established in January 2016 as a mission of the CFMC to provide temporary housing for the homeless. This CFMC mission is

spearheaded by Mike Cohoon from Landmark Christian Church along with a core group of volunteers and a Board of Directors. Mike was hired as the full time Director of Hope Village on January 1, 2023.

Hope Village started out with Tiny Homes being placed at various churches around town. As of October 2022 Hope Village has permanent residence at 1825 Kennedy Rd, Chippewa Falls.

Ten Tiny Houses Plus A Community Center

We currently have ten “year-round” homes on site, as well as a Community Center with 4 bathrooms, 3 showers, a laundry room, a full kitchen, a community gathering living space, office space, classroom space and a full basement that serves as a severe weather shelter, as well as storage area for donated items that raise funds through the Sold4U Auction site.

An 11th home is going through remodeling and a 12th home is currently under construction through a donation from Central Lutheran from the estate of Pastor Skoien ... and the donation of labor from Spectrum Industries.

Plans For Permanent Affordable Housing Underway

We recently received bids for the construction of our first 6-plex and first two Duplex affordable housing units that will be located at Hope Village. We hope to start construction in the fall of 2024.

Capital Fund Campaign Nearing Goal

Fund raising continues with our Capital Fund Campaign. We are only \$245,000 away from our goal of \$2.7 million.

Tiny Homes Have Saved Community \$1,004,000

Tiny Houses have saved the community more than \$1,004,000 since inception in 2016, based on the need to spend motel vouchers @ \$80/voucher by providing more than 12,500 nights of shelter. So far we have served 88 different families, including 164 individuals.

We also provide each Tiny House guest with at least one mentor to help them on their journey to an independent life style.

*** “Lighten Your Load” Laundry Mission (On Going)**

-- Gayle Klitzke

Our “Lighten Your Load” laundry mission was started in October 2015. We learned people were throwing away dirty clothes and going to various local agencies to get fresh used clothes because they couldn’t afford to wash their old clothes.

This CFMC mission is spearheaded by Gayle Klitzke from Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church along with a core group of volunteers. Also, a special “Thank You” to Pam Moran from Central Lutheran Church for providing her services as our fiscal agent keeping track of all the quarters used for this mission.

“Lighten Your Load” is offered four times a month ... Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons during the first and third weeks of the month at Express Mart Laundromat located on Bridge St. in downtown Chippewa Falls.

26 LYL Volunteers Helped 335 Guests with 880 Loads of Wash in 2023

Total number of laundry sessions – 46 (no sessions on July 4 or Thanksgiving)

Total number of participants – 335 (71 unduplicated)

Washing more than 880 loads and drying more than 880 loads

Cost of washing machines \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$6 Cost of drying \$.25 for 10 minutes

Average 7 participants per session

Average 28 participants each month

Average 19 loads each session

Most participants at a session: 12

Most loads by 1 participant: 12

26 volunteers: 1 person volunteered 12 times, 4 people volunteered 7, 8 or 9 times

INCOME from donors: 7 churches, 1 charitable organization and 5 individuals

TOTAL INCOME: -- \$3,964.00

EXPENSES: Quarters for Lighten Your Load -- \$3,519.75

52 Debit cards for Suds Hub (39 unduplicated) \$1,050.75

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$4,570.50

**Comments From Our “Lighten Your Load” Guests
(Comments are printed as written by participants in our notebook)**

- *“God has worked in wonderful ways in my life. When I feel stuck he always helps me find my way. And without having water for 9 months Lighten the*

load has blessed our family and definitely lightened our load. Thank you very much. greatly appreciate it. Thank you God Bless” – Jasmine

- *“I am very thankful for Lighten Your Load it has helped me a lot in my time of need not to mention covid. I don’t know what I would do if there wasn’t a program like this. The people are amazing and friendly. “ -- Liz and Chad, Dare, Bre*
- *“I am very thankful I got to meet y’all today and I think what y’all are doing for people with the “Lighten Your Load” program is absolutely amazing and is appreciated by many people like me that are homeless and don’t really have funds to do laundry. So thank you again. Much appreciated.” -- Anna*
- *“To whomever reads this I am a firm believer in the Pay it Forward concept. And what these folks do for people (including my husband and I) brought tears to my eyes and warmth to my heart. Amazing people. Thank you so much. God Bless “-- Jen and Jim
“(PS) We haven’t had any clean clothes in months. I did all our laundry by hand in my bathtub twice.”*
- *“I am very grateful for this. With the rising cost of our flat, gas, food, etc. This really helps me save money to live more comfortably.” – Brett*
- *“The dryer balls work great! And thanks again for all the pleasant volunteers and generous donors.”*

*** “Lather With Love” Soap Mission (May 2023)**

-- Tom Drehmel

This was the first outreach mission we did when the CFMC first started in 2011. It has become an annual mission for the CFMC.

Back in 2011 we decided to be pro-active and ask the food pantries what they needed. They told us there was a need for laundry detergent and diapers. We continue to gather the soap items, but have since dropped the diapers portion, as they became available from another source.

This year we collected 1,328 soap/health care items that were evenly distributed to the following local food pantries ... First Presbyterian ... English Lutheran of Bateman ... Valley Vineyard ... St. Francesca ... Legacy Center ... and L.E. Phillips CDC Outreach in Chippewa Falls.

* **“Soles4Souls” Shoe Mission (August 2023)**

-- **Ken & Shirley Froelich**

The CFMC once again joined the Soles4Souls outreach mission of the local Methodist churches. This mission was spearheaded by Ken & Shirley Froelich. Final Tally for Soles4Souls this year was more than 2,200 shoes weighing in at around 4,000 pounds (TWO TONS!)

