



# Newsletter

Community Help Mission

August 2013

Edition 1, Volume 1

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## Assistance Provided July 2013

- Number in Household - 44
- Monies Distributed - \$ 2,087.20

## History

The possibility of developing a local non-profit to provide emergency assistance to residents came into focus at the February, 2011 meeting of the Loudonville-Perrysville Ministerial Association. Salvation Army had vacated its' Loudonville office some months prior to this meeting, and the loss was felt heavily within the community.

CHM is not designed to duplicate or replace Salvation Army. We are consciously and planfully designed to meet the needs of this community in meaningful and faith-based ways that are unique to our organization.

We designed a program with clear guidelines for service, but also designed the expectation that each situation presented to us would be evaluated on its' own merits, with service provided accordingly. We developed a clear chain of command for handling unique situations to avoid inconsistency or confusion.

CHM began a successful fund raising campaign in September, 2011, and opened for business in January, 2012. We began with offices in both Loudonville and Perrysville, at the Loudonville Public Library and The Perrysville Community Center, respectively. Seventeen volunteers staff the offices.

As we honed our coaching and teaching skills, we recognized the need for greater privacy to protect client confidentiality. Neither office offered us any real privacy. In September, 2012, we combined both offices into one. We are now located at the Zion Lutheran Annex, 304 East Main, Loudonville.

## Mission Statement

Community Help Mission exists to offer emergency financial assistance and expedited referrals to individuals and families residing in the Loudonville-Perrysville School District. Most services are available only to those meeting Federal Poverty Guidelines plus 10%. We also serve members of local churches who are non-residents of the school district when financial guidelines apply.



## Community News



## Messages from the Staff

### From the Desk of Diane

Wow! Staff did it again! You confirmed, once again, what I have known for some time! I am Blessed to be the Director of a project operated by a remarkable, dedicated team. Your collective presence at the last Board meeting was testimony on its own, but your thoughtful input was the icing on the proverbial cake. Thank you!

We are moving forward with our Educational Component now. Kathy Adams has done her due diligence in terms of research, and has created an alliance for us with Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities will deliver our Life Skills classes while we learn how to do it. The general idea is that chronic users of the system--those who use charities less as emergency resources and more as their regular financial plan--will be required to complete a Life Skills class before we help them one more time. Pat, Kathy and I will be meeting in the immediate future to finalize the referral process.

We will also be meeting with Safe Haven, who has requested that we be their "ambassador" into the community as they begin to offer services here in the community. Safe Haven was told by people in Ashland that if one wants to "get something done" in the southern end of the county, CHM was the Go-To Group.

(Again, testimony to your successful teamwork.)

Our Food Stamp Friendly Cookbook is being printed this week, financed by money from the Jon Truax Memorial. That the memorial was donated to us is even further testimony to the reputation our staff has created in the community.

I am so very pleased that staff has initiated this newsletter. It is a grand opportunity to further our connectedness. Keep up the excellent work. You ARE making a difference in our community! Peace and Blessings to all!

**From the Desk of Pat Reiter**

Greetings To All the Staff of- Community Help Mission:

It has been a real joy for me to get to know each and every one of you and learn to work with you as a team. I personally feel that we are working together as a team far better than anything I could have imagined would happen. When someone comes into our office they are greeted by the team. And if more than one family household is in the office at any one time they are treated with respect and given the encouragement they so desperately need to get through their emergency of that day.

The Amish have a very descriptive word for a team that can pull together under the leadership of lead horse. They call this a "Hitch." Not that I am saying we are a bunch of work horses, but I am saying we have learned how to pull together for the good of our community, and I personally feel that God had Blessed with a very special blessing. It is a blessing to be a part of a great team like all of you and & It is a real blessing to from God to be used in this way.

I thank God for each of you and our goal of serving our community in whatever way that the Lord may lead us.

Thank You From the Bottom Of My Heart,  
Pastor Pat