

WHO WE ARE!

ADDRESSING NEEDS CHANGING LIVES!



CVCCS

CONESTOGA VALLEY
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

CVCCS.ORG

OUR VISION:

To provide food, clothing, mentoring, & coaching for our homeless, vulnerable, & socially isolated neighbors in order to sustainably improve their standard of living.

CVCS
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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

OUR MISSION:

In keeping with Christ's teachings, we work to meet the various needs of our homeless, vulnerable, and socially isolated neighbors by providing food and clothing, mentoring, and financial counseling.

We also provide our clients access to established social service providers in an effort to sustainably improve their standard of living.

We fulfill this mission with integrity and credibility while protecting the dignity of those we serve without discrimination.

HISTORY:

The story of CVCCS began with a homeless man who sought refuge from the freezing Pennsylvania winter temperatures inside the warm vestibule of a Leola church.

The Pastor learned this was a serious issue for many in our community.

Therefore, in 2010, The Conestoga Valley Ministerium (a coalition of local church Pastors) started CVCCS. It initiated with setting up several food and clothing banks at area churches.

HISTORY:

In 2014, seeing the need to consolidate services under one roof, CVCCS moved into the Lapp Electric Building on Gehman Lane in Lancaster. The goal was to be a one a one-stop-shop for those in need of food, clothing, shelter, finances, and other social services.



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REAL LIFE FACTS:

Hunger is a VERY REAL issue RIGHT HERE in Lancaster County.

People may be under the impression that those living in poverty in Lancaster County primarily reside in the city of Lancaster. But, did you know that 70% actually live outside the city?

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REAL LIFE NUMBERS:

In Lancaster County:

Population: 536,494

10.2% live below the poverty line.

16% are children.

9.5% overall food insecurity rate.

14.8% child food insecurity rate.

The Central PA Food Bank distributes on average over 5.5 million pounds of food each month, more than 67 million pounds per year, through 1,000 partner agencies and programs, which includes CVCCS.

REAL LIFE NUMBERS:

In the Conestoga Valley School District:

10.3% live below the poverty line.

14% are children.

9% are seniors.

In the United States:

Approximately **49 million people** live at or below the poverty line.

Greater than **50 million** (*including nearly 17 million children and 4 million seniors*) are at risk of hunger.

48 million receive SNAP benefits, formerly known as food stamps.

Half of all food SNAP recipients are children.

**Stats according to Census Reporter / Central PA Food Bank / Feeding America / Coalition Against Hunger / Hunger Free Lancaster / USDA / WGAL*

OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: FOOD BANK

Our food bank is client-choice and provides to people in need that live or attend church in the Conestoga Valley School District and meet financial guidelines.

Clients may use the food bank once every 30 days by appointment only.



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OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: FOOD BANK

Our food bank is stocked with:

Non-perishable foods

Fresh produce

Dairy

Meats

Bakery items

. . . and much **MORE!**

Uniquely, we give our clients everything they need to make full meals for **breakfast, lunch, and dinner!**



OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: CLOTHING BANK

We provide seasonally appropriate gently used clothing to clients who live anywhere in Lancaster County, referred to us by an agency, school, or church.

Adults may visit 2 times a year & children up to 4 times a year. First-time clients must obtain a referral from a school social worker, church, or agency.

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OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: CLOTHING BANK

Our clothing bank is client choice, and stocked with:

A variety of clothing

Shoes & socks

Coats, hats, & gloves

New underwear for men, women, & children

. . . and much **MORE!**

A personal shopper assists clients with navigating the racks of clothing, and folds and bags items for clients.

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OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH PROGRAMS

Rooted is an afterschool program for children, grades 4-6, in the Conestoga Valley School District.

Students are referred to the program by a school counselor. If approved by their parent/guardian, each student is then paired, one-on-one, with a mentor for the program year (September through May).

Rooted offers a fun, healthy, and safe environment.

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OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH PROGRAMS

Rooted meets every Tuesday at CVCCS and includes:

- A healthy snack

- An opportunity for each student to unwind from their day by talking to their mentor

- Fun games

- Bible study

- Group activities that foster teamwork

Additionally, a family dinner is held 3 times during the year as a way for the families to get to know our mentors and staff.

OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH PROGRAMS

Weekend Blessings: CVCCS provides at risk students in the Conestoga Valley School District with bundles of food to take home for the weekends.

The food bundles are prepared by our volunteers and include:

- 2 Breakfasts

- 2 Lunches

- 2 Dinners

- Snacks and drinks

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OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH PROGRAMS

Many of the children served by the program face food insecurity at home and often do not have an adult available to prepare meals for them. The food packed in the bundles are quick, individually sized items that can be easily prepared.



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OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH PROGRAMS

Our **Summer Lunch Program** serves three lunches a week at 3 locations in the CV School District from June through August. The meals are free and open to all children *18 and younger*.

Pick up of all 3 meals takes place every Tuesday from 11am-12pm at one of the following locations: Flory Park, Country Club Apartments, Ebenezer Church in Brownstown.

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OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: BACK ON TRACK

Created in 2017, Back on Track assists hard-working families and individuals in avoiding homelessness caused by an unavoidable financial hardship.

There are a growing number of people who have 'fallen through the cracks' described as the *"working poor."*

These individuals make too much money to qualify for public assistance and are living paycheck to paycheck while barely getting by.

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OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: BACK ON TRACK

We customize programs that help our clients dig out of recent financial setbacks in order to get “*back on track*” with their finances.

Back on Track provides mentorship, compassion, and limited financial assistance to address immediate needs while planning for a self-sustaining future.

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OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: CONNECT

A recent Harvard University study reveals the following regarding loneliness in America: **36%** of respondents reported **serious loneliness**—feeling lonely “frequently” or “almost all the time or all the time” (Harvard University 2021 | Loneliness since the pandemic).

Research also affirms that those in poverty especially, lack meaningful relationships.

Therefore, we'd like to give our clients the option of being paired up with a local church body they can possibly connect with.

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OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: CONNECT

What is the vision of Connect?

We've seen that most of our clients do not have a local church they call *home*. In fact, they are hesitant about attending church in general. We desire to remove that hesitancy by pointing our clients back to the loving arms of the body of Christ.

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OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: CONNECT

How does Connect work?

We present the option of Connect to our clients when applicable.

If a client is interested, we pass on their name, phone #, and email to a church nearest to them within our Connect church network.

Then, the church would start the Connect process:

Set up a time to meet, or personally invite them to church.

Get to know them. Build a relationship.

Integrate them into the body of Christ.