

## Collaboration with church helps a father and infant in need

One Monday afternoon, Rev. Joseph D. Burchill was sitting in his office at Lancaster Alliance Church, when a young man, carrying an infant, knocked on his door.

Rev. Joe remembers the man looking nervous and sad as he explained that his girlfriend was struggling with post-partum depression and left him the night before. Alone to care for their three-month-old baby, he didn't have formula or the money to purchase it.

"I remember thinking, 'God's timing is perfect!'" Rev. Joe explained. "The Lord knew he was struggling and he needed help and he ended up

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*Thanks to donations of baby formula to the CVCCS food bank, a local church was able to help a young father feed his three month old baby.*

## Rooted wraps with lives inspired

**By Dottie Slothower**

We finished our second year of the Rooted Afterschool Tutoring & Mentoring Program.

Fifteen students came through our doors after school on Tuesdays. Faithful volunteer mentors from high school Juniors to retirees were matched with each student.

Each week the students enjoyed a snack and



one on one conversation with their mentors. This was followed by an active game, Bible lesson and time building math and reading skills.

We seek to encourage them academically and in life through the love and attention of the adult mentor.

Tuesday afternoons are quiet here now but

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# Summer Meals Program Underway

The 2019 Summer Meals Program kicked off in June to provide lunches to children in the Conestoga Valley School District three days a week at three locations over the summer.

Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services manages this program that is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program ensures that children who live in areas of low income housing have access to a quality meal.

This program wouldn't be possible without the help of our numerous volunteers who help to cook, pack, deliver, and serve the meals.

Thank you to everyone who makes this program a success!



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## Helping families with back to school

Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services will once again provide backpacks and school supplies to the children we serve who attend the CV School District. We will accept donations of school supplies throughout the summer until Aug. 1. Donations are needed of day planners and ear buds. This is a great project for youth groups, civic organizations, and families. For more information, please contact Angela Trout at [development@cvccs.org](mailto:development@cvccs.org) or 717-208-3711 ext. 102.





# Grocery Store Program Delivers

Thanks to a new Central Pa. Food Bank initiative, Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services now receives donations of fresh and non-perishable food from local grocery and convenience stores that would otherwise be thrown away.



shelves.”

CVCCS receives canned food, bakery, dairy, heat and eat meals, pizzas, and produce from the Lititz Pike and Leola Giant Stores and grab and go salads, sandwiches, yogurt, and cookies from Sheetz in Smoketown several days a week. Clients love the grab and go items, as they can be a

The goal of the initiative is to provide local food banks with items that stores want to move off shelves because of overstock, seasonal change, or close to the expiration date.

“Instead of perfectly good food going to the dumpster, the food comes to us to feed our clients,” said, Angela Trout, Director of Development for CVCCS. “And the more we receive as donations, the less we have had to purchase. It saves us money and stocks our

quick meal or a lunch they can take to work.

The program has been so successful, that CVCCS recently purchased a glass front refrigerator so clients can easily see the items and access them while maintaining safe temperatures.

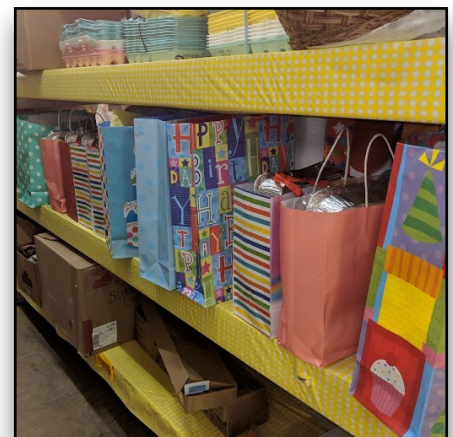
“It’s been a great program so far, and while we can’t control what we receive from week to week, it is very good quality food, and items we are proud to serve our clients,” Trout said.

## Making birthdays special for kids in need

When we think back to our childhood, memories of birthdays are sure to be remembered as pleasant, fun times.

A birthday cake with a party or a family gathering, a special meal, presents, are all things likely to be part of those endearing images. At Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services, we think all children should have good memories of their birthdays, that is why we encourage the community to donate birthday bags for the families we serve in the food bank.

Simply, a birthday bag is a party in a bag -- box of cake mix, tub of icing, and anything else that makes a birthday festive -- theme cups and plates, bag of balloons, streamers, noise makers, etc. Donate one or more bags or start a collection drive -- it's a fun project to get a youth group, family, or neighborhood behind where everyone donates items.



**For questions or to donate birthday bags to CVCCS, contact Angela at 717-208-3711 ext. 102.**

Each bag has the potential of putting 'happy' back in Happy Birthday!

## Current Needs

### FOOD BANK

- Meal kits: Taco kits, Hamburger Helpers, Chicken Helpers, etc.
- Condiments -- ketchup, mustard, and mayonaise

To donate to the food bank, call 717-208-3711 ext. 101.

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Educational games, flash cards, and learning aids needed for 2nd through 6th grade learning levels.

To donate to the Rooted program, call Dottie at 717-208-3711 ext. 106

### CLOTHING BANK

- Women's and Men's clothing, sizes 2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, 6x. Pants and tops for summer.

To donate to the clothing bank, call 717-208-3711.

### VOLUNTEERS

- Adult volunteers 18 and older needed for the Rooted After School Tutoring and Mentoring Program.

To volunteer, call Dottie at 717-208-3711 ext. 106

### Father

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here.”

Just the day before, Deb Wenger, a member of Alliance Church, and a volunteer for Conestoga Valley Christian Community Services (CVCCS), had dropped off baby formula that had been donated to the CVCCS food bank.

Because there isn't a huge need for it at CVCCS (many of the parents with infants we serve receive formula

and baby food through WIC) Deb brought it to her church for anyone who needed it.

“I told her to put it outside the preschool and nursery classrooms for parents to take,” Rev. Joe said. “And the next day, here comes a father off the street in need of formula.

“I looked at him and said, ‘You know the Lord is looking out for you because today we have exactly what you need.’”



### Rooted

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come September we will once again host some lively 4th-6th graders.

Perhaps you would like to

invest in the life of a young student and give 2 hours a week as a mentor? If you would like to learn more please contact Dottie here at CVCCS, 717 208 3711 ext 106.

Dear God,  
i tried my best, but if today  
i lose my hope  
please tell me that your plans  
are better than my dreams.  
Amen.