



cca
today!

Christian Community Action

A Christian non-profit helping to bring hope and change lives.

April 2019

Coping with Crisis!

“**T**he staff and volunteers at Christian Community Action have been such a big part of my life, and the lives of my children, over the past seven years that I don’t know where we would be without these caring people.”

That’s how described the positive impact that CCA friends like you have made in her family through your prayers and loving gifts.

A Mother Alone

Maria (*we have changed her identity to protect her privacy*) didn’t know where to turn when her husband suddenly decided he did not want the responsibility of a wife and three children—including a newborn. He left the family at the beginning of those seven often difficult years, without providing any child support.

“I had nothing,” Maria recalls.

“I couldn’t afford groceries, or even diapers, for my children. I moved in with my parents and started working hard to save for an apartment.

“But our daily needs were still an overwhelming challenge until someone told me that I could get assistance at CCA. I got in touch with them and they extended a helping hand to us that meant everything to me.”

(continued inside)

Coping with Crisis *(continued)*

Weekly Blessings

She remembers with deep gratitude being able to visit the food pantry every week for essentials like the food and diapers her growing family needed. CCA also helped pay the electric bill when that was needed, and guided Maria in finding other sources of aid.

“We also celebrated Christmas at CCA for three years, the first year as a single mom,” Maria says. “We wouldn’t even have had Christmas that year without CCA.

They provided each of my kids with two new school outfits, and also gave them socks and underwear, with a backpack through the Back to School program. The backpack was even filled with pencils and paper for school!”

This assistance, made possible by your committed support of CCA, helped Maria get back on her feet. A former dental assistant, she is about to finish a degree in public health. And she is married with a blended family that now includes six children.

New Challenge

But it hasn’t all been easy. As Maria explains, “My husband lost his job just as our fifth child was born several years ago. It was devastating, and we returned to CCA for help. They were there again for us, making us feel very supported and loved. My children loved going there because of the family atmosphere.”

Maria looks forward to the day when she and her children can give back to CCA. “We want to help others by donating and volunteering to this great organization.”



Church Garden Feeds Many

The next time you drive north on Morris Road in Flower Mound, look out for First Baptist Church Flower Mound and their Urban Farm & Community Garden. Their volunteer gardeners, led by David Huffman, work in conjunction with the Denton County Master Gardener Association to deliver fresh produce from their harvest to Christian Community Action’s Food Pantry.

These hard-working and committed volunteers range from elementary-aged students to retirees. And God showered His blessings on their efforts in 2018 as they were able to deliver 3,025 pounds of produce to CCA—a 30% increase over 2017!

Thanks to our partners at Flower Mound First Baptist Church, CCA Angels (clients) are delighted to be able to select from fresh produce grown right here in our community.

Celebrating an Anniversary with CCA Church Partners

Partnership with the church community is the very foundation of Christian Community Action. What started from a Bible Study group of seven compassionate community members has developed into a ministry of thousands of volunteers impacting the lives of tens of thousands each year! CCA hosts

strengthen the community. This past February, we celebrated CCA’s 46th anniversary with our church partners at the appreciation luncheon. Board Member Jim Mustain shared his thoughts on partnering with CCA, “Approximately 20% of the people we serve are referred to us from local churches. CCA stands ready and able



Church partners gather for bi-annual Pastor’s Appreciation Luncheon.

two pastors’ luncheons each year to recognize the work of our community pastors and express appreciation for their service to the community. This also provides an opportunity to share updates on CCA’s ministry and find new ways to partner and

to provide the care and shepherding for those that turn to us for help.” Shared President and CEO, Stephen Hood. Church partners support CCA through regular financial contributions, volunteers, and special events throughout the year.

CCA values its church partners and invites area churches to meet with our Church Relations Manager to discuss how we can work together this year. Contact Thelma Cantu at thelma.cantu@ccahelps.org or 972-219-4382.

Many Volunteer Opportunities

Christian Community Action relies on our dedicated volunteers to help us accomplish our goals, and we are blessed by their generosity and strength of spirit. We welcome individuals, families, churches, clubs, and businesses to engage in meaningful service.

CCA has several volunteer opportunities throughout the year for individuals, families and groups. The minimum age to volunteer on-site is 12 years and an adult must accompany students 12-15 years of age for safety reasons. We also have seasonal programs that lend themselves to families who have children seven years of age and up.



Thelma Cantu receiving donated food at the Allegiance Title Annual Turkey Fry.

