Upcoming Events

**TP the Crisis Center**
October
Help TP the Crisis Center by donating toilet paper throughout the month of October!

**Project Holiday**
November-December
Just $20 puts a holiday meal on the table for a local family. Distribution of meals is Dec. 19-22.

**Homebrewed**
December 18
The Mill
Proceeds to benefit The Crisis Center

**Euforquestra**
December 22
The Englert
Proceeds to benefit The Crisis Center

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Or connect with us on social media: Facebook.com/jccrisiscenter or Twitter.com/crisiscenterjc

The Crisis Center of Johnson County
2015-2016 Board of directors

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The Crisis Center of Johnson County is a volunteer-driven organization that provides immediate and non-judgmental support for individuals facing emotional, food, or financial crisis.
A note from the Chair...

Dear Friends,

This has been an exciting year at The Crisis Center, and the next year promises new challenges and opportunities for growth.

We are going mobile.

Through the implementation of mobile and school pantries, as well as a mobile counseling unit, we are preparing to address the needs in our community on a broader scale.

It’s been more than two years since the first Hunger Forum, and we’ve been making steady gains in the fight against hunger. The Johnson County Board of Supervisors approved a $30,000 proposal for a mobile pantry, a service designed to provide hunger relief to underserved areas.

Current funding will allow us to make three monthly trips in a refrigerated van to food deserts where need is high, but clients face barriers to accessing the resources of the food bank.

Additionally, funding from the Johnson County Board of Supervisors is allowing us to open a school pantry at Tate High School, yet another way to meet the great need in the community and increase access to our services.

Through multiple grant opportunities, we’ve added two full-time staff to our Mobile Crisis Outreach Program, which means they are meeting clients in areas where crisis is occurring, whether that be home, hospitals, or places of business.

We have had an incredible response, and it is clear that there is tremendous need for this type of service in our community. Call volume has increased exponentially since the program’s inception in 2015, and we expect to see continued growth.

Balancing call volume with much-needed and valuable follow-ups will be a challenge, but it is incredibly important because it allows us to make client connections that build their support network.

With all of these great changes underway, one thing remains certain. Without you, we couldn’t even begin to think about expanding our services. It would be a struggle. You grant us the time and resources to focus on service enhancement, and that is truly an amazing gift.

Crisis Center supporters answer the call every day and benefit the community. Thank you so much for investing in The Crisis Center! We couldn’t accomplish half of what we do without you.

Sincerely,

Becchi Reeds
Executive Director

Jane Persons and her children pose in front of the Roy J. Carver Medical School at the University of Iowa, where Jane is now earning her Ph.D.

Photo by Carly Matthew

“We never would have gotten here without The Crisis Center…”

As a single mother of two, earning a PhD and starting medical school hasn’t been easy. Jane Persons is thankful to have had the support of The Crisis Center Food Bank when she needed it most.

For the past few years, the burden of student loans, car payments, and housing costs made it nearly impossible to make ends meet. Going through a divorce and losing support from her husband only made things harder. “If we also had to afford food, it would have been impossible to get by,” says Jane.

Jane planned on earning money after earning a Bachelor’s degree, but faced with few options, had to take a job where it was a struggle to even pay the bills. She had a difficult and important decision: to pursue an advanced degree and create a better life for her kids or continue to try to make ends meet in a low-paying career with limited options for advancement.

She chose to go back to school. Pressure mounted as Jane tried to balance going to school and working overnight to make ends meet. Housing and other bills left only $30 in her account for food at the end of the month. Though Jane applied for additional resources, she preferred to use The Crisis Center Food Bank because it allowed her to shop for food without the stigma and stress associated with other types of services.

Today, Jane is taking on her next great challenge: medical school. And while she once used the food bank weekly, she is now financially stable. Her experience and skills have helped her get a job that meets her family’s needs and pays the bills.

“We never would have gotten where we are today if we hadn’t had the food bank to rely on,” Jane says.

Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who make the food bank such a positive option for the many clients in transition facing difficult circumstances every day.
Time, talent, and treasure: A family affair

When Len and Jo Roberts began volunteering at The Crisis Center in 1999, they wanted to help make a positive impact on the community. They had no idea what an incredible impact the experience would have on them.

The newly retired couple had just moved back to Johnson County and didn’t have to search long for an organization to get involved with.

“We picked The Crisis Center because that’s where my dad volunteered,” Len said. “After we were here for a while, though, we began to really see the need.”

