

NEWS & NOTES

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

\$141,000 Grant Helps CCSC Provide Rental Assistance



Volunteer Marcia Cooper works on financial aid interviews with those needing rent and utility payment assistance.

Christian Community Service Center is utilizing \$141,000 in grant funding from the Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund to help those most heavily impacted by the pandemic.

The Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund is jointly led by the United Way of Greater Houston and the Greater Houston Community Foundation and was created to serve our region's most vulnerable neighbors.

"CCSC is honored to receive this award. It provides both timely and significant support for our COVID-19 efforts to assist Houstonians in need," said CCSC Executive Director Michelle Shonbeck. You can learn more about the Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund at www.greaterhoustonrecovery.org.

Most of the funds granted to CCSC will be used to help families in need of rental assistance. Requests for rental assistance remain high as families continue to feel the impact of lost jobs and wages. This grant allows CCSC to provide a more robust financial assistance payment for clients unable to pay their rent.

Another portion of the grant will be used to support participants of Martha's Way and JobNet programs with gas and/or grocery gift cards. Outreach calls to dozens of Martha's Way clients revealed that about 90 percent have been financially impacted by COVID-19; JobNet serves largely unemployed individuals who are now seeking employment during an extraordinarily uncertain time. Grant funding will help CCSC to help these families bridge the gap until they are able to return to work.

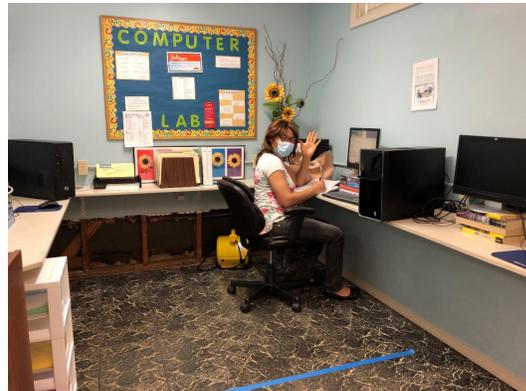
In addition to grant funding, CCSC has seen an overwhelmingly generous

response from donors, volunteers and community members. Our community, both old friends and new, has come together in amazing ways to aid those most impacted by the pandemic.

We are grateful to the United Way of Greater Houston and the Greater Houston Community Foundation, and we are grateful to all of YOU who are making it possible for CCSC to continue to serve three times as many clients as usual during these difficult times. Your generosity is putting food on tables and keeping families in their homes. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

JobNet Opens Computer Lab to Clients by Appointment

Many job seekers have continued their pursuit of employment during the Stay Home, Work Safe order. Through virtual JobNet coaching, workshops and computer classes they have kept working toward their goal of finding a job.



As the city begins to open back up, JobNet's computer lab is open by appointment to help those who have been without computer and internet access during this time. Community partners who are not yet providing in-person services, such as Texas Workforce Solutions, are referring their clients to JobNet.

Vera Smith happily makes use of JobNet's computer lab to work on a cover letter.

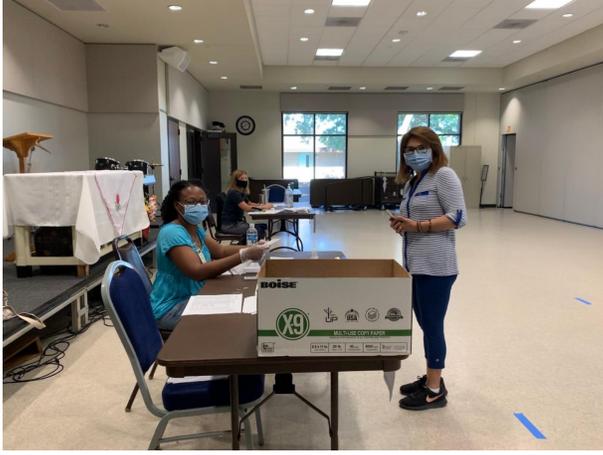
With health and safety in mind, computer lab users are required to make an appointment to use the lab, complete a health screening when entering, and to wear a mask at all times. Only two people may be in the computer lab at one time. Keyboards and surrounding areas are disinfected before and after each user. Staff and volunteers follow the same safety guidelines.

Vera Smith was one of the first JobNet clients to use the computer lab after it opened. "I need to apply for this job and I need a cover letter," Smith said. "I don't have a computer so I'm glad the lab's open. I know I'll get this job!"

Gift Cards, Masks Support CCSC's Martha's Way Clients

As small business owners, Christian Community Service Center's Martha's Way graduates have been particularly hard hit by COVID-19.

About 90 percent of the



Grocery gift cards support Martha's Way clients during pandemic financial crisis.

program participants surveyed have been financially impacted. These effects include lost wages, reduced work hours, lack of childcare, and increased household expenses.

In late May, Christian Community Service Center was able to provide much needed assistance to some of those Martha's Way clients in the form of \$100 grocery

gift cards purchased at a discount from Fiesta Mart.

Clients also received donated masks to help them stay safe as they operate their businesses.

One recipient said, "I was able to use the gift card to buy the vitamins that my 86-year-old mother needs."

CCSC was able to provide this assistance to its Martha's Way clients through the generous support of its caring donors.



Progress Continues on J. Dean Robinson Building

Every day brings exciting changes on the construction site of CCSC's new J. Dean Robinson Building.

Window installation is nearing completion and exterior cladding is underway. Future interview rooms, warehouse and storage spaces, employment rooms and offices are emerging as drywall is almost finished.



The J. Dean Robinson Building as of June 13.



CCSC's staff loves walking down to see the progress on the building and we all look forward to *servicing more and servicing better* in our new home.

If you haven't driven by the building lately, we hope you can come take a look at the wonderful progress being made on the new J. Dean Robinson Building.

Register for Free Workshop to Help Plan Your Legacy



Thinking about your legacy? Christian Community Service Center is pleased to offer a free workshop to help you plan for the future.

The Texas Presbyterian Foundation has graciously invited CCSC to offer a

complimentary online workshop to our friends and supporters. The workshop is titled "Leave a Lasting Legacy of Love: A Virtual Legacy Planning Workshop," and it will be held Wednesday, June 24 at 11 a.m. For more information and to register, visit <https://bit.ly/TFPLegacy>

To learn more about CCSC legacy gifts, please contact Development Director Sharon Current at scurrent@ccschouston.org. If you have already planned a legacy gift, please let us know so that we can extend our most heartfelt thanks. Your thoughtful generosity ensures the financial stability of CCSC for years to come.

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.

I WANT TO
DONATE

To donate nonperishable food to CCSC's food pantries, LIKE us on [Facebook](#) to find out when and where drive-thru food drives are happening, and then share that information with your friends. You may also drop off donations at 3230 Mercer St., Monday-Friday 9 a.m to 2 p.m. or Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., or at 6856 Bellaire Blvd. Mondays and Tuesdays or Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. THANK YOU!

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