

February 12, 2020

Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition 2019 Year In Review

General CFMC Info –

The Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition started in August 2011 with six local churches. Today our numbers include 19 local churches of various denominations and 23 local non-profit agencies.

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 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 -- Fellowship -- Faith Lutheran -- Chippewa Valley Bible -- St. Charles Catholic -- Jacob's Well Baptist -- Holy Ghost Catholic -- Harvest Time Assemblies of God

Non-Profit Agencies:

St. Joe's Hospital (CHIP) -- Chippewa River Ind. -- Care Link -- Salvation Army -- Barnabas Ministries -- Thrivent -- Romeis Apts. -- Lutheran Social Services -- CDC Chippewa Outreach -- West Cap -- Chippewa Co. Housing Authority -- Family Support Center -- Workforce Resource & Food Share -- CVTC -- Feed My People -- Chippewa Catholic Schools -- United Way -- Bloomer/New Auburn Food Pantry -- Chippewa Co. Public Health -- Chippewa Valley Street Ministry -- Marshfield Community Connect -- C.F. Mentor Program -- Legacy Center/Agnes' Table

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.

Our Mission Statement and Bible Verse are as follows ...

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."

Here is a look of a number of things we have been involved with this past year...

-- MISSION PROJECTS OF THE CFMC IN 2019 --

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

– Mike Cohoon

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.

Six Tiny Houses Available For Occupancy

We currently have six “year-round” Tiny Houses, which are available for occupancy. One is located at Landmark Christian Church, one at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, two at Trinity Methodist Church and two at Chippewa Valley Bible Church.

We have room to place one more Tiny House at Landmark, one more at Our Saviour's and two at Notre Dame Catholic Church.

Four Tiny Houses Under Construction

At the end of 2019 we had four more Tiny Houses under construction ... two have their exteriors completed, one has the walls and roof completed, and one has the floor system complete. We did have a camper unit, which we sold this past year.

At some point we would like to have a central location for all the Tiny Houses, which would be called Hope Village. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to create Hope Village. We currently have more than \$70,000 toward that goal.

Fund-Raising For Tiny Houses/Hope Village

In 2019 we became involved with Sold4U Auctions in Hallie to raise additional funds through the sale of donated household items. So far, we have raised about \$2,800, which is in a "seed" fund for a future resale shop to help fund Tiny Houses/Hope Village.

On June 28, 2019 we had a Tiny House/Hope Village fund-raiser concert at River View Park in Chippewa Falls that was sponsored by WWIB radio station ... "Hope On The River." He raised \$5,000 had about 1,300 in attendance. We will be doing this again in 2020 and hope to more than double those numbers.

We have set aside funds of \$1,050 for 15 nights of emergency motel shelter for those that are prospective Tiny House guests. There is also an additional \$2,500 set aside to be used for guest needs such as shared rides, phone cards, groceries, and other emergency items.

Tiny Houses/Hope Village Goals

The Tiny House/Hope Village Board of Directors are putting together a SWOT Analysis Business Plan which includes ...

Phase 1: Stop building at 10 Tiny Houses

Phase 2: Find property and set up services on site ... laundry, showers, etc. We are currently serving about 30% of homeless people in our area. The goal is 100%. If we can't house them, we can at least provide showers and laundry facilities at the Hope Village site.

Phase 3: Add Tiny Houses to the Hope Village Site.

**Tiny Houses Have Saved The Community
More Than \$260,000 Since Inception in 2016**

We had 16 guests in our Tiny Houses in 2019. Of those 16, five have found permanent housing and four are still with us at this time.

Since its inception in 2016 we have provided 3,718 nights of shelter for a total of 46 guests. Based on the average motel cost of \$70/night, that a savings to the community of \$260,260

Tiny House Guest Testimonial

Sara had a string of unfortunate events happen to her that brought her to a Hope Village Tiny House. Sara lost a teenage daughter to cancer during the winter of 2015 and in 2016 her significant other had health conditions that kept him from working. On top of those two things her vehicle just wore out from the many trips to medical clinics.

Sara was able to find a job while in a Hope Village Tiny House, pay off some past bills, and a car was donated to her by a concerned Hope Village volunteer from Our Saviors Lutheran Church. Sara was an experienced Nurse's Aide and has moved in with a person that needs a personal aide to help her with her daily living as she recovers from an illness. Sara has also taken on a part time job driving taxi.

AMEN!

For more information about Tiny House/Hope Village, or to make a contribution to this mission, contact Mike Cohoon ... 715-210-5405 ... cohoonms@yahoo.com or go to the Tiny House/Hope Village website ... www.hopevillagechippewafalls.com

*** "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.

**In 2019 “Lighten Your Load” Saw An Increase
in Guests Served and Laundry Washed/Dried**

In 2019 the number of guests using “Lighten Your Load” continued to climb. We served 712 guests and washed/dried 1,467 loads of laundry. Total expenses in 2019 for washing, drying and supplies was \$5530.97

To help fund this mission in 2019 we received \$1,500 from Central Lutheran’s Burke Fund ... a \$975 grant from the Community Foundation of Chippewa County ... a \$250 grant from the Chippewa Falls Rotary Club ... \$1,736.82 from local church contributions ... \$627 from individual contributions ... \$500 from the Chippewa Valley Street Ministry ... \$1,111.16 from our CFMC coin fund-raiser ... and \$360 miscellaneous donations ... for a total income of \$7,169.98 in 2019. This gives us some seed money as we head into 2020.

