

WHO WE ARE

CONESTOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

**ADDRESSING NEEDS
CHANGING LIVES!**



OUR MISSION:

We meet the various needs of our homeless, vulnerable, and socially isolated neighbors by providing food, clothing, mentoring, and financial counseling. Our goal is to improve our client's standard of living and lead them to a path of **self-sustainability**.

CVCCS is a faith based 501c3 Christian organization.

CVCCS
CONESTOGA VALLEY
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

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.



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REAL LIFE FACTS:

Hunger and food insecurity are VERY REAL issues 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, 70% 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.

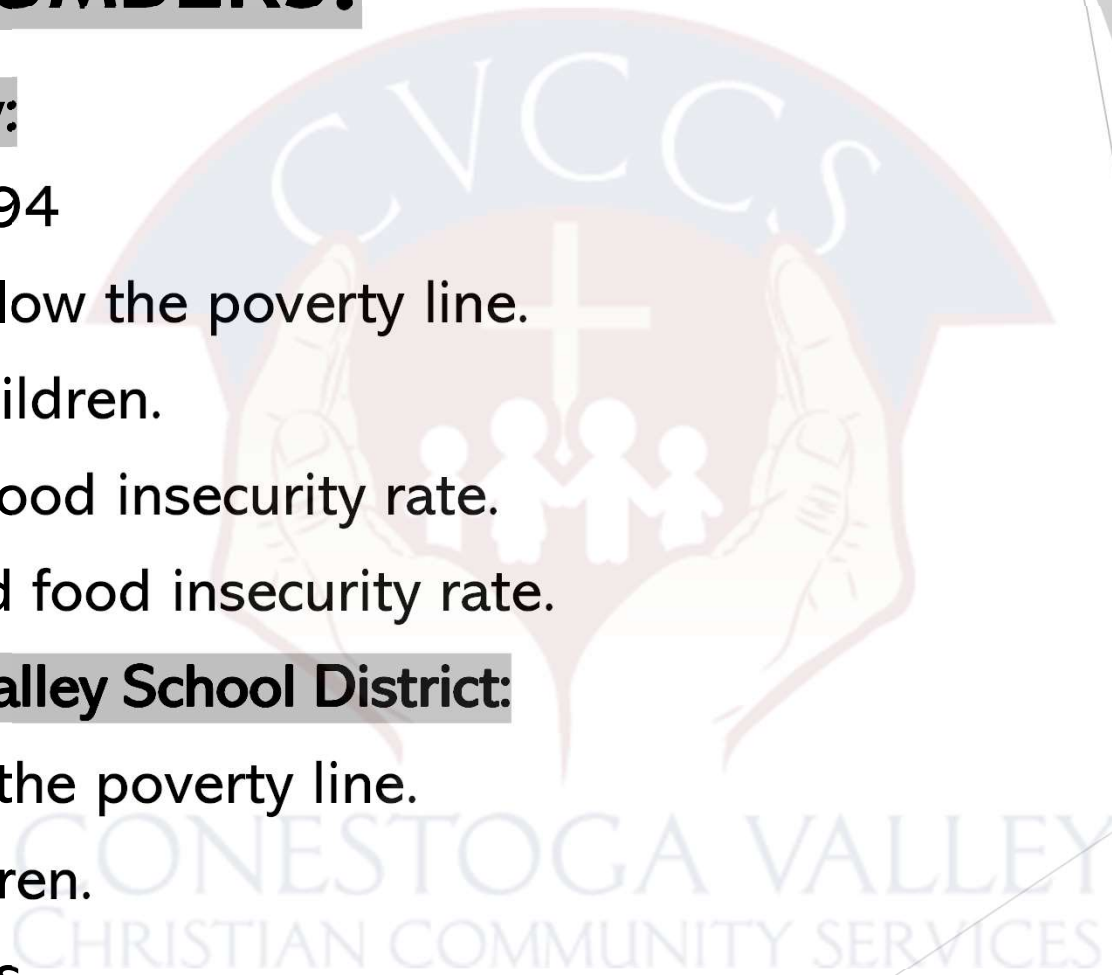
14.8% child food insecurity rate.

