GRATITUDE REPORT
Reflecting on what you’ve helped build in 2019

As we kick off the new calendar year, we’d like to take some time to reflect on what has made 2019 special. *When it comes down to it, the connecting factor in everything we’ve accomplished is YOU.*

Thanks to your support, our programs have helped thousands of individuals and families in Johnson County and beyond.

Our Food Bank had a record year, distributing over TWO MILLION pounds* to Johnson County residents experiencing food insecurity. In addition, the Food Bank added Saturday hours, removing barriers for people with other obligations during the week so that they can receive our services. Our Mobile Pantry added two new stops, making food more accessible for residents who face transportation barriers. And most recently, nearly 1,700 families received a holiday meal through Project Holiday.

Our Basic Needs program assisted with 878* rent and utility bills. 523* people received work-enabling items like boots and uniforms, giving them a chance to support themselves in a new job.

Thanks to your support, 31,000* people struggling with thoughts of suicide and other mental health crises were able to connect with a trained crisis counselor. Our Mobile Crisis Outreach team dispatched counselors to 738* crisis situations in our community, helping many of them avoid unnecessary visits to the hospital or jail.

The reach of your donation’s impact extends beyond our organization. Thanks to our trainings on suicide intervention and trauma-informed care, hundreds people from educators to nurses to retail workers and farmers have learned the skills to support people in their lives through a mental health crisis. Thank you.

Thanks to your support, CommUnity received awards for “Best Local Nonprofit” and “Best Crisis Management Organization” at Little Village’s annual Best of CRANDIC Awards.

Save the Dates

» February
  Spread the Love PB&J Drive
» March 7
  Pancake Breakfast at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
» March 29
  CROP Hunger Walk at 1105 Project
» April
  Shower CommUnity Baby Items Drive Drive
» April 22
  4th Annual Hunger Banquet at The Graduate

*Indicates data from FY2019
Interested in volunteering? Opportunities are available in our Food Bank, Mobile Pantry, and on our Crisis Line. Visit builtbycommunity.org/volunteer to learn more.

Thank you for making all of our work possible in 2019. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure have created security, restored hope, and saved lives. We’re excited to see what we can create together in 2020!

In the spirit of gratitude, we wanted to pass along some of the feedback we’ve received from our clients.
Your support means so much to so many.

“You don’t know how much it means to me having your crisis line. You don’t know how many times I’ve called in and you guys just nailed it on the head. I don’t know where I would be without you guys. Keep up the good work and know that there are people out there that really appreciate you.”

“I think that for me, the fear of going hungry is as bad as not having food. I feel stress and become preoccupied with questions of survival. When I started coming to the Food Bank, I started to feel that there is a safety net—that I won’t go hungry. Now I have a job, but I don’t make enough to stop coming to the Food Bank. One day soon. Thanks for the hope.”
2019 DONOR HONOR ROLL

Thank you to all of the individual donors who helped make 2019 so successful.

I would like to thank the Food Bank for being available to my family through difficult times in my life. It got me through. Again, thank you.

I love you guys so much. We’d be in dire straits without you and your unfailing, non-judgmental support!
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“CommUnity has helped our family during hard times. Thank you for putting smiles on everyone’s faces. You are undercover angels. Thank you.”
As a single dad, you have helped me keep my son from ever going to bed hungry, and for that I thank you.
The Food Bank has helped my family over the years. They are always there with a friendly smile and give hope where needed!
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As a single parent, I have ‘enlisted the village’ raising my two sons. Thank you so very much for helping us.
I don’t know how we could have made it otherwise.
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Gracias por toda la ayuda que nos dan. Gracias.
The Food Bank helped my family from going hungry when I lost my job and was searching for change to buy a roll of toilet paper.
On Passover last year, we had a major matzah bread shortage. The Food Bank came through with a surplus of unleavened bread, kosher for Passover.

Thank you for giving my family food to eat. Without it, me and my older sister would be hungry. I thank the Food Bank and my mom and dad.
The Food Bank has given me food as well as kindness, patience, and understanding. Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers.

*Denotes a donor who passed away in the last year.

We try our best to print names accurately and to honor the privacy of those who chose not to be listed.
Please contact Julia Erickson at julia.erickson@builtbycommunity.org or 319-351-2726 ext. 105 with any omissions or errors.
The Crisis Line volunteer was incredibly validating and helped me out of a state of panic. I didn’t feel like I was being judged or spoken down to, and talking to them has gotten me to a point where I think I will be okay until I see my counselor again.

When we were homeless, you gave us hope. When we were hungry, you fed us. When we were saddened, your loving arms were there to hug us when others wouldn’t.

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- IBEW Local 405
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- Iowa City Zombie March
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