

## A Note from the Director

Good Afternoon Friends &  
Supporters of Christian Neighbors!



As I write this note to you a few things are on my mind. First, it's July and my husband and I are enjoying the beautiful mountains, river streams, and glory of God's nature in Tennessee. I also know that for some, planning a vacation may not be possible this year. The high cost of gas, food, shelter and frankly everything is prohibitive to the extras. So, wherever you fall in these times, I hope you search out to find joy and happiness.

Through all the 26 years that I have worked and been connected with Christian Neighbors, I have always said: I love that we provide basic needs to all who come. I am most gratified, however, that we offer education to change attitudes and impart skills that make a long-term positive impact in people's lives. Attitudes shaped by our programs might include a new confidence in managing household responsibilities or in feeling one can create and stick to goals. New skills might include simple activities like planting a container garden or creating monthly spending plans to include savings accounts. Long term goals might involve getting out of debt or improving credit scores.

These educational opportunities will be expanded on and offered to residents of our county. Our new Education Resource Center next door to our current building is a vision finally coming to fruition for me and my staff. The land has been cleared, site and building plan completed, township permits and land use have been approved and soon you will begin seeing our new building and dream being built. Look for a special 'Building Hope Newsletter' coming out in September focusing on this great community opportunity.

Thank you for your faithful support of our mission and for being a partner with us since 1983. Have a blessed summer and find a way to bless others.

Building Hope,

**Terri Shaler**

Executive Director



## Stabilizing the Briggs Family: It's What We Do



You first met the Briggs two years ago when we told the story of how this elderly couple in their 80's had been forced out of their home and were living in their car. We helped them find a home and have been working hard for the past year to keep them stabilized. They are no longer able to drive, so we deliver food to them, keep track of their utilities, get their medicine when they can't find a ride, mediate with their landlord and sometimes just check in on them to chat. One of the key components of our Housing Stabilization Program is to lend the support needed to help stabilize families. Scan this QR code to hear directly from the Briggs about how much the support they receive from Christian Neighbors means to them. The dollars you donate to Christian Neighbors go to help keep local families like the Briggs stabilized in their homes.



(To see their testimonial, hover your phone camera over the QR code, when recognized, click once to open the video.)

## Meet Danny

Danny is one of our cherished clients that is on a fixed low disability income. Even though he does not receive much per month, he rarely needs financial assistance from us because he is fantastic at budgeting and he utilizes the food pantry once per month to help alleviate some strain on living expenses. Unfortunately, he has recently been diagnosed with cancer and needs to drive to Kalamazoo often for chemotherapy. We were able to pay a month of his rent to offset the added fuel cost while he deals with his health issues. He wrote us a lovely thank you note to say, "My journey has just started and with your help, I have one less thing to worry about."



By donating to Christian Neighbors and our housing stabilization program, you are helping clients like Danny stay in their homes. Donate today by either dropping a check off at Christian Neighbors, mailing a check to: P.O. Box 53, Plainwell MI 49080, or visit our website at: [www.christianneighbors.org](http://www.christianneighbors.org). Thank you!

## Let's Do the Numbers

We have had an awesome turn out for various Food Drives and special events. Special thanks to these organizations and our community members for your support during these events.

Event/Organization	Pounds of Food or Funds Collected	Value of Pounds Collected
Stuff the Bus @ Harding's	2,461 lbs.	\$3,199.00
Soup Supper @ Hope Lutheran Church	\$740.00	
Soup Supper @ Alamo Community Church	\$516.00	
Soup Supper @ Martin/Shelbyville United Methodist Church	\$677.00	
Soup Supper @ Otsego United Methodist Church	\$872.00	
Postal Carrier Food Drive	14,768 lbs.	\$18,460.00
Alamo Little League	1,400 lbs.	\$1,750.00
Cub Scout Pack #3024	620 lbs.	\$775.00

## Welcome to the Team!

Welcome to Amy VanPutten as our newest team member. Amy will be stepping into the position of Food Program Director. Amy has been married to her husband, Jon, for 33 years and they have three grown children: Zach, Taylor and her husband Tyler, Luke and his fiancé Anna. She also has a dog named Milo and numerous beef cattle that her husband and son raise where they live in Shelbyville. She has spent the last 16 years in children's ministry at North Point Church in Plainwell and is looking forward to this new adventure at Christian Neighbors. She enjoys camping, traveling, shopping, the beach, being with friends and family, and simply enjoying the quiet country life. She is excited to be part of the team at Christian Neighbors and looks forward to getting to know the staff, volunteers, and the people in the communities they serve.



## Auction Wrap-Up

Thank you to all of our sponsors and everyone who came out to support our 13th Annual Reflection of Hope Dinner & Auction. With our in-person and virtual online auctions, you helped us raise over \$88,000 for our Housing Stabilization Program.



**Lost & Found:** While we were cleaning up after the in-person event on May 12, a bracelet was found. If you are missing a bracelet, and you attended our event, please contact Terri Shaler at 269-685-4166, Ext. 101 or email her with a description to [TShaler@christianneighbors.org](mailto:TShaler@christianneighbors.org).

