

# OPERATION HELP

Helping Families In Difficult Times

# 2023 Spring Newsletter



The mission of Operation HELP is to help residents of St. Croix County maintain stable living situations, well-being, and personal dignity when they experience temporary financial hardships.

## ST. CROIX VALLEY giveBIG

### Mark April 25 on your calendars for the St. Croix Valley's annual day of giving.

Operation HELP is participating again this year and we're especially interested in introducing ourselves to new supporters so please help spread the word. Contributions can be made through the giveBIG website or directly at

[www.operationhelpstcroix.org/donate/](http://www.operationhelpstcroix.org/donate/)



## VOLUNTEERS: LIFE FORCE OF OUR SERVICES

### April is Global Volunteer Month. Every day is volunteer appreciation day at Operation HELP.

From the founding of the Christmas program 40 years ago to daily operation of the Resource Center, volunteers are at the core of everything we do. More than 50 volunteers provide direct client service 17 hours each week and fill other vital functions such as serving on the board and committees, coordinating the annual Christmas for Kids campaign, and assisting with other activities. In 2023, volunteers contributed approximately 3,200 hours of their time. Thank you, volunteers!



## CLIENT COMMENT/TESTIMONIAL

*“Thank you so very much for your payment of \$500 toward our energy bill. We have had a rough time and this blessing will help us catch up with our bills.”*

### FOLLOW US



Keep up to date on what's happening at Operation HELP by following us on social media.



Partial Funding By United Way  
We are a 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization

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## WHAT A YEAR OF SERVICE LOOKS LIKE

**Operation HELP recently compiled service statistics for the previous year.** Although the true impact of our work is in the lives of people who have been helped, the numbers also tell a story about the scope and scale of programs.

### Last year...

- More than 2,100 people in 849 households were reached by Operation HELP services.
- 437 households throughout St. Croix County received rent, utility or car repair assistance totaling \$236,156.
- The Resource Center received 1,693 visits from families and individuals seeking food and clothing vouchers; toiletry and hygiene items; socks or underwear; diapers; pet food; and laundry or gas vouchers.
- 508 kids from nearly 200 families received Christmas gifts from 175 sponsors.
- 46 percent of households had children under the age of 18; 26 percent had children age 5 or younger.
- 72 percent of clients served were female; 22 percent of clients identified as persons of color.
- Approximately 50 percent of clients reported household income at or below federal poverty guidelines.

Community	Households	Persons
Baldwin	48	150
Deer Park	4	7
Emerald	5	10
Glenwood City	17	37
Hammond	23	50
Homeless	55	106
Houlton	10	26
Hudson	296	778
New Richmond	171	436
River Falls	109	244
Roberts	26	73
Somerset	58	165
Star Prairie	2	2
Wilson	2	6
Woodville	15	25
Other	8	11
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>2,126</b>

## THANK YOU!

**Edina Realty hosted current grant recipients at their Hudson office this spring.** Operation HELP, Hudson Area Backpack and Food Programs, Our Neighbor's Place, and Grace Place all benefit from ongoing support of the local office and Edina Realty Foundation.



Thanks also to the following organizations who recently made significant financial contributions to Operation HELP: Beth Immanuel Sabbath Christian Fellowship, Bethel Lutheran Church, Ciranda, Inc., Citizens State Bank, Edina Realty Foundation, First State Bank & Trust, Hudson Hospital Foundation, Hudson Women's Club, Kwik Trip, Inc., Lund Builders, New Richmond Area Community Foundation, New Richmond Utilities, Our Saviors Lutheran Church, O'Connell Family Funeral Homes, River Valley Charities, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, St. Croix Economic Development Corporation, United Way St. Croix Valley, Valley Orthodontics, Weekes Family Foundation, WESTconsin Credit Union, Wild River Yacht Club, Willow River/Lake Mallalieu Apartments.