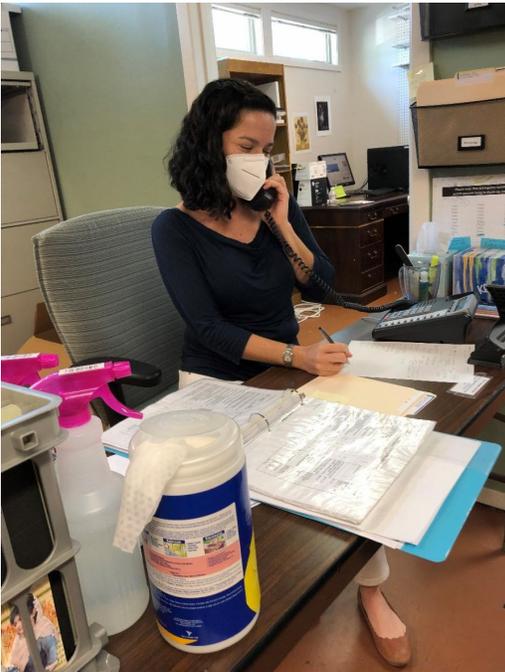


CCSC COVID-19 UPDATE

Working Families Face COVID-19 Financial Emergencies



Volunteer Interviewer Rebekah Rivera speaks with callers seeking financial assistance.

For many families barely making ends meet, COVID-19 was their push into financial crisis. Steady jobs were lost, income flow stopped, rent and utilities came due, and what small financial cushion had been in place was quickly gone.

These families needed help and they reached out to Christian Community Service Center for that help. The following are just a few stories of recent first-time users of CCSC's financial aid services.

*Mary and her husband have a teenage daughter. The couple worked hard to afford an apartment in an area with a good public school for their daughter. When COVID hit, it devastated their food service income. The family got behind on its rent and turned to CCSC.

Emergency Services was able to help Mary and her family with their rent and share in some good news: Mary's daughter tested into Carnegie Vanguard High School and the family can now move to a less expensive apartment because they don't have an eviction on their record--thanks to the help of CCSC and the St. Anne Catholic Community's Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

*June, a single mother of two daughters with custody of a granddaughter, usually provides for her family by cleaning homes, but she had no income once COVID-19 began and was desperate when she called CCSC. Thankfully, CCSC could lend a hand and help with her rent until her clients were comfortable with resuming June's services. June's oldest daughter will watch the younger girls when June is at work and she is optimistic that she won't need CCSC's help again now that she is over this hump. June was thankful that CCSC was there to support her family through its crisis.

*Nina and her husband and child were already dealing with the financial fallout of her husband having been injured on the job, then COVID-19 hit. Although her

husband recovered well, there was no work for him because of COVID. Nina works odd jobs in cleaning and is looking for more work but, for now, the family needed help with rent.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, a CCSC member church, referred the family and CCSC was able to help them stay in their home. Nina is hopeful that she and her husband will be back to work soon and she told us how blessed they feel to have found CCSC in their time of need.

All of these families were first-time financial aid visitors to CCSC. COVID-19, on top of other life circumstances, was just too much for them to handle financially. With your monetary and volunteer support, we were able to provide each family a financial bridge during its moment of crisis. Each family was humbled to ask for help, and each was extremely grateful to receive that help.

CCSC is also grateful, grateful for the generosity of our supporters that allowed us to help Mary, June and Nina to stay in their homes until their families could once again make ends meet.

Thank you to Rebekah Rivera, a volunteer interviewer at Emergency Services-Central, for sharing these stories of families she recently interviewed for rental assistance.

Looking at the Numbers, Three-Fold Increase Stays Steady



Clients waiting for CCSC's Emergency Services-Central food pantry to open on Monday, June 1.

In the 11 weeks since CCSC's Emergency Services food pantries began COVID-19 modified operations, 6,463 grocery packages have been distributed. To put that in perspective, CCSC distributed 1,809 grocery packages in the same time period last year.

For even more perspective, 41.3% of those served during COVID-19 operations have been children.

Financial assistance interviews for help with rent and utilities also continue to be in high demand.

CCSC conducted 23 rent and utility interviews last week, contributing to an 11-week total of 247 interviews. The vast majority of crises we are hearing about are COVID-related and nearly all of those are due to furloughs, layoffs and decreased earnings. Of the clients interviewed for financial assistance, 72% were requesting Emergency Services for the first time.

CCSC is finally seeing some gradual progress with grocery suppliers' ability to accommodate bulk food orders, yet the generous support coming from community donation drives continues to propel our ministry.

Our heartfelt thanks on behalf of those we serve goes out to each and every volunteer, donor and supporter. YOU are making the CCSC mission happen.

YOU are making the difference.

The mission of the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences.

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