We had 36 volunteers step forward to cover the 97 volunteer spots in 2019, for a total of 291 volunteer hours. Thank You to all that make our “Lighten Your Load” laundry mission a success with your time, donations and prayers.

This mission can be summed up by a comment we received from one of our recent LYL guests ...

“I am a single parent of a 2-year old and we been having a hard time the last few months. I ended up having to leave a toxic relationship that left us in a bad situation. We moved into an apartment complex without any laundry. I’ve been here a couple times now and honestly it is such a blessing! Not sure what I would have done without this. Thank you so very much – God bless!”

AMEN!

*** Lather With Love” Soap Mission (Feb. 2019)**

-- 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.

More Than 1,000 Soap Items Gathered In Feb. 2019

In 2019 the CFMC collected 199 containers of laundry soap ... 149 dish soaps ... 524 hand soaps ... 265 shampoos ... and 209 health items for a total of 1,346 misc. soap/health items.

These items were equally divided and delivered to, or picked up, by the following local food pantries ... Chippewa Falls Salvation Army, Valley Vineyard, St. Francesca, Legacy Center and Chippewa Valley Alternate High School. First Presbyterian and English Lutheran weren't in need of additional soap items at this time.

*** Soles4Souls Shoe Mission (Sept. 2019)**

-- 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 around 4,000 pounds. It was a little less than last year. However, two+ tons of shoes are still a pretty impressive amount. Thank You!

Clothes4Souls Comes To Chippewa Falls In December

Also, because of our contact with Soles4Souls, Chippewa Falls was selected as one of the sites this year to distribute more than 600 brand new coats donated by Macy's and more than 250 pairs of shoes/boots donated by DSW (Designer Shoe Warehouse) Footwear. Which we did at Chi High on Dec. 3rd.

All clothes and shoes that weren't distributed on Dec. 3rd were donated to various schools and local pantries for further distribution to those in need.

*** "Touched Twice" Mission (October 5th)**

-- Mike Cohoon

This was the 15th year of this event, normally held at Landmark Christian Church. However, this year the CFMC fully joined in with 11 of the CFMC churches participating. Also, this year it was hosted at Parkview School on Oct. 5th.

It was a stormy day, so numbers were done from past years with 109 guests participating. However, because the numbers were low things weren't quite as

hectic as in years past, and it gave the new CFMC volunteers a better chance to see how things run and spend a little more time with their assigned guests. All in preparation for “Touched Twice” 2020.

Services provided at “Touched Twice” 2019 included oil changes, foot care, medical care, eye care, haircuts, family portraits, family counseling, groceries, clothing, a meal and entertainment.

*** First Annual CFMC Christmas Day Noon Dinner (Dec. 25th)**

-- Tiffany Wogahn

This Christmas Day dinner was a joint effort with the CFMC and Agnes’ Table. It was a huge success with approximately 160 guests and about 30 volunteers for the meal service. They dined on ham, turkey and even some prime rib and all the fixings that were donated for this meal.

-- LOCAL MISSION OUTREACHES WE SUPPORTED IN 2019 --

The CFMC supported various individual church/community missions through volunteers, donations and prayers, which included ...

*** CareLink January 2019 Fund-Raiser**

*** Prepare and Serve Meal at Open Door Clinic**

*** “One Fest” Christian Music Festival**

*** Valley Vineyard Backpack/School Supply Giveaway** (They distributed more than 950 backpacks filled with school supplies, as well as providing more than 400 haircuts and gave away more than 200 pairs of shoes and literally a ton of clothing.)

*** Landmark Christian Church “Operation Christmas Child”**

*** Christ Episcopal Harvest Banquet and Open House Fund-Raiser for Local Food Pantries and Agnes’ Table**

-- HELPING INDIVIDUALS IN NEED IN 2019 --

- * Allie Isaacson, Chippewa Co. Public Health Nurse looking for dressing/changing table for new mom in Stanley. Found and Delivered.**
- * Allie Isaacson, Chippewa Co. Public Health Nurse looking for dressing/changing table and infant's high chair for mom in need. Found and Delivered.**
- * Air Conditioner found and installed for Tina.**
- * Family leaving Tiny House needed furniture for new apartment. Found and Delivered.**
- * Chippewa Fresh Start Youth Build, a new program at Work Force Resource, built 4 Tiny Pantries to be given away to the community. All four were distributed ... one to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church ... one to Trinity United Methodist Church ... and two to neighborhoods on Spruce St. (English Bateman actually put up their own Tiny Pantry prior to these others being donated.)**
- * Jennifer Lenbom contacted us about a family needing baby clothes. Found and delivered.**
- * CFMC member had two twin beds to give away. We contacted Becky at CDC and she found a lady that was in need of the beds. Found and delivered.**
- * CFMC member had a box spring and mattress to give away. Mike Cohoon and Becky Piper were able to find someone that could use it. Found and delivered**
- * CFMC member had a refrigerator to give away. Another CFMC member knew of someone that could use it. Found and delivered.**
- * Numerous Pray Requests passed along to CFMC group.**

CFMC GUEST SPEAKERS IN 2019

* **Cara**, Domestic Violence Advocate at the Chippewa Falls Family Support Center.

