

January 27, 2026

## Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition 2025 Year-In-Review

### 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.”*

**CFMC Website:** [www.cfmissioncoalition.org](http://www.cfmissioncoalition.org)

**CFMC Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/cfmissioncoalition](http://www.facebook.com/cfmissioncoalition)

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### **General CFMC Info –**

The Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition started in August 2011 with six local churches. Today our numbers include 22 local churches of various denominations and 47 local non-profit agencies and community contacts. Our CFMC email list has 180+ email addresses, which is why we always “blind copy” everyone when we send out emails.

There are no monetary costs 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! We actually have no money, we are totally volunteer-based.

The CFMC is comprised mostly of lay members from the Social Ministry Teams of the CFMC 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 –**

#### **CFMC Churches (22):**

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

#### **CFMC Non-Profit Agencies/Community Contacts (47):**

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 -- Feed My People -- Chippewa Co. Public Health -- Chippewa Valley Street Ministry -- Marshfield Clinic -- Mentor Chippewa -- Agnes' Table -- St. Francesca Resource Center -- 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/Tiny Houses -- Romeis Apts. -- Menomonie Mission Coalition -- Visiting Angels -- Chippewa Valley High School -- Chippewa Co. Aging and Disability Resource Center -- Rescued and Redeemed -- CESA 11 Head Start -- C.F. Rotary Club -- Family Promise/Beacon House -- Fierce Freedom -- Stanley/Boyd "Power of 100" -- FSET (Food Share Employment & Training) -- Family Health Center -- Menomonie Workforce Resource -- Midwest Christ In Action -- Aurora -- Community Garden -- Safe Families For Children -- Foster Care -- North Lakes Community Clinic -- Mobile Meals

### **How We Connect**

We are currently meeting once every other month (even months), 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 prayer for our mission, as well as any individual prayer requests and ends with all of us reciting the Our Father/Lord's Prayer.

We also connect via emails, CFMC Website and CFMC Facebook page. (A Big "Thank You" to Mark Birrittella and Tiffany Wogahn for monitoring and updating our CFMC website and Facebook page as needed.)

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 by the people we meet and share those prayer requests with everyone in the CFMC to include in their daily prayers.

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### **-- MISSION OUTREACH OF THE CFMC IN 2025 --**

\* **Hope Village/Tiny Homes Mission for the Homeless (On Going)** -- Mike Cohoon, Director of Hope Village

-- About Hope Village -- Website: [www.hopevillagechippewafalls.org](http://www.hopevillagechippewafalls.org)

Established in January 2016 as a mission of the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition, Hope Village/Tiny Homes provide temporary housing for individuals experiencing homelessness. This

initiative, led by Mike Cohoon, Director of Hope Village, relies on a dedicated core of volunteers and a Board of Directors.

Mike became the full-time Director of Hope Village in January 2023. In November 2024, Pauline Spiegel joined Hope Village as a part-time Assistant to the Director, and Vicky Loeffelholz was added as a Navigator for our Hope Village/Tiny Home Guests in June 2025.

Originally, Tiny Homes were placed at various churches throughout Chippewa Falls. Since December 2024, Hope Village has had a permanent location at **1825 Kennedy Rd, Chippewa Falls, WI.**

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### **Hope Village/Tiny Home Facilities:**

Hope Village includes **Ten Year-Round Tiny Homes** and a **Community Center** (An 11th Tiny Home is currently located at Chippewa Valley Bible Church.)

The Community Center features:

- 4 bathrooms and 3 showers
- A laundry room
- A full kitchen and community gathering space
- Office and classroom spaces
- A basement serving as a severe weather shelter and storage area for donated items and Tiny House supplies.

**Tiny Home Guests stay rent-free with the understanding that Hope Village is just transitional housing designed to get them back on their feet and into the general community once again.**

**Each Tiny Home Guest is supported by:**

- Two Mentors that keep in contact with them on a regular basis for support.
- A Navigator to guide them toward an independent lifestyle. They meet with the Navigator and their Mentors once a week to go over progress on their lifestyle goals. Progress on their lifestyle goals are required to remain in a Tiny House.

### **Impact of Hope Village/Tiny Homes**

-- In 2025 we housed 25 households made up of a total of 48 individuals. We provided 6,631 nights of shelter for those Tiny Home Guests. Our 11 Tiny Homes were occupied for 3,045 nights during 2025.

-- Since inception in 2016, we have housed 124 households made up of 324 individuals. We have provided 37,646 nights of shelter or the equivalent of \$1,524,080 of motel vouchers.

