



CHRISTIAN CARE

By providing safe shelter, support, and resources, Christian Care empowers the homeless to make positive changes in every aspect of their lives.

October/November/December 2020

Street Outreach Services

In partnership with Project Now in Rock Island, Christian Care recently implemented a Street Outreach Program. This program is designed to engage those living in unsheltered environments, such as campsites, under bridges, near ramps to roads and highways, abandoned buildings, living in the bus or train stations, or any other place not meant for habitation. We are excited to introduce, De'Andre, our street outreach worker and get his perspective on why these services are important.

Christian Care: Why did you want to be a street outreach worker?

De'Andre: Every day I ride the bus back and forth to work. I see people first hand that are in need; asking for change, food or just a little help. I am able to help a bit, but I felt like I needed to do more.

Christian Care: What has been the biggest eye opener for you as an outreach worker?

De'Andre: It's hard to understand, but there are people who don't want help. They are leery of our help or feel our help as having too many rules. It's my job to explain processes and show them the services available and help them overcome barriers which prevent them from accessing services.

Christian Care: Can you tell us about any success stories you have experienced?

De'Andre: I have been an outreach worker for about one month and I feel like I am making a difference and have learned to redefine success. Success isn't just the big things like getting someone housed, but can be defined just as well with the little things we do. A kind word, a bus pass or directing them to our meal site for a hot meal.

We are excited to be offering street outreach services and to have De'Andre on board with us in this position. He is passionate about his work and we know that those experiencing homelessness in our community have a new advocate in their corner.



'Tis the Season for Giving



Our Annual Resident Christmas Party will be hosted at our facility this year due to COVID-19 closures. Residents will enjoy a delicious sit down meal

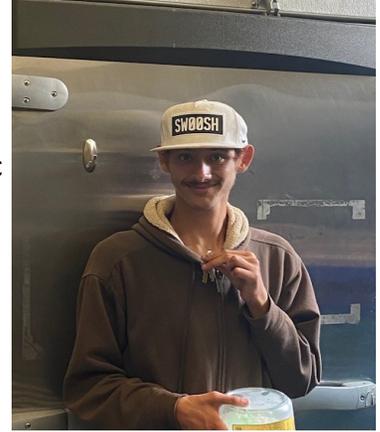


along with a few surprises! Help us give residents of Christian Care a memorable Christmas this year by being their Secret Santa. Pick a resident from our "Giving Tree" and donate a gift card in \$5, \$10, or \$20 denominations from area businesses. Please return gift cards to Christian Care by December 11th.

Thank You!

Eric's Story

Eric's story begins with his parents telling him it's time to grow up. At first it was cool, living with his girlfriend and then a buddy, another friend and after that with his boss. Pretty soon two years have passed and it's the spring of 2020. Eric found himself at the hospital because he wasn't feeling well, where he revealed that his current housing situation was abusive. Eric said, "I was thinking about just giving up". A nurse told him about Christian Care and he made his way here instead of returning back to that house.



It wasn't easy in the beginning and it took a few tries but we were finally able to assist Eric with getting a state ID, birth certificate and social security card, everything he needed to secure a solid job. Then we helped him acquire his stimulus check. Soon after, in partnership with another agency, Eric learned he had been accepted for housing and has since signed his lease.

Sitting in the office of the Executive Director, the gratitude he expresses, the smile on his face and the tears running down his cheeks tells us, today is a good day. Turning to Eric, I ask him, "What do you think?" Eric said, "I'm so happy! I just didn't know where to begin. I could not have done any of this without Christian Care!"

SOAR Program

We are proud to announce that two of our employees have completed a 20-hour course titled SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) consisting of several classes, a series of articles, short quizzes, and practice cases through SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.) This new service is a zero-sum cost to Christian Care as current employees are willing to serve in this role. The average annual salary cost is approximately \$37,000 per year. This course was designed to assist individuals who are experiencing homelessness to apply for the Social Security Administration disability program. Case managers assume a central role in gathering complete, targeted, and relevant information making the process more efficient and faster. Applying the SOAR model has resulted in an initial approval rating of 65% with an average decision time of 100 days and a 42% appeal rate with a decision time for 141 days.

Have a Heart for the Homeless
Mark Your Calendars
February 2021

**1st Ever
Virtual**



Coming Soon

We have 2 new exciting projects scheduled this winter that will enhance the lives of our residents and the community. Construction will begin this winter on a public shower facility and a resource lab and library.

A public shower is a much needed resource on the Illinois side of the Quad Cities for those experiencing homelessness. Our resource lab will have computers, a printer, and access to staff for assistance. Both of these services will be a step forward for residents as they work towards being self-sustaining.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The pandemic has impacted individuals and societies on many levels. Here in the Quad Cities as well as many other places across the country there is a tradition of standing up when the need arises, and here in the Quad Cities when COVID-19 was creating havoc, that is exactly what happened. Meet Jack McNeil of Moline, who saw what the pandemic was doing to local small businesses along with the desire to help those less fortunate. Jack decided to connect the two using money from a Go Fund Me page he set up on Facebook that raised \$1,500. He worked with Christian Care and Pee Wee's Restaurant, both located in Rock Island to coordinate the purchase and serving of meals. With the money raised 160 individual meals of fried chicken, mac n cheese, green beans, and cornbread were prepared and served on June 24th and July 17th. We recently heard from Jack that he completed another Go Fund Me with a matching donation from Modern Woodmen to serve another 100 meals. Neighbors helping neighbors. It's simple, but a beautiful thing.



The last few months have been challenging to say the least. COVID-19 hit fast and with a bang. As we settle into our "new norm", we have the opportunity to reflect on what has happened and where we are headed. We certainly have no idea at this point what the future holds for returning to what we know as "normal" for Christian Care. What we do know is that we could not have done this without YOU. The level of generosity and compassion that has poured out from our community has been incredible. Whether you responded to the need for food for our meal site, supplies for emergency shelter, gave an individual contribution or kept us in your prayers, THANK YOU.



CHRISTIAN CARE

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A Gift With a Lasting Impact



Often a financial gift given directly to Christian Care can forever continue your desire to help those experiencing homelessness. It may be a gift in your will, a gift of real estate, life insurance, or even your required minimum distribution from your IRA. Let these gifts be an everlasting commitment to your solidarity with those who find themselves in difficult situations.

If you wish to talk further about this kind of impactful gift, please feel free to contact Frank Roe, Executive Director, at (309) 786-5734 or at froe@christiancareqc.org.



Going Green

Christian Care is **GOING GREEN** with our quarterly newsletters. If you wish to continue receiving a hard copy or wish to go green, please email us at info@christiancareqc.org and let us know! We want to ensure you continue to receive our correspondence.



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