



# ANNUAL REPORT

Twenty-Twenty





From Our Executive Director







### Dear Friends,

Did you every think there would come a time in the 21<sup>st</sup> century when we would not be able to regularly go out to dinner, play cards with friends, or see our children and grandchildren during the holidays? COVID struck deep at the heart of many and isolation became an unwanted reality. We yearned for what used to be and cringed at the thought of loneliness, recent studies have shown that all of this has led to a rise in anxiety and depression.

You may be wondering why I would begin this year's annual letter by provoking a visual reminder of what can happen when our surroundings become very unpredictable and a little too uncomfortable to deal with. My hope was to paint a picture of exactly what those experiencing homelessness have been feeling; not just during the pandemic, but every day that goes by when they are not receiving the services they need and to bring remembrance as to why we are here doing what we do.

Immediately when COVID-19 restrictions were put in place we came together as an organization and made the choice to continue to do what we could without putting anyone in jeopardy for the community. The first thing we did was pivot to serving hot meals out the front door and I'm glad we did because the people kept coming, and it has not slowed down. If I could just step aside for a moment and throw out a personal "Thank You" to everyone who came to us asking what they could do to help.

Because our goal is to continue expanding day services that other local non-profits are not providing, I am happy to report that our shower facility is completed and when restrictions are lifted, we will be ready to deliver on our promise.

We have also begun the process of turning a TV room into a Resource Room/Library. We will be installing a large section of book cases to display the generous selection of hardback covered books we have received. We will also be putting in three cubicles to house brand new laptops with the idea being our residents needed a way to be able to access employment websites, create resumes, check emails and apply for benefits. I also see the future where they could begin taking on-line courses. And, when we figure out the logistics of it, this room will also be available to those in need from the outside.

Finally, I would like to say that the Mobile Food Pantry that we began with our partners River Bend Foodbank and Trinity Anglican Church has expanded well beyond what we envisioned. With up to twelve agencies and two churches coming together at different times we were able to distribute over 340,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables last year.

As you review the report and look at some of the pictures and statistics we provided, I hope it becomes very clear that no matter what happens, we can, and will survive as long as we continue to come together as a community. Always remembering the least, the last and the lost. Sincerely,

Franklin D. Roe Jr.





### TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOINED OUR TEAM



Stephen Cougill Kwik Star Cooperation



Nicole Marty Genesis Health System

### LEAVE A LEGACY

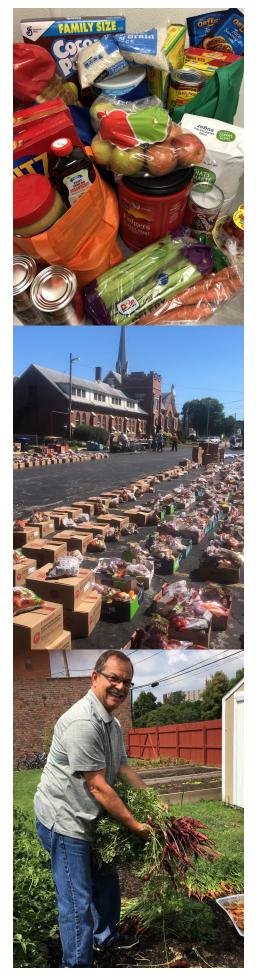
Legacy Giving was introduced in 2020 for those who wish to continue their legacy with a heartfelt donation given directly to Christian Care that will forever continue their desire to help those experiencing homelessness in our community. A gift in a will, real estate, life insurance or even a required minimum distribution from an IRA can be given. In 2020, through bequeaths, foundations and trusts, \$82,844 was donated to Christian Care.

### **BUILD A BRIDGE**

Bridge Builders is a community of monthly or ongoing financial Christian Care partners striving to help us build a bridge for those experiencing homeless move from life on the street into stable, permanent housing. 53 Bridge Builders provided 413 nights of shelter and 1239 meals in 2020.

# PARTNERING TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

We know that ending veteran homelessness is possible as over 75 communities across the United States have met the federal criteria and benchmarks. Christian Care is honored to work alongside the Veteran's Administration and community partners to make this a reality in our community. All five of our Quad City mayors signed proclamations to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2020.



# FOOD FOR FAMILIES

In 2020, Christian Care continued the Food for Families program it implemented in 2019. The program gets food into the hands of those in our community who need it most. This program provides the ingredients for several healthy meals for two to three individuals. We utilize current resources which means there is no additional cost to Christian Care to maintain the program.

# MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Christian Care continued their partnership with River Bend Food Bank and Trinity Anglican Church to host fresh produce mobile food pantries throughout 2020. Approximately 285 families benefited each week at the Rock Island location picking up a total of 114,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables from early July through late August.

# BACKYARD VEGETABLE GARDENS

Food insecurity and maintaining healthy eating habits is extremely challenging for low-income families and those experiencing homelessness in our community. Seven vegetable gardens in our backyard are helping to alleviate this problem. On average, our vegetable gardens harvest 300-400 pounds of fresh produce annually with 100% utilization in our community meal site.

# COMMUNITY MEAL SITE

The pandemic didn't decrease these numbers by much because we immediately made the decision to start serving hot meals out the front door to those in need who we weren't sheltering. We served 33,572 meals to our community including 30,049 to men, 3,240 to women and 283 to children. In mid-March of 2020, the Bring and Serve program was put on hold however we were blessed by families bringing us sack lunches to use where needed. During the year, the program evolved into the Bring and We Serve program. Therefore, on 81 days out of the year 2020, Christian Care had at least one meal provided by volunteers.







### **VOLUNTEERS**

We are so blessed to have an army of volunteers passionate and committed to our mission and work. In 2020, prior to the pandemic, 516 volunteers gave over 1218 hours of their time to Christian Care. Every year, except 2020, we celebrate our volunteers with a luncheon and recognition. Our mission would not be possible without them.

# STREET OUTREACH

Thru a formal partnership with Project Now, we offer street outreach which involves a member of our team moving outside the walls of Christian Care to engage with people experiencing homelessness who may be alienated from services and support. Approximately 50 people were aided with placement into shelter, introduced to different food pantries, assisted with social security, employment and housing applications and received resources for domestic violence and mental health issues.

# UNITYPOINT PARISH NURSE

Thru a formal partnership with UnityPoint, a parish nurse is on-site at Christian Care for two hours every week during community meal site hours. In 2020, the parish nurse provided care of some type to 3 people between the ages of 20-24, 33 people between the ages of 25-44, 61 people between the ages of 45-59 and 15 people between the ages of 60-74 years of age.



# ILLINOIS PUBLIC SHOWER FACILITIES

In 2020, the campaign began for a public shower and in 2021, it became a reality. Christian Care just completed work on the only public shower facility on the Illinois side of the Quad Cities! This project is the direct result of Christian Care identifying a gap in services in the Illinois Quad Cities. A large portion of the project was funded through private donations. Opening day was delayed until June 21, 2021 because of COVID restrictions. Thank you to Ryan & Associates for a job well done!



# HAVE A HEART FOR THE HOMELESS

Co-hosted by Humility Homes & Services, the event was held in February of 2020 at Jumer's Casino & Hotel. Miss Iowa 2018 Mikhayla Hughes-Shaw was the keynote speaker. She is a mental health advocate and spoke on the relationship between mental health and homelessness. The event was a huge success raising almost \$17,000 for the two agencies in the fight against homelessness.

Unfortunately, all other events for 2020 had to be cancelled.

# **FINANCIALS**