- In 2025 our percentage of guest that move in to permanent housing rose to 75% from a running average of 70% over the last 9 years.
- In 2025, the average length of stay was 160 days.
- We have housed a total of 94 children under the age of 19 since inception.
- Nine Hope Village Guests have been high school students, separate from their parents. Eight of them have graduated from high school.
- Nine others have been new-born babies arriving directly from the maternity ward with their mothers.
- Since inception, 23% of our households had a member with a disability and 5% have had a member that was a Veteran.

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### **Hope Village Rental Units**

- In July 2025 Hope Village completed one Six-Plex and two Duplexes available for leasing for transitioning Tiny Home Guests, as well as some units available to the general public. Currently 9 units are leased with one three-bedroom still available.
- In March 2025 Hope Village purchased the Indianhead Motel in Chippewa Falls and are currently in the process of converting the motel units into 27 efficiency apartments for singles and/or couples. Received a \$1.5 million Community Development Block Grant toward renovation of the motel. We hope to have the units available for rent by mid-2026.
- Hope Village has submitted a grant application for another HOME-ARP RHD Grant (Home-American Rescue Plan/Rental Housing Development) to fund two more Six-Plexes and two more Duplexes. We will hear if it is approved by March 2026.

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### **Hope Village 2025 Fund Raisers**

- March 2025 – Quarter Auction Raised \$26,500.
- Hope Village Resale Shop made \$24,916 in 2025. (Currently Closed during renovation of Indianhead Motel into Hope Village efficiency apartments.)
- July 2025 -- Hope Village Golf Scramble Raised \$14,000+
- August 2025 – Clothing Fund Drive Raised \$3,400

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## Crystal's Hope Village Journey – A Testimonial

Crystal was just nine years old when the abuse in her life began, bringing years of hurt, sadness, and suffering. The trauma led her down a dark path, and for many years, she turned to drugs to escape the pain. She lost her family, survived a boyfriend who attempted to kill her, and was eventually left with nowhere to go. Alone and desperate, she ended up sleeping in her car.

Crystal knew she was in trouble and needed help. She found a caseworker who provided her with a stack of resources, and she began making calls. That search led her to Hope Village—Tiny Housing Alternatives, Inc.

She connected with our Hope Village Intake Coordinator, and was placed on the waitlist for a Tiny House. While waiting for an opening, arrangements were made for her to stay in a hotel.

Now, four months after moving into Hope Village, Crystal reflects on her journey:

*"It was just the push I needed,"* she says. *"When I first moved into the Tiny House, I got a job immediately, started rebuilding my relationship with my daughter, and now I am so happy."*

She describes Hope Village as a place of kindness and support:

*"Everyone here is terrific; they are so easy to talk to. I've made many friends and received so much support. Now, I feel safe and comfortable."*

Crystal shares her story in the hope that it will inspire others.

*"If my story helps just one person, it's worth it. I want others to know there is hope, and God answers prayers!"*

Her goals are clear: she's saving money to afford an apartment, working to get her license back, and planning to buy a car. With determination and support, she's building a brighter future.

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### \* **“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.

### **2025 “Lighten Your Load” Stats**

- \* Total number of laundry sessions – 46 (2 canceled due to inclement weather)
- \* Total number of participants – 439 (125 unique)
- \* Washing more than 1,061 loads and drying them
- Cost of washing machines - \$2, \$3, \$4, and \$6
- Cost of dyer - \$.25 for 10 minutes
  
- \* Average 10 participants per session
- \* Average 37 participants per month
- \* Average 23 loads per session
- \* Most participants at a session – 16 which occurred 3 times
- \* Most loads by 1 participant 8, 7 loads by 2 participants, 6 loads by 9 participants, 5 loads by 19 participants
- \* Tuesday evenings 238 participants
- \* Thursday afternoons 201 participants
  
- \* One family received a washer and dryer through Amundson’s “Clean Clothes for Kids” program
  
- \* 21 volunteers – 2 people volunteered at 11 sessions  
3 people volunteered at 9 sessions

### **2025 INCOME**

• 5 churches	\$3,206.54
• 6 individuals	\$771.67
• <u>Dandy Land Management</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
TOTAL	\$4,478.21

### **2025 PURCHASE OF COINS OR LAUNDRY CARDS**

• Quarters	\$4,500.00
• <u>Suds Hub</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
TOTAL	\$4,800.00

### **Comments From Our “Lighten Your Load” Guests -- 2025**

**(Comments are printed as written by participants in our notebook)**

- LYL has made it easier for me to not have to worry as much that I will have clean clothes for work. Being a single mother times are definitely tough.

