

CONESTOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

# ADDRESSING NEEDS CHANGING LIVES!



## 1. OUR MISSION:

**We provide food, clothing, mentoring, & ministry for our struggling neighbors to improve their standard of living. Our goal is to lead our clients to a path of self-sustainability.**

- **CVCCS is a faith based 501c3 Christian organization.**



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## 2. 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.

- CVCCS initiated with setting up several food and clothing banks at area churches.

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## 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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### 3. REAL LIFE STATS:

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?

The logo is a shield-shaped emblem. At the top, the letters 'CVCS' are written in a large, stylized font. Below the letters, there is a depiction of two hands, one on the left and one on the right, holding a central cross. The hands are rendered in a simple, line-art style. The entire emblem is set against a light blue background.

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## REAL LIFE STATS:

- **Lancaster County Population:** 536,494
  - 10.2% live below the poverty line (10.3% in Conestoga Valley School District).
    - 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.**

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

## REAL LIFE STATS:

### 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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## 4. OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES



On average, approximately 132 individuals are served each month.



On average, approximately 88 individuals are served each month.



On average, approximately 20 families are assisted each month.



On average, 10 students are mentored each week during the school year.



On average, 250 individual bundles of food are provided each month to students to take home.



Each year we give on average over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies.



On average, approximately 3,000 meals are provided each summer.



In an effort to fight loneliness, we give our clients the option of being paired up with a local church partner.



Birthday Bags are given out to our clients (adults & children) when they visit CVCCS close to their birthdays.



## OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: FOOD BANK



## 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



## 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.



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# 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 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





## OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH

**Rooted** is an **afterschool** program for children, grades 4-5, 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

**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

## 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](http://CVCCS.ORG/YOUTH)

## OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH

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.

The logo is a shield-shaped emblem. Inside the shield, there is a stylized illustration of a family: a man, a woman, and two children. The man and woman are holding hands, and the children are standing between them. The shield is divided into four quadrants by a cross. The text 'CONESTOGA VALLEY' is written in a large, serif font across the middle of the shield, and 'CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font at the bottom of the shield.

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# OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH

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.



## OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH

Before the start of each school year, we provide backpacks and school supplies for families in need in the Conestoga Valley School District.

- Each year we give on average over **100** backpacks filled with school supplies.





## OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: YOUTH

Additionally, with every backpack given, we encourage kids to make a difference in the CV community through our *“Back Pack Give Back”* initiative:

**Many neighbors have shared to provide this backpack & school supplies. We invite you to share & give back to our community!**

**Here are 10 ideas to get you started:**

1. Donate clothes your family no longer needs.
2. Donate toys/books you no longer use.
3. Do an extra chore to help out at home.
4. Do a chore for a neighbor.
5. Recycle at home.
6. Recycle at school.
7. Write an encouraging note for a family member or friend.
8. Read or play a game with a younger child.
9. Learn from a senior citizen.
10. Use your manners; smile and say Hello!



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## OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: BACK ON TRACK



# 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.



## 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 'CVCSS' are written in a large, stylized font. Below the letters, there is a central illustration of four stylized human figures (two adults and two children) holding hands. The shield is flanked by two crossed tools, possibly a hammer and a saw. The entire logo is rendered in a light, faded color.

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## OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: CONNECT



# 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.





# 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 PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: BIRTHDAY BAGS



## OUR PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES: BIRTHDAY BAGS

**Birthday Bags** are given out to our clients (adults & children) when they visit CVCCS close to their birthdays.

- You or your group can assemble Birthday Bags and drop them off at our facility.

**Here's what Birthday Bags should include:**

- 1.Box of cake mix.*
- 2.Tub of icing.*
- 3.Party favor (for example a bag of balloons, streamers, noise makers, etc.).*
- 4.Disposable aluminum cake pan.*
- 5.Decorative paper plates and napkins.*

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## 5. WAYS TO PARTNER:

**You can help us change lives right here in Lancaster County!**

**a. Hold a Fundraiser.**

**b. Hold a Food or Clothing Collection/Drive:**

- *Clothing collection ideas for Groups-*
  - *-New or slightly used shoes.*
  - *-Birthday Bags.*
  - *-Kids craft kits for our Summer Lunch Club.*
  - *-Backpacks and school supplies.*

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## WAYS TO PARTNER:

### c. Get involved in our youth programs:

- -Become an Afterschool Mentor for Rooted.
- -Sponsor a Child or Hold a Food Drive for Weekend Blessings.

### d. Client Discipleship:

-Churches in Lancaster County can partner with us by mentoring our adult clients.

**e. Financial Support/volunteer:** We rely on volunteers and financial supporters like *you!*

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## WAYS TO PARTNER:

Giving **monthly** to CVCCS is such an important and rewarding way to invest in our community.

- Did you know that giving monthly has just as much impact as large, one-time donations?
- As the needs get bigger and bigger in Lancaster County, your monthly partnership makes a world of difference.



**MONTHLY GIVING**  
**PARTNERSHIP**



## WAYS TO PARTNER:

**Share your time & talents. Make a difference in people's lives by volunteering at CVCCS!**

- Shop with Food Bank & Clothing Bank clients.
  - Clerical Duties.
  - Off-site distributions.
  - Pick-ups/Deliveries.
  - Sorting and repackaging food.
  - Stocking food shelves.
  - Sorting and hanging donated clothing.
- ... And more!



# 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.**



**ADDRESSING NEEDS  
CHANGING LIVES!**