SUBJECT: Elder Abuse. How to detect physical, emotional, financial, personal or sexual abuse. **If you see signs of abuse call the Family Support 24-Hour Crisis Line: 1-800-400-7020 or 715-723-1138.**

* **Jill Cooper**, Open Door Clinic Coordinator

SUBJECT: A short history of the Open-Door Clinic and what the CFMC can do to help. They could use groups to provide a Tuesday evening meal for about 20 Open Door Clinic Volunteers. **If interested, contact Jill ... 715-720-1443 ... coordinator@chippewaopendoor.org**

* **Becky Piper**, Homeless Services Coordinator at L.E. Phillips Career Development Center, Chippewa Falls

SUBJECT: Homelessness in Chippewa Area and how the CFMC can help. They provide motel vouchers for emergency housing, gas cards, as well as providing counseling that includes legal issues, mental health problems, depression, etc. They could use donations for gas cards and motel vouchers. **If interested make check out to: CDC L.E. Phillips ... mail to: CDC L.E. Phillips, 1515 Ball St., Eau Claire, WI 54703.**

* **Mike Henry & Karen Petersin**, Chippewa Valley Street Ministry

SUBJECT: What is the Chippewa Valley Street Ministry? They set up on Barstow Street every Tuesday and Friday evenings from 5:30 – 7:00pm. They provide food, clothing and a compassionate faith-based ear to hear the stories of those in need, as they in turn offer words of hope and encouragement. All are invited to help on Tuesday and/or Friday. **If interested in helping call ... 1-847-539-9577 or 715-874-6652 or 717-529-4802. Email: mikeah3@gmail.com**

* **Kimberly Wahler**, Chippewa Falls Salvation Army Coordinator

SUBJECT: Salvation Army. How can the CFMC help? Food donations are always appreciated, but they could also use volunteers to serve the guests, especially on Thursday afternoons and once a month when the Commodity Truck arrives. They could also use are prayers for those in need. **If interested in helping, contact Kimberly ... 715-726-9506 ... kimberly.wahler@usc.salvationarmy.org**

* **Jennie Childs**, Thrivent Financial Manager-Community Engagement
SUBJECT: Thrivent Action Teams. If you have an idea for a community-based project or fund-raiser, Thrivent members can allocate \$250 for your event. “Choice Dollars” are also available, as well as t-shirts for your crew. **If interested, contact Jennie and she can help locate interested Thrivent members ... 715-514-9237 ... jennie.childs@thrivent.com**

* **Steve Norlander**, Chippewa County Jail Chaplain
SUBJECT: Good News Jail Ministry. It was founded in 1960 and has been ministering to the incarcerated in Western Wisconsin for 20 years. Good News Jail Ministry is a 501©3 organization and they receive zero tax dollar. We can help this ministry with our prayers ... volunteering to help with the jail ministry or fund-raising events ... financial support. **For more info contact Steve ... 715-726-4566 ... Email: Stephen.norlander@goodnewsjail.org**

* **Lisa Huson**, Executive Director and **Erin Gregor**, Program Director for the Chippewa Falls Mentor Program.
SUBJECT: How can the CFMC help the Mentor Program? They have children in need of mentors from K -12th grade, but mostly middle school kids. No special skills are needed, just a caring heart. It requires about 30 minutes per week. You can play a game, read a book, take a walk down the hall or simply sit and talk. **For more information you can go to their website ... cfsd.chipfalls.k12.wi.us ... or call Lisa (715-726-2400, ext. 2474) ... or Erin (715-726-2400, ext. 2516).**

* **Sgt. Korry Boos and Kaitlin Horstman** from the Chippewa Falls Police Dept.
SUBJECT: Fund-Raiser for CFPD Family Room. Cost of project is \$6,000; they have currently raised \$2,300. (**NOTE:** They had the fund-raiser on Oct. 24th. They met their goal, but continue to accept donations for upkeep and supplies for the Family Room.)

* **Nancy Scobie**, Heyde Center Director
SUBJECT: Invitation to Fund-Raising Concert of Ancient Hymns and Traditional Carols. Proceeds to be shared equally between the host, Christ Episcopal Church, and the Chippewa Valley Cultural Association.

-- THANK YOU! --

2019 was another amazing year for the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition. We have made a difference as we have lived out our faith in our community. We again look forward to what the Holy Spirit has in store for us in 2020.

“Thank You” to All of You for helping to make the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition the Hands, Feet and Hearts of Christ!

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