



CONESTOGA VALLEY  
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES



**THE STORY OF CVCCS** BEGAN WHEN A MAN STRUGGLING WITH HOMELESSNESS SOUGHT REFUGE FROM THE FREEZING WINTER TEMPERATURES INSIDE A LEOLA CHURCH.

-THE PASTOR LEARNED THAT HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY WAS A SERIOUS ISSUE FOR MANY OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY AS WELL.

-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.





**-IN 2014, SEEING THE NEED TO CONSOLIDATE SERVICES UNDER ONE ROOF, CVCCS MOVED INTO THE LAPP ELECTRIC BUILDING IN LANCASTER (2420 GEHMAN LANE).**

**-THE GOAL WAS TO BE A **ONE-STOP-SHOP** FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED.**



**OUR MISSION** IS TO PROVIDE FOOD, CLOTHING, MENTORING, & MINISTRY FOR OUR STRUGGLING NEIGHBORS **TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING.**

**OUR HOPE** FOR THE LANCASTER COUNTY COMMUNITY IS TO FOSTER **SELF-SUFFICIENCY & SUSTAINABILITY.**

- WE BELIEVE TRUE COMPASSION & CHARITY OFFERS THOSE IN NEED THE OPPORTUNITY TO **THRIVE** THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

- OUR MINISTRIES AND PROGRAMS AIM TO PROVIDE CHARITY THAT'S **INDIVIDUALIZED, HOLISTIC, & TRANSFORMATIONAL.**





Our **CLOTHING BANK** is **client choice** and provides **new & 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 by **appointment only**.

**Our clothing bank is stocked with a variety of clothing, shoes & socks, coats, hats, gloves, new underwear . . . and MORE!**



Our **FOOD BANK** is also **client choice** and provides to people in need that live or attend church in the **CV School District** and meet financial guidelines.

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

**Our food bank is stocked with *non-perishable foods, fresh produce, dairy, meats, bakery items . . . and MORE!* Uniquely, we give our clients everything they need to make full meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner!**





**\*INDIVIDUALIZED:** Each of our food & clothing clients has **inherent value**. We believe people are **much more** than just **mouths** to feed and **bodies** to clothe, they are **human beings** with dignity and capacity. **Therefore, a personal shopper assists every individual & family on a ONE-ON-ONE basis to get to know our clients & to build relationships.**



# **OUR OTHER PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES**





**BIBLE2SCHOOL:** We provide a "released-time" program for **Smoketown Elementary students during the school day** (over lunch & recess time).

**So that we can effectively journey with the students, our program is available to one grade at a time, each school year.**



**WEEKEND BLESSINGS:** We provide students who struggle with **food insecurity** in all CV schools K-12, with individualized bundles of food to take home each weekend during the school year.

Weekend Blessings

**The food bundles include:** *2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 2 Dinners, and snacks* and are quick, individually sized items that can be easily prepared.





**BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE:** Before the start of each school year, we provide **backpacks and school supplies** for families in need in the CV School District. Each year we provide an average of over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies.

**Additionally, with every backpack given, we encourage **reciprocity** in students to make a difference in the CV community through our “Backpack Give Back” initiative!**

**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!



**BACK ON TRACK** assists hard-working families & individuals living in the Conestoga Valley School District impacted by an **UNAVOIDABLE** financial hardship.

We provide **one-on-one** coaching and limited, one-time, financial assistance to those who qualify. **The vision of Back on Track is to equip our clients to be the champion in their own journey!**

- Back on Track clients also get access to our Food and Clothing Banks for 3 months.





To protect the **dignity** of our clients, we use careful discernment in **each individual case** to **differentiate** between situations of ***RELIEF, REHABILITATION, & DEVELOPMENT.***

- ***RELIEF*** is an urgent, temporary provision of emergency aid to reduce immediate suffering from an unavoidable crisis (not caused by chronic behavior or conditions). Not meant to be a long-term solution.
- ***REHABILITATION*** begins as soon as the immediate suffering stops. Here, we move away from doing things **for** someone to working **with** them to take steps to improve their situation. The goal is stability.
- ***DEVELOPMENT*** is the process of ongoing change. Like rehabilitation, development is not done **to** people or **for** people, but **with** them. The goal is a holistically flourishing life.  
**Therefore, we give our clients the option of being paired up with a personal mentor.**



**CONNECT:** ***“Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he will eat for the rest of his life.”***

While this cliché does not fully acknowledge all the complexities of poverty, it **does** acknowledge the inherent limits of **keeping those in poverty in a state of perpetual relief.**

Our mentors are paired with clients of the same gender and are trained by CVCCS be less like a *boss* or *savior* and more like a **consultant or friend.**



**BIRTHDAY BAGS** are given out to our clients (adults & children) when they visit CVCCS close to their birthday which builds **dignity**.

**Birthday Bags include:**

- *Box of cake mix.*
- *Tub of icing.*
- *Party favor*
- *Disposable aluminum cake pan.*
- *Decorative paper plates and napkins.*



**BIRTHDAY BAGS**



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## **“The 7 marks of Effective Charity.”**

*Taken from the book ‘The Tragedy of American Compassion,’  
by Marvin Olasky.*

**The main point of this presentation:**  
The more you apply these **7 marks**  
**of Effective Charity** in your practice,  
the more **effective** your **charity** will be!





**#1. Affiliation-** The closest and nearest help is the **BEST** help.

a. Empowerment-

i. *“We will walk **WITH** you, not **FOR** you.”*

ii. Empowerment is not something that’s done **TO** someone.

iii. The government should be the LAST resort of charity.



## #2. Bonding- The importance of getting to know those you're offering charity to.

- a. How can you truly **HELP** someone if you don't **KNOW** anything about them?
- b. Find out more about their situation, and most importantly, **who they are.**
- c. **SLOW the process down. Don't give in to urgency and emotion.**



### #3. Categorization- Not everyone is the same, therefore not everyone's needs are the same.

- a. Charity must be **individualized**.
- b. “*Blanket*” approaches DO NOT work. There's no such thing as “one size fits all” charity.
- c. Do they need **relief, rehabilitation, or development?** (*Remember, we talked about the difference between these in our overview about CVCCS*).



## **#4. Discernment**- How do we **BEST** serve the client?

a. Discernment comes from asking good questions.

b. **John 5:1-15:**

a. *“Do you want to get **well**”?*

b. *“I have no one to help me.”*

c. *“Stop sinning...”*



## #5. Exchange- It's reciprocal.

- a. Giver and receiver are **both** involved in the process.
- b. The goal is to **empower** the client.



## **#6. Freedom- Dependency **crushes** freedom.**

- a. Steps to dependency for the one **receiving** charity.
- b. Steps to dependency for the one **giving** charity.

**\*THESE ARE INTERCONNECTED\***





## #7. **God-Faith component**

a. A person is made up of 4 components:

*Physical, mental, **spiritual**, and social.*

The spiritual component is often ignored in charitable circles.

i. **Imago Dei.**

ii. **Shalom.**



**QUESTIONS?**

