



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.



Operation HELP
(715) 386-0881
P.O. Box 1134
Hudson, WI 54016
Resource Center
(715) 386-1300

www.OperationHelpStCroix.org

Client Needs Outpace Operation HELP Resources!

This year Operation HELP will assist more families and individuals and provide more emergency financial support than ever. The increase in needs has been so great that Operation HELP made the difficult decision to limit the amount of support provided each month and, in September, began turning away clients. These clients have few alternatives since Operation HELP is one of the few places that focus on keeping people in their home with rent support. Other area agencies, like WestCap and Salvation Army focus on people who are homeless.



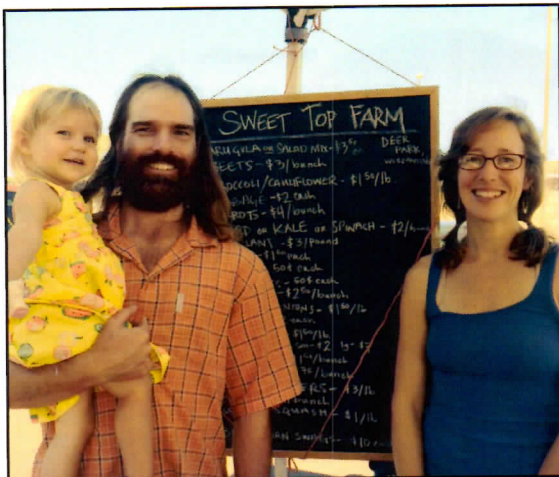
Unique Ways to Support Our Mission

Volunteers are at the heart of Operation HELP's mission and we could not do without them. But many of them do more than man our telephone help line, assist clients with the resources they need or make the Christmas Campaign for Kids a success every year.

Many Operation HELP volunteers have taken the additional step of sharing their talents to benefit those we assist. Examples include the donation of handmade items like the pot holders from Rosemary Helmueller, pillowcases from Connie Fisk, scarves and hats from Therene Lein, diapers and socks from the Red Hat Ladies and fresh produce from Sweet Top Farms. Other volunteers donate their professional skills like those that make our office run smoothly, manage our website and produce this newsletter.

So consider joining our ranks by donating your time or your talents or both. Whatever you do, it will make a difference.

Adam and Megan, owners of Sweet Top Farms (pictured bottom left)
Rosemary Helmueller (pictured bottom right)



Same Mission, NEW Look!



This fall, Operation help introduced a new logo and an updated website. Both the new logo and the updated website incorporate the merger of Operation HELP and the Resource Center, formerly known as the SOURCE.

The new logo reflects the sense that Operation HELP is a bridge, providing help when people experience a financial emergency.

The new website provides information on services we provide, our location and hours of operation as well as news and events. The website will be a useful tool for residents who need help, other service providers, donors and volunteers.

You can visit our website at:
www.OperationHelpStCroix.org



Warm in Winter Program

Operation HELP has been providing new and gently used winter clothing, including boots, for children in need throughout St. Croix County for the past 11 years.

Many of the calls to the program coordinator come from school counselors who notice children coming to school not dressed for the cold weather. If you would like to donate to the program or know of a family in need, please call the Resource Center at 715-386-1300.

The Warm in Winter Program is able to offer this much needed service because of the financial assistance received from generous donors. A big thank you to Roberta Floyd with GM Auto UAW Local 722, the Hudson Chamber of Commerce and individual donations for their generous support.

Pictured left: Tammy Holland, Warm In Winter program coordinator



Annual Christmas Campaign

The annual Christmas Campaign for Kids is underway! Operation HELP, sponsors, local businesses and churches, and dozens of volunteers are working together to help make this Christmas a merry one for hundreds of local children who might otherwise go without. Operation HELP coordinates the campaign, linking families in need who live in the Hudson school district with generous sponsors and supporters who can provide gifts and other items.

Last year gifts were provided for 154 families, a 25% increase over 2013, and the program continues to grow.

Sponsors are asked to bring items to St. Paul's Episcopal Church (502 County Rd. UU) on Monday, Dec. 7th or Tuesday, Dec. 8th between 10AM and 7PM.

This year there is a record number of families are registered. Visit our website to sign up as a sponsor or call during office hours to volunteer. You can help us "bring a little Christmas" this year.

Stone Tap Golf Tourney Benefits Operation HELP

Stone Tap held their first annual charity golf tournament on Thursday, July 23rd at Clifton Hollow Golf Course supporting Operation HELP. A Big Thank you to Teri Peterson the GM of Stone Tap, Carly Krueger the Manager of Stone Tap and the sponsors, donors and golfers. Stone Tap raised over \$2000 to support Operation HELP. The sponsors included Two Redheads and a Wolf, Dick's Bar & Grill, Shiner's Bar & Grill, Heritage Liquor, PPG, Milleon Transfer, Axdahl's Garden Farm and the Healing Arts Wellcare Center's Dr. Su.



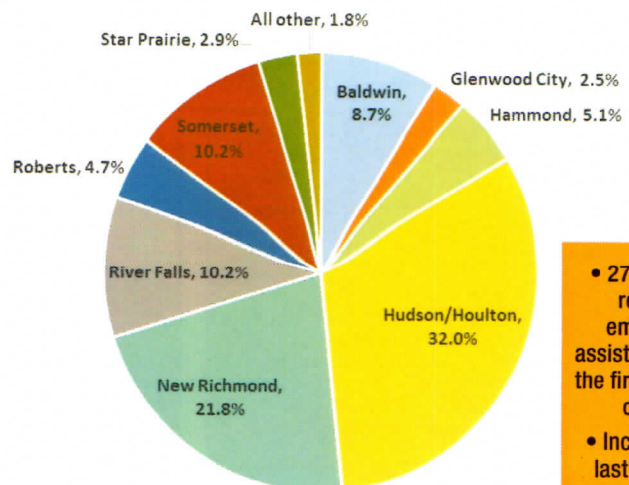
Pictured from left: Marg Wopat-Operation HELP board member, Teri Peterson, Vicky Erickson & Jean Schneider-Operation HELP board members, Carly Krueger

Client Surveys Speak Volumes for Operation HELP

Each month Operation HELP surveys our clients. We ask them to rate the quality of service they received and the impact it had on them. Clients consistently say that with the support they received from Operation HELP they are better off or significantly better off financially. In some cases our clients include a personal note in their survey responses. These notes really tell the story of how our work impacts families and individuals across St. Croix County. Here is one of those stories:

"My husband fell down some stairs and was unexpectedly out of work for a couple of months. We had nowhere to turn and Operation Help was able to help us the same day we asked for assistance! It's a scary thing to not have a safety net! We were very grateful for the help we received! My husband is back to work and now we are doing fine."

Families Served in St. Croix Co. (Jan-Sept 2015)



- 275 Families received emergency assistance during the first 9 months of 2015
- Increase over last year-11%