

# **Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition 2020 - 2022**

## **“What In God’s Name Did We Do During COVID?”**

*COVID put a stop to our monthly in-person meetings in March 2020. However, it didn’t put a stop to our mission of reaching out to our community and the world around us to make a difference in His Name.*

*I’ve put together a number of things we have done these past two crazy years ... missions that we continued, community information passed along, individual people that we have helped, prayer requests we have received, etc.*

*If you have any additions or corrections to the list below, please let me know.*

*We are scheduled to return to our in-person meeting Sept. 12, 2022. Stay Tuned for more details.*

*Thank you for hanging in there over the past two years.*

*Loving God, Loving People, Making a Difference in His Name!*

*Tom Drehmel*

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**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.”**

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**February 2020 – “Lather With Love” Soap Mission for area Food Pantries. We collected well over 1,000 soap related items and distributed them to local food pantries.**

**February 2020 – Prayer requests sent to CFMC for two of our “Lighten Your Load” guests, Vera and Tina.**

**March 2020** – CFMC meeting cancelled due to COVID.

**March 2020** -- Request from Stephanie Abbe from Chippewa Co. Dept. of Public Health about a family with a 6-month-old baby in need of a highchair. A CFMC member was able to furnish a high chair for that family.

**March 2020** – Passed along information to the CFMC about the Marshfield Clinic Coronavirus Community Fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial resources quickly and easily to local community organizations that have been impacted by the current Coronavirus epidemic.

**April 2020** – Reached out to CFMC to help identify local non-profits in need of help during the Coronavirus epidemic.

**April 2020** – Contacted by Jenn Barrett at the LE Phillips CDC Outreach Office about an elderly lady in need of a 4-wheel walker. A CFMC member donated a 3-wheel walker that filled her needs.

**August 2020** – Received an email from Jenn Barrett at the LE Phillips CDC Outreach Office there was a need for non-perishable food items to help replenish their dwindling supplies. Several CFMC members stepped up to help provide the needed items.

**August 2020** – Made contact with “We Care, Eau Claire,” a similar group as our CFMC. Looking at possible joint mission projects in the future, or at least to keep in touch to share information.

**Sept. 2020** – Sent out a Tiny House/Hope Village Update. At this time 6 houses were occupied ... Family of 5 ... Family of 3 ... 3 single men ... a single lady ... expecting a family of 3 and another couple next week.

**Sept. 2020** – Decision made to go ahead with our “Sole4Souls” shoe mission. Again collected over two tons of shoes.

**October 2020** – A family of five that are Tiny House guests needed help moving to their new apartment. We sent out a request to the CFMC and a group from Jacob’s Well stepped forward to help with the move.

**November 2020** – Sent info to the CFMC about a video sent to us from Jenn Schafer, Community Education Coordinator about a Thankful Tree project for Thanksgiving. Here’s the link if you want to check it out ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePwnk05KaUs>

**December 2020** – Passed along info to the CFMC about Dementia Care Virtual Events received from Carla Berscheit, Dementia Care Specialist with the Aging and Disability Resource Center serving Chippewa and Dunn County.

**December 2020** – Passed along info to the CFMC about a clothing drive being held at Barnabas Table to help fund their mission of providing free meals to those in need. A number of you stepped forward to donate clothes and Barnabas was able to raise close to \$900.

**January 2021** – Sent out the following update on “Lighten Your Load” for 2020 ...  
We offered 9 laundry sessions in January and February serving 133 participants washing more than 302 loads of clothes spending \$1,194.75.  
19 volunteers worked at the laundry sessions.

Because of the pandemic Lighten Your Load stopped for the safety of volunteers and participants.

In September we began a new version of Lighten Your Load. L.E. Phillips Career Development Outreach Office is giving out our LYL laundry cards to anyone who asks for them. The LYL committee called 2020 participants to inform them of the new program and it was also posted on Facebook. The cards have a \$20 value and can only be used at the Suds Hub Laundromats. There are now two locations - on the East Hill and Southside. The positive result is that participants can go to the laundromat whenever it is convenient. The downside is that participants and volunteers do not have the opportunity to interact.