* **“Love Chippewa” Touched Twice Mission (September 2023)**

-- **Mike Cohoon, Whitney Falkenberg**

Touched Twice events have been in the Chippewa area since 2004.

Services provided at the “Love Chippewa” Touched Twice mission on Sept. 16, 2023 included oil changes, massages, medical care, eye care, dental care, haircuts, family portraits, groceries, clothing, a meal and entertainment.

Several CFMC churches provided 62 volunteers, which served 55 families and approximately 150 individuals at this day-long event.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS 2023

Over the course of 2023 we had various community speakers make presentations at our monthly meetings to present their mission and ways we could help through volunteering, donations or prayers.

The info below reflects those various contacts with our community...

* **JANUARY 2023** – Kristen Kelm RN -- Chippewa Strong: A Free Two-Part Community Resilience Series (Jan 20th and May 5th)

***JANUARY 2023** – Angela Maloney -- Agnes’ Table/Legacy Community Center. Donate/Serve/Prepare/Deliver Meals. Contact Info ... Angela Maloney, director@legacycommunitycenter.org ... 715-861-3892.

* **FEBRUARY 2023** – Sarah Sharp – Feed My People FOODSHARE program ... Pop-Up Food Pantry Distributions – Milk and Egg Vouchers. Contact Info ... Sarahl@fmpfoodbank.org ... 715-835-9415.

* **MARCH 2023** – Stephanie Abbe and Pangya Thao – Chippewa Co. Dept. of Public Health. Explained Chippewa WIC program and how they provide wholesome foods, breastfeeding support, individualized nutrition information, feeding tips and referrals to other community programs and health services for Women, Infants and Children under 5 years of age (WIC). Contact Info ... 715-726-7900 ext. 2114 ... website: pthao@co.chippewa.wi.us

* **APRIL 2023** – Roger Elliot – St. Joseph’s Hospital Community Garden. In 2022 they had 22 garden plots that produced 3,873 pounds of food that was donated to local food pantries. They always have a need for more Gardeners. If able to help, contact Roger ... rwelae@charter.net ... 715-563-2069.

* **MAY 2023** – Matthew White & Mary Jacobson – Community Foundation of Chippewa County. Discussed the “Give Chippewa County” Fund. For \$250/year you can be an active part of this group that selects and makes annual distributions to support the good that is being done in our community by various charitable organizations in the Chippewa Country Area, including our own Tiny Houses/Hope Village. More info available at the Foundation website ... www.yourlegacyforever.org

* **JUNE 2023** – Kristen Karnes-Fredrickson – Big Brothers Big Sisters. In need of volunteers to match with a child and meet once a week. Ages of kids range from 7 to 14. Currently looking for 10 volunteers in Chippewa County, 20 volunteers in Eau Claire Country. They are also looking for donations to support their program. More info available on their website ... www.bbbsnw.org

* **AUGUST 2023** – Joyel Metcalf, Chippewa Co. Dept. of Human Services ... Cara, River Source Family Center. Looking for Faith-Based and Community Members to join their Interdisciplinary Team to address the issues and possible solutions to elder abuse in our community. Contact Info ... jmetcalf@co.chippewa.wi.us ... daadvocate@fscf.org

* **NOVEMBER 2023** – Dave Schaller, Principal, Chippewa Valley High School. Discussed ways to support the students through their pantry, transportation and/or mentoring. Contact info ... schalldp@chipfalls.org

NEW CFMC WEBSITE IN 2023

2023 marked the first year of our official CFMC website, which has just been upgraded to ... **cfmissioncoalition.org**

Check it out for all the news and updates for the CFMC.

A Big “Thank You” to Mark Birrittella for setting up our CFMC website.

CFMC BRAINSTORMING/VISIONING 2023

Starting this past October, we have dedicated a few of our meetings to looking toward the future for the CFMC and how we can help with some of the unmet needs in our community either by coming up with a new outreach mission, joining in with an existing outreach mission, or continue on our current path supporting our existing outreach missions.

OUR GOAL: Identify concrete things to do in unity with our community. What is God doing out there? How can we join in? Where are the unmet needs?

Areas discussed were ... Emergency Shelters ... Mental Health Assistance ... Transportation Assistance ... Car Repair & Service ... Childcare ... Micro-Loans (grants?) ... Sock Drive ... Create Calendar of Upcoming 2024 Missions ... How to promote the CFMC to increase participation by Chippewa Area churches that aren't currently in the CFMC or haven't been active in the CFMC for a number of months.

This is still a work in progress ... Stay Tuned!

VARIOUS LOCAL OUTREACH MISSIONS WE SUPPORTED IN 2023

In addition to the missions mentioned in this report ... Tiny Houses/Hope Village, Love Chippewa, Lighten Your Load, Soles4Souls, Lather With Love, etc. Various members of the CFMC have volunteered or helped in some way at various places in our community including, but not limited to the list below ...

- * **Meal Services at Agnes' Table**
- * **Meal Services at Barnabas Table**
- * **Feed My People**
- * **“Help For The Homeless” Hygiene Drive**

- * **St. Joe's Community Garden**
- * **Valley Vineyard School Supply/Backpack Give-Away**
- * **Fierce Freedom "Eau Freedom" Fun Run & Fest**
- * **Mentor Chippewa**
- * **Volunteering at the Various Chippewa Area Food Pantries**
- * **AND MORE!**

-- THANK YOU AND "YAY GOD!" --

I'm continually amazed at what can be accomplished by working together and letting the Holy Spirit lead us on this amazing faith adventure for the past 12 years.

"Thank You" and God's Blessing to All of You for helping us live out the words ... "Loving God, Loving People, Making a Difference in His Name!"

"Yay God!"

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Drehmel
Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition

"Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it. Never tell your neighbor to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now." – Proverbs 3:27

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." – John 13:35

