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CARING COMMUNITY FRIENDS SAPULPA'S COMMUNITY FOOD BANK AND MORE



WORDS FROM MARY

We are excited to launch another communication tool to keep our friends up to date with Caring Community Friends (CCF for short). We have celebrated our 23rd anniversary and we continue to address many of the most basic needs of clients in Sapulpa, Kellyville, Kiefer, Mounds and Oakhurst. There are NO slow times, as there are unmet needs throughout our entire service area. It is our goal to enter into a partnership with donors and volunteers to ensure that each of the above communities experience an increase in service as needs are met. We wish to not only provide aid, but also to provide education to improve each client's self sufficiency. CCF has a strong desire to see clients get through their tough times and, where possible, transition from client to volunteer.

CCF is committed to growth. Job assistance programs from AARP and DHS have allowed us to expand beyond our regular staff and add a receptionist, pantry workers and clothing assistants. Nonetheless, we always have the need for community volunteers! The CCF Board of Directors has given CCF a major structural overhaul with new goals, greater efficiency and higher expectations. It didn't feel good at first, as change seldom does. With the new paradigm, however; CCF is poised to reach new heights.

CHILI LUNCHEON

Mark Your Calendars for Sapulpa's Sixth Annual Chili and Cornbread Lunch and Bake Sale. October 30, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. At the Library Annex, 15 North Poplar Street in Sapulpa. Lunch is only \$5.00, which includes a variety of homemade Chili and cornbread. Also, make sure and save room for dessert. The Bake Sale is a huge hit with homemade desserts and baked goods. Deliveries are available. Make sure and give Erin a call by October 29 at 918-227-2622 to guarantee a time for deliveries. Proceeds benefit local Agencies that are United Way Recipients. Proceeds benefit local United Way Agencies: Caring Community Friends, SHOW Inc, Youth Services of Creek County and Creek County Literacy Program.

This is a great opportunity to support your community.

FOOD 4 KIDS BACKPACK

The FOOD 4 KIDS Backpack program provides a weekly backpack of shelf-stable snack food during the school year to feed school aged children at risk of hunger through the weekend. Backpacks are packed in the evenings once a month by volunteers and transported to each school. Student recipients are selected to participate in the Backpack Program by school personnel. Recipient's parents must give written consent for their child to participate in the program. Backpacks of food are given to the students on Friday or the last school day of the week. Food insecurity among children is likely to have long-term negative effects as it is closely related to childhood health, weight, behavior, and cognitive development. CCF is proud that the FOOD 4 KIDS is one of our flagship programs and we aim to expand its reach at every opportunity. Our goal is remove food insecurity and weekend hunger from our Sapulpa schools.



WEEKEND HUNGER BY THE NUMBERS

Recently the extent of WEEKEND HUNGER was discussed at a Caring Community Friends Board of Directors Meeting. Every Board member was shocked at the full extent of the unmet need in Sapulpa's grade schools ALONE. There are **2400** students enrolled in Sapulpa Grade schools and **620** grade school students enrolled at Lone Star Schools. Of those, an amazing **68%** of students at Sapulpa Schools and **49%** of Students at Lone Star School qualify for free or reduced priced lunches.

That means as many as **70%** of grade and middle school students face the possible issue of weekend hunger.

Caring Community Friends provides a total of **250** weekly backpacks to Sapulpa Grade Schools and Lone Star. It is easy to see that we are only scratching the surface of the need. Waiting lists from each school are lengthy. CCF needs your help to address WEEKEND HUNGER. In the coming month we will EXPAND our number of backpacks to the grade schools and for the first time we will send **30** backpacks to the middle school weekly. We will also begin a SPONSOR A CHILD program where donors may sponsor a child's backpack for \$150 each year.

CHRISTMAS STARS

Christmas Stars is a holiday assistance program in which donors purchase appropriate presents for a deserving child in need. Caring Community Friends meets any unmet need in the event there are not enough donors. In 2014 **175** children were served. If you would like to be a gift donor in 2015 please contact Leslie at Caring Community Friends at 918-224-6464. If you would like to refer a family in need to this program, please have the parent or guardian call Caring Community Friends for an application not later than December 11, 2015.

NO CHILD IS DENIED

THANK YOU

We extend our sincere gratitude for your support over the last 20 years. With your help, Caring Community Friends (CCF) has impacted the lives of many people in Creek County. Individuals and families too often experience challenges as they balance a wide range of difficult situations in today's world. We all have known of someone who has fallen on hard times. Lending a helping hand during those difficult times can make all the difference. Your donations and support help to ensure that CCF will continue to be there to lend that hand in our community.

We invite you to partner with CCF and invest in our growing success serving our community.

Annual Community Partnership Levels

- Founder..... \$5,000 or more
- Leader.....\$2,500 to \$4,999
- Mentor..... \$1,000 to \$2,499
- Neighbor..... \$ 250 to \$999
- Friend.....\$ 50 to \$249

CCF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.



CCF is a partner agency of the Tulsa Area United Way

Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday
Hours of Assistance: 10:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday

Visit our website
www.caringcommunityfriends.org

VOLUNTEERS & AMBASSADORS NEEDED!!

Caring Community Friends rely heavily on community support from volunteers. Volunteers are needed to assist staff in accomplishing day to day duties, such as organizing donated items, stocking shelves and assisting with food orders. Volunteers are vital for special events and monthly programs such as packing for Food 4 Kids (Backpack) Program discussed earlier and our Silver Stars program which assists Seniors in need with shelf-stable food and produce once a month. In addition to volunteers CCF always seeks Ambassadors, who offer their time to tell others of our programs and needs.



If you would prefer to receive this Newsletter in an E-mail form please send your preferred Email address to leslie@caringcommunityfriends.org

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