In the 4 months of using this process 126 cards have been given to LYL participants and CDC clients at a cost of \$1,600. The need for laundry assistance keeps growing. We appreciate receiving donations from individuals and churches. We are thankful to receive a grant from The Community Foundation of Chippewa County and Central Lutheran Church's Foundation and Burke Fund.

As in the past our participants are grateful and wrote:

- This program helps me and my family bi-weekly to do laundry. It helps us because we don't have a washer and dryer at home and have a huge family. Also, it's a true blessing to have God's people to help out family's even people that are in need. We greatly appreciate it and thank you guys so much. May you all stay blessed.
- This is my family's first time using Lighten My Load. We live in a trailer with no washer/or dryer. So, this helps a lot to use couple times a month for extra work clothes, blankets and towels mostly. It is a great need here in Chippewa Falls area. Thank you for your program and support and bless the hands that bless others!

**January 2021** – Sent out a Community Health Survey to the CFMC that we received from Melissa Ives, Community Health Assessment Project Manager.

**January 2021** – Received a generous donation of \$120 in Chamber Bucks from Great Northern Corporation. We used the donation to purchase laundry pods for “Lighten Your Load.”

**February 2021** – Our CFMC partner, Central Lutheran, donated approximately 1,000 laundry pods for “Lighten Your Load.” They were delivered to LE Phillips CDC Outreach Office for distribution to our “Lighten Your Load” guests, or anyone in need of laundry pods.

**March 2021** – Passed along information about United Way Grants being available for groups doing good in our community. Both Tiny Houses/Hope Village and Lighten Your Load applied for the grants.

**April 2021** – Sent the CFMC a list of items needed for our Tiny Houses. The list included bath towels, folding lawn chairs, twin size blankets, flashlights, and radios. Items could be dropped off at the LE Phillips CDC Outreach Office in Chippewa.

**June 2021** – Sent out a request to the CFMC for motel vouchers that are needed at the LE Phillips CDC Outreach Office in Chippewa. Each voucher costs \$70 for one-night motel stay. This is an ongoing need.

**June 2021** -- Sent out a reminder about the WWIB Parking Lot Picnic on June 24<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for Hope Village.

**July 2021** – Sent out a request to the CFMC letting them know Barnabas Table was in need of a refrigerator to replace the one that died. A generous donor stepped up to replace the fridge.

**July 2021** – Reminded the CFMC about United Way’s “Day Of Caring” on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for volunteers as well as community projects.

**July 2021** – Sent out info to the CFMC about Family Support’s “Safety and Strength” Group for those that have experienced domestic violence.

**July 2021** – Sent out a request to donate Sold4U auction items. Funds raised from this weekly auction helps fund Hope Village. This is an ongoing need.

**August 2021** – A number of CFMC churches and non-profits helped with Valley Vineyards Annual Backpack/School Supply Giveaway. They gave out close to 1000 backpacks and supplies to school kids in need.

**August 2021** -- It was decided to try another Soles4Souls shoe mission in spite of COVID. We came up a little short of gathering two tons of shoes.

**September 2021** – We made the CFMC aware of a new community fund that had been set up to help local area non-profits ... “Response, Recovery, Rebuild” Fund. A number of you stepped up to contribute to this fund and well over \$100,000 was put back into our community to help non-profits weather the storm caused by COVID. (NOTE: \$4,000 was awarded to Lighten Your Load from this fund.)

**September 2021** – We sent out a request we received from the local Methodist churches about aiding the Afghan resettlement effort. I’m sure a number of you were able to help with this effort

through donations and/or prayers. One of our CFMC churches was also considering being a drop-off point for supplies. We also received information from the Menomonie Mission Coalition about a link to AMAZON where we could order clothing and it would be sent directly to Fort McCoy

**September 2021** – From time to time we passed along information to the CFMC about COVID testing sites. They in turn could pass it along to others as needed.

**September 2021** – During United Ways “Day of Caring” EO Johnson volunteered to prim ¾ of the Hope Village Community Building. A group of CFMC members finished the other side of the building.

