

OPERATION HELP

Helping Families In Difficult Times

2023 Fall 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.

SIGN-UP FOR THE 2023 CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS PROGRAM NOW OPEN



For more than 40 years, Operation HELP's Christmas for Kids Campaign has been bringing together sponsors, businesses, churches, and dozens of volunteers to help make every Christmas a merry one for children in the Hudson School District who might otherwise go without. Operation HELP coordinates the campaign linking families in need with generous sponsors who provide gifts and other items for the families. In addition to Christmas gifts requested by the recipients, each family receives a gift bag of other household necessities. Last year this project provided gifts for 508 children in more than 190 families.

Both recipient families and sponsors may sign up to participate in the program online by visiting operationhelpstcroix.org from October 16 through November 17. Drop off for gifts will be Monday December 4th and Tuesday December 5th from 10 am to 7 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Distribution of gifts will be Thursday, December 7th from 11 am - 6 pm.

KEEPING THE RESOURCE CENTER SHELVES FULL

Operation HELP's Resource Center has been seeing an average of 31 visits per week this year. To date, 503 households have received personal care supplies (more than 4,200 items), socks (2,807 pairs), underwear (1,898 pairs), diapers and wipes (878 large boxes or packages), food, clothing and laundry vouchers (2,700), gas cards (516), pet food, toilet paper, and other necessities. Thanks to charity collection drives by local businesses, churches, clubs, and other organizations, many of the items are donated. When items need to be purchased, volunteer groups can participate in a "shop and stock" day.



Volunteers from Royal Credit Union pitched in at the Resource Center during their October Give Back Day. RCU volunteers helped shop, stock, and package diapers, socks, and personal care items. Others hauled donated pet food from Angel's Pet World.

**If you know of group that might like to get involved,
contact Operation HELP at (715) 386-1300
or email operationhelp.source@gmail.com**

CLIENT COMMENT/TESTIMONIAL

"We are so very grateful to you for the help you have given. Your generosity has allowed us to take a breath without the worry that our utilities will be cut off. Thanks to everyone who makes Operation HELP a viable support for those in need."

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

901 4th Street • Suite 214
Hudson, WI 54016
Resource Center • (715) 386-1300
www.OperationHelpStCroix.org
OperationHELP.Source@Gmail.com

CONTINUING ECONOMIC CHALLENGES IMPACT FAMILIES

Although many people hoped for a return to a pre-COVID-19 economy after the pandemic peaked in 2020, that has not been the case for hundreds of our neighbors in St. Croix County. Inflation and fuel and food costs have been rising faster and higher than take-home pay for many. The need for assistance this year has been as high as ever.

During the first 10 months of this year, more than 700 people applied to Operation HELP for assistance with rent, utilities, or car repair payments. Operation HELP has already paid out more than \$205,000 to 384 households this year.



Since the first of the year, Operation HELP's Resource Center has had more than 1,400 visits. To date, 503 households have received personal care supplies; socks; underwear; diapers and wipes; food, clothing, and laundry vouchers; gas cards; pet food; toilet paper; and other necessities. Clients have come from Baldwin, Deer Park, Elmwood, Emerald, Glenwood City, Hammond, Houlton, Hudson, New Richmond, North Hudson, River Falls, Roberts, Somerset, Star Prairie, Wilson, and Woodville. Others are homeless.

Although the need has been great, so has the community response. Thanks to generous donations from individuals, foundations, businesses, churches, clubs, and organizations, no eligible person or family is turned away. As we look ahead to 2024 and the continuing heightened need, we'll continue to depend on this community support so that neighbors who are struggling with financial hardship have a place to turn to.

THANK YOU!



Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau often includes a charitable element in their events. Operation HELP was the beneficiary of proceeds from the spring Explore Your Hudson this year. Other organizations who made significant financial contributions to Operation HELP since the last newsletter include: Bethel Lutheran Church, Compeer Financial, FNC Bank, Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, Hudson Daybreak Rotary, Hudson Professional LLC, Hugh J. Andersen Foundation, Knights of Columbus Council 1762, Miller Brothers Auto Repair, Inc., New Richmond Utilities, Otto Bremer Trust, Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Sourcing Solutions, Inc., United Way St. Croix Valley, Westfields Hospital and Clinic Foundation, William H. Phipps Foundation, and Willow River/Lake Mallalieu Apartments.