In the Conestoga Valley School District:

10.3% live below the poverty line.

14% are children.

9% are seniors.



REAL LIFE NUMBERS:

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.



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REAL LIFE NUMBERS:

The Working Poor:

There are a growing number of people who have *'fallen through the cracks,'* described as the ***"Working Poor."*** They make too much money to qualify for public assistance and are living paycheck to paycheck while **barely getting by.**

According to the United Way of PA, **26%** of total households in Lancaster County make up the Working Poor.

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All Stats according to Census Reporter | Central PA Food Bank | Feeding America | Coalition Against Hunger | Hunger Free Lancaster | USDA | WGAL | United Way

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.



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.



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

... and much **MORE!**

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



OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: CLOTHING BANK

Lancaster County is home to one of 23 Church World Service (CWS) refugee and immigration offices in the United States.

CWS, founded in 1946, is a Christian ministry that provides refugee assistance. Refugees are people who have fled war, violence, conflict, or persecution to find safety. They often have had to flee with little more than the clothes on their back, leaving behind homes, possessions, jobs, and loved ones.

CVCCS shares a special relationship with CWS as we partner to clothe Lancaster County refugees.



OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH PROGRAMS

Rooted is an afterschool program for children, grades 4-6, in the CV 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).



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

Rooted offers a fun, healthy, and safe environment. Additionally, a family dinners are held during the year as a way for the families to get to know our mentors and staff.

OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH PROGRAMS

Weekend Blessings:

We provide students who struggle with food insecurity in the CV School District with bundles of food to take home each weekend during the school year.

The food bundles are prepared by our volunteers and include: 2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 2 Dinners, Snacks and drinks.

NOT EVERYONE LOOKS FORWARD TO THE WEEKEND.



Tragically for some children, the only meals they receive are at school. Our Weekend Blessings ministry provides food to students in the CV School District who face food insecurity over the weekends during the school year.

 Weekend Blessings

CVCCS.ORG/YOUTH

OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH PROGRAMS

Many of the children served via Weekend Blessings 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

Every June through August, our **Summer Lunch Club** serves approximately 3,000 lunches to kids 18 and under facing food insecurity over the summer.

Meals are served several days a week at various locations deemed to have a high concentration of low-income housing in the CV School District and Lancaster County.

We partner with local churches who host our Summer Lunch Club either at their facility or a nearby public park.



Help us to
provide meals
for Lancaster
County kids
in need this
summer!

A dark green silhouette of a child's head in profile, facing left. It is positioned on the right side of the slide, overlapping the orange background and the text.

**impact
a child's
life.**

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.



**SOMETIMES LIFE COMES AT YOU
LIKE A FREIGHT TRAIN . . .**

We customize programs that help our clients dig out of recent financial setbacks in order to get "Back on Track" with their finances. For more info visit cvccs.org/financial.



OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: BACK ON TRACK

Back on Track provides clients with customized financial counseling, limited financial assistance to address immediate needs, and mentorship in planning for a self-sustaining future.

Back on Track clients also have access to our Food and Clothing Banks.

The logo is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top, the letters 'CVC' are visible in a large, stylized font. Below this, there is a central illustration of four white human figures holding hands in a circle. The background of the shield is a gradient of light blue and white. The entire logo is semi-transparent and serves as a watermark for the text.

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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”*).

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

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

SILENT SUFFERING

We're looking for churches in Lancaster County to partner with us to help conquer the epidemic of loneliness.



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 starts 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.

OUR COMMITMENT TO BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP:

**EVERY DOLLAR THAT
YOU DONATE GETS
USED IN OUR PROGRAMS.
BY GIVING TO CVCCS,
YOU DIRECTLY IMPACT
THE LIVES OF OUR
NEIGHBORS WHO
NEED IT THE MOST.**



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CHANGING LIVES!**

