

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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Winter 2019/2020 Newsletter

CEO 2019 – A Year in Review

Family Members Served - 13,730, of which 11,419 (83%) received foodstuffs.

- Value of food given to CEO clients - \$350,000.
- July was CEO's 2nd largest month and October was the 3rd largest month for providing foodstuffs to families in need in CEO's 29-year history.
- CEO clients requesting food donations have increased 10% each year since 2017.

Revenue - \$222,531.65, of which 66.2% was donated by CEO's member congregations.

How cash donations provide a 3-day supply of food, based on household size (calculated 3/2018):

· \$29.62 = 1 · \$34.69 = 2 · \$45.32 = 3 · \$53.05 = 4 · \$60.46 = 5 · \$77.54 = 6 · \$79.17 = 7 · \$83.73 = 8

Expenses - \$245,591.69.

Direct assistance to clients as a percentage of CEO's expenses:

- ◇ **Utilities** – 37% ◇ **Rent** – 20.1% ◇ **Gasoline** – 12.6% ◇ **Food** – 11.7% (approximately \$2,200 per month is spent to supplement donations to the CEO Food Pantry)
- ◇ **Clothing** – 7.6%
- ◇ **Prescriptions** – 0.4% ◇ **Transportation** – 0.1%

Volunteers – 8,205 hours were donated by an average monthly team of 274 people.

CEO is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff.

CEO Extends Thanks to these Special CEO Supporters:



Cub Scouts Pack 60 – St. Joseph Fayetteville delivered 50 sacks of canned and dry goods that were collected at a February 8 Food Drive co-sponsored by **Harps Food Stores**, augmented by donations from shoppers.



REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
DAY OF SERVICE

Volunteers at **St. Paul's Episcopal Church** packaged 50 pounds of rice, 48 pounds of pinto beans, 25 pounds of dog food, 16 pounds of cat food and 6 dozen bagels and pastries on January 20.





A December Baby Goods Drive at **Sequoyah United Methodist Church** netted CEO 2 dozen packages of diapers, baby formula, baby cereal and baby foods.

Many thanks to **First United Presbyterian Church** and **St. Paul's Episcopal Church** for including CEO as a benefactor of their *Alternative Gift Markets* in December.



Sam Palmer and Scotty Raines from Facilities Management with the **Fayetteville Public Library** delivered 1,220 pounds of non-perishable food to CEO on November 18, the result of the **Food for Fees** forgiveness program.



Proceeds from the **5th Annual Brews for Blessings** on November 16 at **Emmanuel Lutheran Church NWA** resulted in CEO receiving **\$4,350** as its share of the fundraiser.

In November, **Sequoyah United Methodist Church** donated 34 turkeys, 63 turkey breasts, and cloth bags filled with all the Thanksgiving fixings, as well as additional food items from the choir. **Tom & Jean Jacobsen** of **Jacobsen Tours** donated 150 pounds of apples and 100 pounds each of sweet and russet potatoes to supplement clients' Thanksgiving feasts.



For 20 years, **7th and 8th graders** from **St. Joseph Catholic School** in Fayetteville come to CEO one Friday a month, bringing food collected from the entire student body, which they sort and put away in the CEO Food Pantry. Students also perform other chores, such as bagging pasta, rice, beans and dog & cat food. These students are engaged, efficient and faithful – they brighten CEO with each visit!

Please consider supporting this 4/2/2020 fundraiser benefitting CEO:

CEO has a **goal of raising \$2,200** during the **12-hour NWA Gives** fundraiser on April 2, 2020, which will provide a month's worth of funds to purchase foodstuffs to supplement donated food items.



Reminders:

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.

The CEO web site - **CEO Fayetteville.org** - will keep you updated on CEO news and is a great resource for teaching others about CEO.

CEO has a **Facebook** page - like it and share with your friends.

We need volunteers - interviewers are always needed as well as other critical positions. Contact us if you are interested in helping. Volunteers are the lifeblood of CEO!