This past year, 2,981 volunteers contributed 30,435 hours of service

to CCA. Based on the value of a volunteer hour in Texas, they provided **\$751,440 in volunteer service!** Volunteers often find that by serving others, their own lives are enriched in ways they never expected. There are so many ways to share your heart and talents:

Food Pantry: Sort and organize products in store and warehouse

Golden Angels Meals: Purchase or prepare meals for 65 elderly citizens who participate in our weekly program. Serve, visit and clean up. Team of 4-6 volunteers needed every 3rd Monday morning to bring meal and prepare.

Special Events: Volunteers are needed to do community outreach, help publicize fundraisers, and help set up and clean up after events.

Collection Drives: Collect specific items that will benefit our Kids Eat Free, Back to School Shopping Program, food pantry, and Christmas outreach.

Kids Eat Free Distribution Teams: Deliver Bags of Blessings filled with food to an assigned apartment complex or mobile home park and distribute to children.

Back to School Program: Personal shopper volunteers helped



Volunteers stocking children's items.

children select outfits for school and distribute other essentials at Old Navy in Flower Mound.

Christmas Gift Outreach: Help families to locate their family gift bag, stuff stockings, select books, write prayer requests, and serve cookies and coffee.

Golden Angel Christmas Gift Outreach: Help set up, coordinate activities, and clean up at the annual senior Christmas party.

Specialized Skills: We can tailor a project to match your specialized skills in marketing, social media, office reception work, spiritual care, counseling, and financial or life coaching.

How to Get Started

Register on line at www.ccahelps.org; click Participate button to complete the application or call 972-219-4389.

Always Ready to Help

When CCA has a special donation to pick-up, or there's a special need for the CCA truck, there is one dedicated volunteer that we can count on any date or time—Bob Kohankie. Bob assists the Food Pantry as a bread runner, picking up day-old bread and other donated goods from our grocery partners. If a large donation of books or other items is offered to CCA, Bob is there to pick it up. Bob served on the CCA Board of Directors from 1983-86 and began volunteering at the CCA Food Pantry in 2004. He always has a cheerful outlook despite inclement weather or a big project. He truly serves with a humble heart. Bob is one of many dedicated volunteers with a heart for CCA and people in need.



Bob Kohankie, volunteer, with Sandra Sims, corporate relations manager.

In Closing

Bringing Hope and Faith to Our Community



Dear Friend,

As you pore over this issue, it's amazing to think that what started as seven Bible Study members coming together has developed into this. We have grown into a ministry of over 2,900 volunteers making a difference in the lives of nearly 8,000 people this past year! And those 2,900 volunteers provided over 30,000 hours of service, including shopping with families in the food pantry, sorting and helping children at Christmas, serving food to seniors at our Golden Angels' Program, or representing CCA at their church in their Sunday school classes.

Those services are making a difference in the lives of others. And they are a great testimony of what can be accomplished when we work together!

One aspect of CCA's Case Management process is to work with each individual to build a comprehensive action plan to address the needs of each person and family. Additionally, we provide follow-up and work with the individual or the family to ensure that they are moving into a place of self-sustainability; providing people with a "hand up" and not a handout.

I have encouraged many of our *angels* (clients), church partners, volunteers, and others to share their CCA experiences with me directly. In a recent email from an angel, she told me what a joyful experience it was working with the CCA staff. She stated "CCA not only helped me overcome a challenge of eviction due to unemployment, but your staff displayed genuine, conscientiousness and diligence in achieving a successful outcome."

On another occasion, I stopped and prayed with a woman in our lobby who was in distress over her situation. She returned to the office and wanted to share with me how everything worked out. She looked at me and said, "I'm not the same as I was."

I am so thankful for your compassion and generosity in sharing your time and treasures with CCA. With your help, we are able to make an impact for families, and a stronger community!

Sincerely,

Stephen Hood
CEO & President

Special CCA Event

Christian Community Action Sporting Clay Shoot

Presented by Infinity Building Consultants

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Dallas Gun Club – Lewisville

100 clay-target tournament

Light breakfast & delicious BBQ lunch

Door prizes and incredible raffle prizes

Proceeds will further the CCA mission to alleviate suffering, bring hope and change lives. Join us for fellowship, fraternity and fun at this exciting event. For more information, contact Raychell Polar at 972-219-4338 or raychell.polar@ccahelps.org. You may also register online at: <https://ccahelps.org/clay-shoot-2019/>



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In the name of Jesus Christ, Christian Community Action ministers to the poor by providing comprehensive services that alleviate suffering, bring hope and change lives.

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