



901 4th Street Suite 214
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www.operationhelpstcroix.org

April 2023

Dear Friend:

Thank you for helping meet the critical needs of our St. Croix County neighbors. Although many of us have been spared the economic impact of inflation and record high food and fuel costs, hundreds of other local families and individuals aren't so fortunate.

Thank you for getting me out of a bind and helping pay my \$300 bill to Xcel Energy. I really appreciated the boost and I'm still on track for finding a higher paying job so this doesn't happen again!

Since the first of the year, Operation HELP has received more than 260 applications for rent, utility, or car repair assistance—nearly 90 each month. Applicants come from Baldwin, Emerald, Glenwood City, Hammond, Houlton, Hudson, New Richmond, River Falls, Roberts, Somerset, Star Prairie, and Woodville. Others are homeless. The reasons for financial hardships are many—

"I only have 1 vehicle and I am a single parent working Mon-Friday. Have put a lot of money towards repairs but it needs more work. Repairs are \$804.92."

"Need help paying my \$1,400 rent. February had multiple snow days at my child's school causing me to miss work and severely affecting my income."

"Recently had surgery and had some complications which required additional doctor visits and time off work. Any help to catch up on January rent would be very appreciated."

We reached a record-high in emergency financial assistance payouts in January 2023. Fifty-two households received help with rent, utility, or car repair payments totaling \$79,178.24. Assistance ranged from as little as \$111.46 for a utility payment to \$750 for rent help.

Thanks to you, no eligible applicant for financial assistance is turned away and the Resource Center is stocked each month to respond to client needs. But it's not always easy. Recent spikes in fuel, food, and housing costs continue to put financial pressure on households that were "just getting by" even before inflation and supply chain problems.

To continue this important work, we need your continued support. Please consider donating today using the enclosed envelope or visit us online at www.operationhelpstcroix.org.

Sincerely,

Bjorn Nesvold, Chair
Operation HELP
Board of Directors



Operation HELP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is eligible to receive tax deductible donations as allowed by law.