CEO Member Congregations & Representatives

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

Buckner Baptist
Eastside Baptist.....James McEntire
Farmington United Methodist
First Baptist Fayetteville.....Cathy Williams
First Christian Fayetteville.....Jackie Stites
Good Shepherd Lutheran.....Cyndi Maddox
Rolling Hills Baptist.....Patty Severino
St. Joseph's Catholic.....Maxine LeBlanc
St. Thomas Aquinas.....Anne Marie Candido
Southside Baptist.....Guy Boydston
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship...Elizabeth Hancock

Central United Methodist.....Francis Ross
Emmanuel Lutheran NWA....Beth Armstrong, **Secretary**
First Baptist Farmington.....Linda Purselley
First Baptist West Fork
First United Presbyterian.....David Clay
Quakers (Fayetteville Friends).....LeaDeana Mullinix
St. John's Lutheran.....Barbara Osing
St. Paul's Episcopal.....Sandra Womack
Sequoyah United Methodist.....Sandy Johnson
Trinity United Methodist.....Buck Watson

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* - Natalie Pomeroy (Sequoyah United Methodist); and *Publicity* - Elizabeth Hale (St. Paul's Episcopal)

About CEO

Cooperative Emergency Outreach (CEO) is an **all-volunteer organization**, ensuring a maximum amount of funds go directly to serving clients. **Typically, 60% of our funding is from our Member Congregations** listed above. **CEO serves about 14,000 clients annually, distributing \$250,000 worth of assistance. 1% of our clients are younger than one year old. Only 6% of CEO clients are homeless.** CEO opened its doors and began serving clients on December 5, 1990.

A Day in the Life of CEO

CEO doors open at 1 pm Monday through Friday, yet it's not unusual for people to begin lining up at noon or earlier. (CEO is also open the 1st Saturday of the month from 10 am to noon for working people who can't come weekdays.) We require prospective clients to come in person for all CEO transactions. We do not accept appointments; it is "first come, first served" by queuing in line each day we are open.

When the doors open, clients are given a number in order of arrival. Up to 25 clients are served daily. The receptionist greets clients, checks their government-issued photo ID and documentation, and determines that they live in the CEO service area (Washington County south of the NWA Mall.) Anyone living north of the NWA Mall may be given a list of agencies that offer help to those residents.

Each client fills out a basic questionnaire indicating the number of people in the household, available resources, what sort of help is requested, as well as documentation supporting the request (e.g., utility cut-off notice.) When a client's number is called, s/he proceeds to a private interview room where an interviewer determines what type of assistance is needed and how CEO can best help.

Next, the interviewer confers with the daily manager. The interviewer and the daily manager discuss the client's situation and needs. The daily manager determines what help can be given and then issues a check or voucher to the utility, rental agency, gas station, etc. The manager is allotted a limited amount of money each day, based on CEO's available funds.

If food was requested, the workers in the food pantry have been filling grocery bags during the conference. The interviewer returns to the client with the food, checks, and/or vouchers that have been approved by the daily manager.

The final step is for the interviewer to note in the client's file what help was given, as well as any other notes that might help another interviewer during a subsequent visit, which allows CEO to monitor each client's history to ensure that we use our resources as effectively as possible. The CEO client files are never shared outside the CEO office.

Typically, CEO helps clients up to 3 times every 6 months with a 3-day family supply of food and gas vouchers. Once every 6 months, CEO may assist with utilities, rent and clothing funds/vouchers.

On any given day, the all-volunteer staff of CEO includes a daily manager, a computer worker for data entries, a receptionist, two food pantry workers, and four interviewers.

CEO is one of only a few area agencies that help with utility and rent payments, and the only one that provides vouchers for gasoline.

Contact us if you would like to become a CEO volunteer and/or contributor. Please consider having your friends, office, community or civic group, school, youth group or church sponsor a food drive to benefit CEO. **We thank you for your support!**