



Operation HELP provides residents of St. Croix County with financial assistance, a place for personal support, and connections to community resources to alleviate short-term economic crises.

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

Operation HELP
(715) 386-0881
P.O. Box 1134
Hudson, WI 54016

Resource Center
(715) 386-1300

www.OperationHelpStCroix.org

News Updates

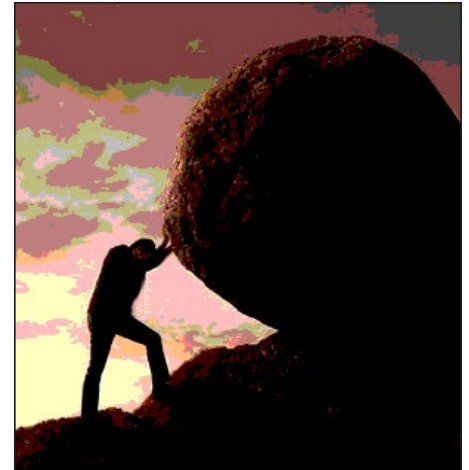
- Check out our new programs - Diapers and Food Harvest vouchers
- Over 20% of all donations come from individuals
- More than 95% of all donations are used to serve clients
- Served over 500 families in the first four months of 2017
- Like us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on news
- Are you a Thrivent member? Ask your rep about designating "Choice" dollars to Operation HELP
- Concert to benefit Operation HELP on Friday, Sept 15; visit our FB page or website for upcoming details



Hidden Struggles

The economy seems good and unemployment is down. Do people in St. Croix County really need help with rent or utilities?

The short answer is 'YES.' In the first four months of 2017 Operation HELP saw a 20% increase in the amount of emergency financial support provided for things like rent, utilities and modest car repairs. The truth is many working people in St. Croix County simply do not earn enough to cover basic living expenses. The United Way recently released a report that showed 7% of our residents live below the federal poverty level and another 22% earn less than the cost of living for St. Croix County.



That means nearly 1/3 of our residents are struggling to make ends meet. These are the people Operation HELP supports. Here are just a few stories of families Operation HELP supported in 2017:

- A single mom whose car needed repairs. She paid a portion of the repairs and Operation HELP paid the balance.
- A working couple who are currently homeless needed some car repairs. They paid a portion and Operation HELP paid for the balance of the repair cost.
- A client needed surgery and was unable to work for a week. The lost income meant not being able to pay a utility bill. Operation HELP was able to assist with the utility bill to avoid disconnection.

Operation HELP Adds Two *New* Programs

Operation HELP Pilots Diaper Giveaway Program

Can you imagine having to make your child use a diaper longer than normal or even reuse a diaper because you could not afford to buy more? These are choices that some families have been forced to make.

The cost of children's diapers can be more than 10% of a families available income. And, diapers are excluded from other forms of assistance like SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) and WIC (program that provides some financial assistance for food to mothers of infants and children).

(Two New Programs continued on pg 2)

(Two New Programs continued)

Operation HELP received funding to test being a “Diaper Bank” for all residents of St. Croix County. This test period started on January 1. Once each month families in St. Croix County can come to Operation HELP and receive 80 – 100 diapers for each child.

Operation HELP

Partners with Food Harvest of St. Croix Valley

For several years Operation HELP has provided vouchers to the local Farmers Markets during the summer season. Clients are eager for the Farmers Market vouchers and the access to fresh produce they provide. However, once the local growing season ends, so does ready access to fresh produce.

Operation HELP is now providing vouchers to residents of St. Croix County for the monthly food distribution operated by Food Harvest of St. Croix Valley. This food distribution includes fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, eggs, bread products, and other miscellaneous items.



Warm In Winter Partnering with Hudson Schools



Over the years Operation HELP has provided winter gear to children and adults living within the Hudson School District. This small but important program got a BIG boost in 2016 / 2017

when Operation HELP and Hudson Schools partnered to move the available gear to E.P. Rock School. Operation HELP continues to supply the schools with needed winter gear during the season. The ready access by school social workers, students and their families allowed us to help significantly more people who needed coats, boots, snowpants and mittens. According to Alissa Van Boxel, Hudson Elementary Social Worker, through this partnership Operation HELP supplied 199 winter gear items to 71 people.

6th Annual Les Berg 5K

On May 17th, the lightening and thunderstorms hit just before our 6th Annual walk/run was to kick off. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the race for the safety of the runners and volunteers. We thank all who signed up to participate and/or volunteer for your time and donations. The registration donations will go to help our clients and the cookies went to Grace Place. We will be back in action next year hoping for nicer weather!

Operation HELP Thanks All of Our Sponsors for Supporting the 2017 Les Berg 5K

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Looking for a Volunteer Opportunity?

Do you want to help people get through a difficult time and back on their feet? Operation HELP is looking for volunteers to help staff our office and phones. Our volunteers provide assistance to clients over the telephone and to those clients who come to the Resource Center. We are looking for volunteers who can commit 3 to 6 hours per month. To learn more about volunteering contact us at operationhelp.source@gmail.com or call 715-386-0881.