**September 2021** – Ken and Shirley Froelich were selected as the September 2021 Jefferson Award Winners for their years of dedicated work for Sole4Souls. The announcement was made on WQOW TV. Congrats to Ken and Shirley!

**September 2021** – Mike Cohoon sent out a preliminary questionnaire about the feasibility of doing a Capital Fund Raising Campaign for Hope Village.

**October 2021** – We passed along information to the CFMC from Family Support about October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**October 2021** – We received a request to help with the annual “Neighbor-To-Neighbor” Thrift Sale to help raise funds for the “Neighbor-To-Neighbor” ministry which helps provide scholarships for Latin American Students at UW-Eau Claire. It was held at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire. A number of you were able to help.

**October 2021** – We were contacted by Versiti Blood Drive Program that supplies blood to the Marshfield Clinic Health Systems. They were looking for sites to hold their blood drive. Trinity United Methodist and Central Lutheran stepped up and provided a space for the blood drive.

**October 2021** – St. Francesca had their Winter Clothing Giveaway. The CFMC was asked to pass along the information to those in need.

**October 2021** – We sent out a call to the CFMC about the need for more Carelink volunteers. Several stepped up to help.

**November 2021** – We were contacted by LE Phillips CDC Outreach Office about a family in need of a stove/oven. We put out a call and a generous donor stepped up and purchased a new stove/oven for this family and had it delivered and set up.

**November 2021** – “Touched Twice” Ministry held a “Love Chippewa” Free Clinic at the Chippewa Senior Center. Volunteers from several of the CFMC churches/non-profits pitched in to help make it a success.

**November 2021** – Several CFMC churches as well as Agnes' Table and Barnabas Table provided Thanksgiving meals and fellowship for members of our community.

**November 2021** – Sent out a reminder about “World Kindness Day” on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. With all the craziness going on around us, it's good to step back from all of it and set aside one day just to be kind. Maybe it will evolve into every day being Kindness Day. Say a prayer.

**November 2021** – Sent out a call to the CFMC looking for Board Member for Carelink. (We still could use one or two.)

**November 2021** – Made the CFMC aware of a program set up through Workforce Resource where they will pay people that are over 55, a minimum wage to volunteer at a non-profit for approximately 20 hours per week.

**November 2021** – Sent out a call to the CFMC that Randy Walker needed some carpentry help at Barnabas. Help arrived to complete the project.

**November 2021** – We were made aware of a family with four children that were in need of a mattress/box spring for the Mom who was currently sleeping on the couch. They also needed snow pants and age-appropriate Christmas gifts for the four girls, ages 6,7,10 & 15. Several CFMC members stepped forward and helped this family with everything they requested. Merry Christmas!

**December 2021** – We were contacted by the Chippewa Co. Dept. of Human Services about a family in Cornell with a new-born baby. They were in need of a working washing machine. I sent out an email to the CFMC and a generous donor stepped up and purchased a new washing machine for this family and had it delivered and set-up for them.

**December 2021** – Let the CFMC know that Fellowship Church was doing a bible study on the video series, “The Chosen” on the big screen at Micon Theaters in Chippewa Falls. Several attended from CFMC. Amazing series.

**December 2021** -- Mike Cohoon was selected as the 2021 Chippewa Herald Person of the Year. Mike's dedication to Tiny Houses/Hope Village and the CFMC, as well as his work as a Youth Minister at Landmark are amazing testaments to a phrase we often use ... “Loving God, Loving People!” Congrats Mike!

**January 2022** – We were contacted by the Chippewa Co. Dept. of Public Health about a family in the Stanley area in need of a refrigerator. I sent out the request to the CFMC and again a generous donor stepped forward and purchased a new refrigerator of this family, had it delivered and set up for them.

**January 2022** – As we often do, we passed along a prayer request from one of our guests at our “Lighten Your Load” laundry mission.

**NOTE:** It has been an interesting couple of years for “Lighten Your Load” as we went back and forth with providing debit cards for laundry machines to doing face-to-face laundry help depending on current COVID restrictions.