2022

# Impact Report

How you helped Christian Neighbors impact the  
Alamo, Cooper, Martin, Otsego, and Plainwell Communities

2nd Quarter Impact  
6 Month Summary  
(January-June)



FOOD PANTRY

705

Food Baskets  
Distributed

298\*  
Children

18\*  
Homeless  
Households

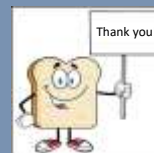
\* Unduplicated, means each individual and household is counted once despite how many times service was received in the time period.



884\*  
Individuals served  
among 305\*  
households

\$ 64,832

Worth of  
Food Donated



995  
Volunteer Hours

## Emergency Financial Assistance

\$49,322

(169 Households)



\$17,641

Housing Assistance



\$31,557

Utility Assistance



\$124

Medical Assistance

## Tributes In Honor and In Memory of Loved Ones

### In Memory

Amy Woodruff  
Andy Porritt  
Audrey Hart  
Barbara Hendricks  
Bill Simpson  
Bob Bailey  
Chris Mallory  
Chuck Moore  
Cyndi Trobeck  
Dale Dratt  
Darl Eley  
David Hartig  
Diane Turner  
Don Cook  
Don Potts  
Donald Burd  
Dorothy Gregory  
Dorothy Kissinger  
Eileen Graham  
Elaine M. Shepard  
Elizabeth Anne Huggett  
Gena Ridderman  
Glenn Gregory  
James Dowdle  
Jim Hartman  
Jim Slentz  
John Maag

### In Memory

John Scheel  
Judith Shepherd  
Judy VanDenBerg  
June Starr  
Lesia Sanchez  
Lillian Haranda  
Mable Storms  
Maxine McFanin  
Mike McFanin (Birthday & Father's Day)  
Morgan Hooker  
Nellie Mae Pegg  
Olga Mesik  
Pat Dutton  
Rich Bacon  
Robert Kennicott  
Robert Powers  
Robert Scherzer  
Ron McFanin, Jr. (Birthday & Father's Day)  
Ron McFanin, Sr. (Birthday & Father's Day)  
Rosemary Kenyon  
Sandy MacVean  
Sharon Doelkers' Aunts & Uncles  
Sue Ray  
Taylor Glessner  
Tom Loughead  
Velma Todd  
Walt Boettcher

### In Honor

Diana Gilmer's Birthday  
Dorothy Irving's Retirement  
Gary Melvin  
Gwen Holden-Norton's 91st Birthday  
Janice Johnson  
Kevin Jurries  
Pastor Joe & Terri Shaler  
Ray Winkel's 100th Birthday

*Tributes are from  
January 1, 2022 through  
June 30, 2022.*



### In Memory

Ward Kissinger (Father's Day)  
William Ramey





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P 269-685-4166

[www.christianneighbors.org](http://www.christianneighbors.org)  
[info@christianneighbors.org](mailto:info@christianneighbors.org)

## Our Mission

The mission of Christian Neighbors is to provide local families in need with Food, Emergency Financial Assistance and skill building Education to create self-sufficiency.

*"Together we are Neighbors  
Caring for Neighbors"*

**Food insecurity** continues to be on the rise in the communities we serve, which makes our commitment, and that of our local Meijer, to the cause vital. Thank you for joining us as we work to help end hunger. We couldn't do this without your support and partnership!

**July 3 - October 1, 2022**

**Double Match Day:** Turn \$10 into \$30  
**Saturdays, August 13 and  
September 10, 2022.**

You may find a \$10 card at the end of each checkout lane during the timeframe above, to help support our pantry.

If you want a receipt for your donation, please mail or drop off your check to Christian Neighbors, and note Simply Give on the memo line, and we will process it as a gift, and take it to Meijer for you.



Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Otsego, MI  
Permit No. 30  
**Change Service  
Requested**

**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.

**You can support us while you shop online!**

1. Go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://Smile.Amazon.com)
2. Select Christian Neighbors SE as your charity
3. Shop as usual!

-OR-

Scan the QR code below and go directly to our Amazon Wish List!



Join us:

**October 2, 2022**

6th Annual PATH to Stabilization Walk  
Sherwood Park, Plainwell

### Event Details

Registration - 1:30pm  
Walk Begins - 2:00pm  
Distance - 1.5 or 3 miles

*For more information about the walk, and to help raise funds, please contact Eric Hoffman at*  
[EHoffman@christianneighbors.org](mailto:EHoffman@christianneighbors.org)  
or call: 269.685.4166, ext. 100.



*Thank You!*

**Thank you to everyone who came out to wish Dorothy well during her Retirement Open House on June 16.**

## Come Inside and Visit Us!

We are excited to announce, that Christian Neighbors will be opening back up our in-person shopping and appointments, starting **Tuesday, September 6 from 10am-12pm**. We will also be open from 2pm-5pm on Thursday for in-person shopping and appointments. Monday will still be a drive-thru service for pantry items, from 10am - 12pm and 4pm-6pm.