Len and Jo spend their time helping people in The Crisis Center Food Bank.

“It’s something we really enjoy doing. There are just so many positive rewards,” said Len. “The people, both the clients and the other volunteers, mean a lot to us. The clients have become almost friends. We recognize about half of them and always go out of our way to greet them.”

“Len and Jo are more than just volunteers, though. As they’ve watched The Crisis Center grow over the years, so has their passion for the organization. Not long after they began giving their time to the food bank, they began to also make significant financial gifts to the organization as members of the Mission Circle, The Crisis Center’s sustaining, monthly giving club. As need has increased, so has their gift. “We know our gift is being utilized effectively,” Len said. “We believe giving is important and when we give to The Crisis Center, we can see what these resources are being used for.”

Len and Jo say they trust The Crisis Center staff to use their gift for programming and have watched as programs have changed to accommodate more clients, as well as empower them. They’ve observed the organization’s strategies change and the consideration of clients grow within those strategies. They feel confident that their gift is being used to help the people they’ve grown to care about over the years.

And they’ve continued to make their support of The Crisis Center a family tradition, started so many years ago by Len’s own father.

“We have four grown children who are all supportive of The Crisis Center,” said Len. “We supported them through college and we’ve always believed it’s important for them to see our support of the community. Now, they are supportive, as well.”

Became a Mission Circle member today!

One of the best ways to support The Crisis Center is by joining The Mission Circle - a group of dedicated donors who give through an automatic transaction each month.

The Mission Circle is a win for everyone: You get to support the community without paperwork, checks, or envelopes. And you give The Crisis Center and our clients some stability through the ups and downs of the annual giving cycle.

To learn more or sign up, visit www.jccrisiscenter.org or call Crisis Center Development Coordinator Jessica Lien, 319.351.2726, ext. 105.

Interested in joining our monthly giving program?
Call Jess today and ask about becoming a member of our Mission Circle! 319-351-2726 ext. 105 or jessica.lien@jccrisiscenter.org

Thanks to our FY2016 Mission Circle members

Visit us online to see a full list of those who gave over the last year: jccrisiscenter.org

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Judy Atkins
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Dennis and Veronica Wieland
Marianne Wilkening
Matt and Sarah Willy
Deborah Yarrow

$25/month supplies five families with food for the year

$50/month purchases 2,500 pounds of food for local families

$110/month helps 12 local families keep their heat on

Fortmann-Doser
Crisis Intervention Program
contacts FY12-FY16

Mobile Crisis Outreach
Program dispositions FY16

Despite humble beginnings, Ron Hall learned the importance of doing his part and helping others. Now, as Executive Chef at Mercy Hospital, he works to raise awareness of childhood hunger through The Crisis Center’s Thanksgiving in July initiative.

Ron’s grandparents grew up during the Depression. They had a four-room house his grandfather built with used lumber for a family of nine people. One winter in 1947, it caught on fire and burned down. With donations from the community, his family bought a railroad boxcar for $200 and put it on the same foundation.

“I grew up in that house along with my brother and sister. There were 12 of us living there at one time; 3 generations. We didn't dwell on the lack of material goods,” Ron recalls. “My family was as rich in generosity and kindness as they were poor in worldly goods. It gives insight into what is really important. I learned some valuable lessons growing up.”

Shortly after starting at Mercy Hospital, Ron became a member of the American Culinary Federation (ACF), a national chef’s organization with hundreds of chapters throughout the US. One program of the ACF promotes childhood nutrition and hunger awareness. Chefs are encouraged to do their part to act as a force for positive change in their communities.

Ron started with presentations for local kindergarten and 1st graders, and a meal at the fire station. Then he hosted a non-perishable food drive at Mercy benefitting The Crisis Center Food Bank, collecting several large boxes of food.

“When I delivered the food, I learned The Crisis Center distributed more than that in a single week,” Ron says. “I decided a donation from several organizations at the same time was a better answer.”

With the support of Mercy Iowa City and Jeff Braverman, President and owner of Hawkeye Foodservice Inc., they planned the first city-wide food drive in 1999.

For the next few years Ron continued the annual food drive, meeting with volunteers, organizations, and civic-minded individuals in other communities and asking them to join the effort. The initiative, later named “Thanksgiving in July”, has grown considerably through his promotion and advocacy. Ron’s effort has expanded reach to other communities: Coralville, North Liberty, Fairfield, Muscatine, Tiffin/Clear Creek Amana, and the Quad Cities. All of the food and funds raised stay in those communities and provide much-needed support in the summer months when food donations are down and need is up.