- I am in between jobs right now and with 2 kids, laundry is expensive! I am very greatful for the help in this rough chapter in my life!
- Well, Blessed once again by “lighten your load!” God has also lightened my life – even thru this program. Thank you to the wonderful people that Bring this program to those of us that need it. My Love to all of you Brothers & Sisters! Jen K
- Once again in the presence of Angels ☺ thank you so much for all you do, we are so blessed. I want so badly to do the work he expects of me. I just need to find my calling. my legs do not work well. Love Jennifer
- So glad to have people in my life like you. God Bless you all for being kind to me and helping me when I am in need. I Love You all ☺ Brenda
- Todays Laundry Services helped tremendously. I have been caring for my mother these last 2 months. She became ill about 6 months ago. I've had to cut my hours at work. Resulting in financial hardship. I've been significantly stressed about food, gas, laundry rent. Having help with my laundry this week alleviated some of the stress. Thank you & God Bless. Donna
- God Bless this wonderful program and the beautiful people that help run it. Thank You! Love, Jen A token of love
- “lighten your ‘load” has helped me as a single mom of two children (boys) be able to manage doing laundry even more without breaking the bank. This program ensures that my kids & myself have nice clean clothes without any kind of judgment of how clean the clothes are. I am so grateful for being informed about the program.
- Lighten your load helps me put almost \$20 dollars that would normally go to the cost of doing laundry go towards something else needed during the month like groceries or hygiene items. Very friendly people/church that hosts this event. Very much appreciated. Thank – you.

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\* **“Lather With Love” Soap Mission (February 2025)**

-- 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 other sources.

This year we collected 2,698 soap/health care items that were evenly distributed to the following local food pantries ... First Presbyterian ... English Lutheran of Bateman ... Valley Vineyard ... St. Francesca Resource Center ... Agnes' Table/Legacy Center ... Chippewa Valley High School ... and LE Phillips CDC Chippewa Outreach Office.

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**\* “Love Chippewa” Touched-Twice Mission (September 2025)**

-- Whitney Falkenberg

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

Services provided at the “Love Chippewa” Touched-Twice event on Sept. 27, 2025 included oil changes, medical care, chiropractic care, vision care, haircuts, groceries, a warm meal and prayers.

We also had a number of information tables set up to provide information about the various community services available to our guests.

Several CFMC churches provided 52 volunteers, which touched the lives of 51 families and approximately 90 individuals at this day-long event. An amazing event that truly showed God’s Love In Action!

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**\* CFMC Free Community Meals (Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas 2025)**

-- Easter meal hosted by St. Charles Catholic Church

-- Thanksgiving meal hosted by Central Lutheran Church

-- Christmas meal hosted by First Presbyterian Church

Right around 150 people were served at each of those meals with volunteers coming from several of our CFMC churches working together to prepare, serve and visit with our community guests.

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**\* Supporting Missions of our CFMC Churches/Non-Profit Agencies - 2025**

Your CFMC also supported various missions of the CFMC member churches/non-profit agencies. Which included ...

-- Valley Vineyard Backpack/School Supply Giveaway – Aug. 17th  
(1,300+ backpacks given away)

-- CFMC meal service at Agnes' Table – July 17th and Nov. 25th

-- CFMC meal service at Barnabas Table – July 14th and Nov. 5th

-- Hope Village “Quarter Auction” Fund Raiser – March 1st (Raised \$26,500)

-- Hope Village Golf Outing Fund Raiser – July 28<sup>th</sup> (Raised \$14,000+)

-- St. Francesca Winter Clothing Drive – Oct. 17th (Served 61 families, which included 273 family members. Gave away 244 coats, 46 pairs of boots and 458 misc. winter clothing items.)

-- Hope Village Clothing Fun Drive – Aug. 13 - 25 (Raised \$3,400)

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### **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS – 2025 CFMC Guest Speakers**

Over the course of 2025 we had various community speakers make presentations at our meetings to tell about their mission and ways we could help through volunteering, donations or prayers.

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

#### **January 2025 -- Julia Jilek-Proue, Interim Executive Director of Agnes' Table**

Agnes' Table serves free Community Meals on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. (NOTE: In December 2025 they moved their meal services to St. Charles Community Room.) If you would like to volunteer to serve a meal contact Paula Gregory ... 715-861-3892 ... Paula Gregory ... [paula.gregory@agnestable.org](mailto:paula.gregory@agnestable.org) ...or check out their Facebook page... <https://www.facebook.com/agnes.table.chippewa/>

#### **February 2025 – Kris Malecha, CESA 11 Head Start Program.**

Head Start's goal is to support and be a part of the community through their various programs for struggling families of all ages. Current contact is Katrina Bembnister ... [katrinab@cesa11.k12.wi.us](mailto:katrinab@cesa11.k12.wi.us) ... 715-723-1211. Their main office is located at 421 Frenette Drive, Chippewa Falls, WI.