**January 2022** – Shauna, one of our CFMC members, with Helping Hands For Our Children in the Chippewa Valley was in need of several totes to sort out donated clothing. We sent out a call to the CFMC and a generous donor stepped up and purchased the totes for Shauna.

**January 2022** – Shared an amazing song, Walking Down the Road by Acoustic Grace at Zion United Methodist Church. Here’s the link if you would like to hear it again ...  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT5NKJpTiBA>

**February 2022** – We once again decided to do the CFMC “Lather With Love” soap mission after taking off a year because of COVID. We also found out that Family Radio Drive was doing a similar soap mission at the same time as the CFMC. I contacted the lead person with Family Radio Drive and we may be able to team up with them in 2023. Stay tuned! Again, we collected over 1,000 soap related items and donated them to local pantries in need of those items.

**February 2022** -- Passed along some information from Family Support about a ZOOM group for anyone that has experienced domestic violence. (Actually, sent out a number of support group meetings to the CFMC from Family Support.)

**February 2022** – Sent out a request from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin. They are in need of volunteer mentors to match with kids in need of a little extra friendship.

**February 2022** – Received a request from LE Phillips CDC Outreach about a family that had just come out of a homeless situation and were in need of a microwave. Sent an email to CFMC and a generous donor stepped up and provided a microwave for this family.

**February 2022** – Contacted by LE Phillips CDC Outreach about a Dad and small daughter that had just moved out of a Tiny House into their own apartment and they were in need of a washer and dryer. I sent out an email to the CFMC and a generous donor stepped up and donated a washer and dryer for this family.

**March 2022** – Passed along information to the CFMC about an Easter Basket Distribution for children ages 3 – 12 who otherwise might go without. It was hosted by “Helping Hands For Our Children.”

**April 2022** – Received a request from Christ Episcopal about a thrift sale to raise funds for repairs to the low-cost housing unit located next to their church. We passed it along to the CFMC and donations were provided to help this ministry.

**April 2022** – Sent out a request to the CFMC about donating items and/or volunteering for the Sold4U auction site to raise funds for Hope Village. This is an ongoing need as the auction runs weekly. We don’t participate every week, just when we have enough items for the auction.

**May 2022** – Passed along information to the CFMC about “Sofas For Service” located in Altoona. It’s veteran-based, grass-roots organization that provides good to like-new or new condition home items to veterans in need. Donations and volunteers are always welcomed. Contact Info: <https://sofasforservice.com> ... 715-309-9663 ... Email: [SofasForService@outlook.com](mailto:SofasForService@outlook.com)

**May 2022** – Passed along information to the CFMC from the local Aging and Disability Resource Center about some upcoming events that support people living with Dementia and their Caregivers.

**May 2022** – Passed along information to the CFMC about a Baby Formula Drive being sponsored by Helping Hands For Our Children.

**May 2022** – Passed along information to the CFMC from Agnes’ Table about a Benefit Fund-Raiser to provide counseling for the family of Lily, the young girl that was tragically killed in April. The fund is being handled through RCU.

**May 2022** – Sent out the tentative Hope Village Capital Campaign material to the CFMC that we will be sharing with the community for our October Kick-Off Event. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

**May 2022** – Sent out information to the CFMC from Helping Hands For Our Children about their upcoming online charity auction to raise funds for clothing, shoes, backpacks, etc. for their Tools-for-Schools event later in 2022.

**May 2022** – Sent out information to the CFMC about a fund-raiser for Hope Village being held at SunnyDaze in Eau Claire. 10% of their profits being donated to Hope Village.

**May 2022** – Sent out information to the CFMC from the Chippewa Co. Dept. of Health concerning funds available for Forward Health programs.

**June 2022** – Sent out a question to the CFMC to see if they would feel comfortable returning to in-person CFMC meetings. I received a number of positive responses, so I thought we would meet on Monday, Sept, 12<sup>th</sup> (after the summer months) at the New Hope Village Community Building. It will be good to see everyone again and continue on with our mission of reaching out into our community and the world around us to do God’s work.

**“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**

**“This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” -- John 13:35**