2016 marks an unprecedented success for Thanksgiving in July in Iowa City, raising 38,076 pounds of food donations and $31,177.42 in financial donations.

Ron was a force propelling the initiative forward, building year after year on success and meaningfully engaging other organizations and individuals in the community.

When it comes to thinking about getting involved, “Most people have a passion or a cause they care deeply about,” Ron says. Ron is a testament to what happens when those passions align with philanthropy and the amazing things that can happen as a result.

$751,658.25

How does the community impact our work?

256,071 pounds of food purchased
+$2,710 Food Bank volunteer hours
231,377 pounds of food donated by the community
+8,849 Crisis Intervention volunteer hours
+$87,859 pounds of food donated by Table to Table
+34,559 total volunteer hours
x $27.75/hour (dollar value of each volunteer hour)

1,375,247 pounds of food distributed in FY16

Crisis Center volunteers have saved the organization...
Revenue

Total = $1,558,582

- Contributions: $419,093
- Contract Income: $752,220
- Johnson County: $30,000
- Iowa City: $18,000
- United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties: $104,500
- Consultation of Religious Communities: $44,031
- Grants: $34,878
- Other Income: $149,260

Expenses

Total = $1,533,468

- Crisis Intervention: $627,764
- Food Bank: $341,539
- Communications and Development: $173,841
- Emergency Assistance: $147,139
- 1105 Building Expenses: $120,036
- Administrative: $113,059

An average family visiting the Food Bank...

1. has 1 or more working adults in the household
2. visits twice per month
3. has 3 family members, including at least one child

- 18,640: Number of Johnson County residents who experience food insecurity
- 89%: Number of Food Bank clients who live below the poverty line
- 6.3%: Number of Food Bank clients who report housing instability
- 81%: Number of Food Bank clients who report that half or all of their food needs are met by the pantry
- 60%: Number of Food Bank clients who report that half or all of their housing needs are met by the pantry

3 of 5 Food Bank clients report that half or all of their food needs are met by the pantry.

What do you know about the Emergency Assistance Program?

- $104,262
- Funds distributed through the Emergency Assistance Program

- 920
- Households assisted with housing and utility costs

- 97%
- Emergency Assistance clients who maintained housing between financial assist
Our Donors

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donors for their generosity and support of The Crisis Center of Johnson County. The Mission Circle listing reflects donors who make a monthly gift to The Crisis Center. This listing represents donors who made gifts to support our programs during fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016) of $500 or more. We greatly appreciate each gift given in support of The Crisis Center of Johnson County, and we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please notify Jessica Lien, Development Coordinator, of any inaccuracies or omissions by contacting her at 319-351-2726 ext. 105 or jessica.lien@jccrisiscenter.org. We regret any errors.

Organizations

$20,000+
St. Mary's Church

$10,000-$19,999
Community Foundation of Johnson County
Johnson County Social Services

$5,000-$9,999
Congregational United Church of Christ World Service, Inc.
Hills Bank & Trust
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
University of Iowa Community Credit Union

$2,500-$4,999
Cost Cutters
Discerning Eye, Inc
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Hill’s Market
MidWestOne Bank
New Pioneer Cooperative Society
Scheels
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

$1,000-$2,499
1st & Main Hospitality LLC
Adamsamine Spine Moving Apex Construction
Causcas Foundation
Cookie Dokie

FilmScene
Gazette Foundation
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Innovative Software Engineering
Iowa City Federation of Labor
Iowa City High School Activity Fund
Iowa City Noon Kiwanis Club
Iowa City Noon Rotary Club
Iowa’s Best Dam Triathlon
James Investment Group
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Toyota Scion of Iowa City
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United Natural Foods Inc.
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$500-$999
AFSCME Local 183 Labor Union
Beeler Farms Partnership
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Fern Investments
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Southgate Development
St. Mark’s United Methodist Church
Tallgrass Business Resources
The Bennevig Community Impact Fund
TRUST
United Way of East Central Iowa
University of Iowa
University of Iowa College of Nursing
Veridian Credit Union
Zion Lutheran Church
Z’Mars Noodle Cafe

Individuals

$10,000+
Cliff and Margaret Haley
Bobby Jett
Bill and Cher Panther

$5,000-$9,999
Dale and Kay Prediger
Leonard and Jo Roberts

$2,500-$4,999
Virginia H Hirst
Lois James
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John and Jean Spitzer
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