#### **March 2025 – Brian Dulmes, Chippewa Falls Mobile Meals.**

Mobile Meals delivers hot, nutritious meals within the Chippewa Falls city limits Monday thru Friday at a cost of \$5/meal. They also do wellness checks when delivering the meals. More volunteer drivers are needed. If interested, contact Brian ... [Dulmes52021@gmail.com](mailto:Dulmes52021@gmail.com) Donations can be sent to "Mobile Meals, P.O. Box 601, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.

#### **April 2025 – Brenda Clauson, Community Engagement Specialist for the Salvation Army of the Chippewa Valley.**

Discussed the Salvation Army program, Pathway of Hope, which is an approach to provide targeted case management services to families with a desire to take action and increase their sufficiency. It is designed to increase family stability and hope as well as reduce need for emergency or supportive services. For more information contact Brenda ... [brenda.clausen@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:brenda.clausen@usc.salvationarmy.org) ... or go to their website ... <https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/wi/eau-claire/south-hastings-way-corps/>

#### **May 2025 – Ed William, Lay Pastor at First Presbyterian Church.**

Ed gave a presentation about their mission trip to North Carolina through the Fuller Center for Housing, which rebuilds homes after a national disaster. Ed joined 18 other

churches from the Presbytery for this mission trip. For more info, Contact Ed ... Pastor [pastor@fpcchippewa.org](mailto:pastor@fpcchippewa.org)

**June 2025 – Rev. Breanna Illiene, Director of Ecumenical Innovation and Justice Initiative, Wis. Council of Churches.**

Breanna discussed the subject of Community Care by encouraging churches to promote digital equity ... training and helping people become comfortable in the use of digital technology, even being able to obtain affordable devices for them. For more information contact Breanna ... [illene@wichurches.org](mailto:illene@wichurches.org)

**August 2025 – Erica, Domestic Violence Advocate with the Chippewa Falls Family Support Center.**

Their focus is on serving those who have been impacted by interpersonal violence including Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking. They also provide parenting services, violence prevention education, parent counseling & advocacy, emergency short-term shelter, rapid rehousing and 24-hour crisis support. For more information visit their website ... <https://www.familysupportcentercf.org>

**August 2025 – Joan Miller, Christ In Action Midwest.**

Christ In Action is a faith-based disaster response organization that crossed denominational lines to work together to provide practical responses to people in crisis due to floods, fires, tornados, etc. across multiple states. For more information, check out their website ... [www.christinaction.com](http://www.christinaction.com)

**October 2025 – Rachel Sonsalla, FSET Program Support Specialist & Maddie Eber, FSET Case Manager.**

FSET: Food Share, Employment & Training. This is a free, state-funded program to help people build their job skills and find jobs by identifying their individual strengths and needs. They also provide work-related transportation costs, clothing, education and child care. They are located at 405 Island St., Chippewa Falls. For more information contact Rachel ... [Klink@changewithin.net](mailto:Klink@changewithin.net) ... or Maddie ... [eber@changewithin.net](mailto:eber@changewithin.net) ... 715-491-9809 or visit their website ... <https://www.myfset.net>

**December 2025 – Xander, Resource Development Coordinator, Chippewa Falls Family Support Center.**

Discussed their domestic violence Awareness Project and Family Support Services. Xander is part of a staff of 19 people that provide one-on-one counseling for domestic violence victims. Xander wanted to make us aware that they are offering “Caring Calendars 2026” for \$35 to help raise funds for their programs. They can be picked up at the Family Resource Center, 403 N. High St., Chippewa Falls, WI after Dec. 22nd. For more information, contact Xander ... [resourcedevel@fscf.org](mailto:resourcedevel@fscf.org) ... 715-723-1138.

**CFMC ODDS AND ENDS**

Because of our contacts with the CFMC local churches and local non-profit agencies, we receive numerous requests for individuals that need help, as well as passing along information about serving opportunities, community events, etc. We were able to help

with the majority of these requests through generous donations from various groups/individuals, volunteers stepping up, numerous prayers, etc.

- Feb. 2025: Cornell man needed to replace broken water heater. – PRAYER ANSWERED!
- April 2025: Lady's house condemned and had to move to a camper. She needed supplies to make her camper livable. – PRAYER ANSWERED!
- July 2025: Non-English speaking lady in need of air conditioner – PRAYER ANSWERED!
- Nov. 2025: Former Hope Village elderly couple needed washer/dryer for new apartment. – PRAYER ANSWERED!!
- Nov. 2025: Former Hope Village elderly couple needed bed for new apartment. – PRAYER ANSWERED!
- Dec. 2025: Man living in camper needed propane tank filled. – PRAYER ANSWERED!
- Dec. 2025: Man needed 7XL winter clothing. – PRAYER ANSWERED!
- Jan. 2026: Lady needed \$400 payment to enter the Sober House in Bloomer to get her life back in order. PRAYER ANSWERED!

**-- 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 14 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***