

A *COOPERATIVE* group of congregations assisting members of the community in *EMERGENCY* situations as part of an *OUTREACH* ministry to help our neighbors regain self-reliance.

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Fall 2020 Newsletter

COVID-19 Update

On March 14, 2020, the CEO Board voted to temporarily suspend all operations due to COVID-19.

Although closed to clients, CEO volunteers transferred CEO's foods inventory to other local non-profits which remained operational.

On June 15, 2020, CEO reopened under Phase One operations, which will remain in effect at least through the end of 2020:

- Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-3 p.m.
- Up to 20 clients are assisted each session and may receive help with food, rent, utilities and prescriptions.

CEO is serving many new clients, most of whom need financial assistance with rent and utilities.

Serving the Community

After CEO's temporary closure was announced, volunteers mobilized quickly to distribute CEO's food inventory to other groups:

- 240 pounds of frozen chicken, 100 oatmeal packs, 100 loaves of bread and 30+ dozen eggs were bagged by 6 volunteers and driven March 18 to the **Fayetteville Public Schools Outback**, a food pantry serving district student families. Throughout April, an additional 860 pounds of frozen chicken was repackaged into 1-pound bags and was donated with other food items to the Fayetteville Public Schools Outback.
- Sardines and small containers of canned pasta were distributed to **7hills Homeless Center** in March.



CEO urged donors to consider support to open area agencies during our temporary closure.

CEO's Facebook page continues to provide information about community resources.

Ways You Can Help

- Due to supply chain issues during the pandemic, the NWA Food Bank's warehouse is experiencing delays, often double the time before the pandemic, to obtain items to stock its warehouse. Please **consider hosting a food drive or baby supplies drive** to stock the CEO Food Pantry.
 - If you are shopping online, consider using **smile.amazon.com** and selecting Cooperative Emergency Outreach as your charity. CEO will receive a 0.5% donation of each purchase you make.
 - CEO donations may be made via **PayPal**. Please go to our website for details.
 - **We need volunteers** - Interviewers and other critical positions, such Food Pantry positions, are always needed. Contact us if you are interested in helping. Volunteers are the lifeblood of CEO!
 - CEO's website - **CEOFayetteville.org** - is a great resource for teaching others about CEO.
 - CEO's Facebook page – **Facebook.com/ceofayetteville** - has up-to-date information about us and other resources. Please like our page and share it with your friends.
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CEO Member Congregations & Representatives

(Each member congregation commits to a monthly cash donation and at least one food intake event annually.)

Buckner Baptist	Central United Methodist.....Francis Ross
Eastside Baptist.....James McEntire	Emmanuel Lutheran NWA....Beth Armstrong, Secretary
Farmington United Methodist	First Baptist Farmington.....Linda Purselley
First Baptist Fayetteville.....Cathy Williams	First Baptist West Fork
First Christian Fayetteville.....Jackie Stites	First United Presbyterian.....David Clay
Good Shepherd Lutheran.....Cyndi Maddox	Quakers (Fayetteville Friends).....LeaDeana Mullinix
Rolling Hills Baptist.....Patty Severino	St. John's Lutheran.....Barbara Osing
St. Joseph's Catholic.....Maxine LeBlanc	St. Paul's Episcopal.....Sandra Womack
St. Thomas Aquinas.....Anne Marie Candido	Sequoyah United Methodist.....Sandy Johnson
Southside Baptist.....Guy Boydston	Trinity United Methodist.....Buck Watson
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship....Elizabeth Hancock	

President - Joe Dushan (St. Joseph's Catholic); **Vice President** - Linda Eichmann (Emmanuel Lutheran NWA);
Treasurer - Robert Allen (First Baptist Fayetteville)

At-Large Representatives: Margaret Brooner-Wilson (First Christian); Katha Carter (Sequoyah United Methodist); Ann Newman (Central United Methodist); and John Sturgis (Central United Methodist)

Volunteer Coordinators: *Computer* – Katha Carter (Sequoyah United Methodist); *Daily Managers* – Maxine LeBlanc (St. Joseph's Catholic); *Food Room* – Nancy Bittle (Central United Methodist); *Front Desk* – Barbara Osing (St. John's Lutheran); *Interviewers* – Joe Dushan (St. Joseph's Catholic); and *Publicity* – Elizabeth Hale (St. Paul's Episcopal)

About CEO

Cooperative Emergency Outreach is an all-volunteer organization, ensuring virtually all resources are returned directly to serving clients. CEO coordinates and consolidates support and resources for people in Washington County (who live south of the Northwest Arkansas Mall) facing financial uncertainty, job loss, illness, natural disasters or other emergency situations. Clients may receive help with food, rent, utilities and prescriptions.

CEO typically serves about 14,000 clients annually, distributing \$250,000 worth of cash-based assistance plus food valued at \$350,000. 6% of our clients are infants younger than a year old. About 10% of CEO clients are homeless.

Around 60% of our funding is from our Member Congregations listed above; the remainder comes from generous benefactors, service organizations, memorials, grants and donations.

CEO opened its doors and began serving clients on December 5, 1990.