



The Apple Newsletter

Volume 17
July 2023

News and Highlights from
Community Help Network, Inc.



To make donations go to:
www.communityhelpnet.org
Visit our newly revamped website.

A huge thank you to Purdue
Northwest grads Nick Cantley,
Shawn and Salvador.



CHN Board presents Nick with gift of
gratitude and congratulations.

Garden Update

Anyone interested in helping with
this year's vegetable garden is
welcome to contact Bob Votaw at
cpvotaw@gmail.com or Bonnie at
219-805-3717. Keeping up with
watering and weeding takes a team.
Thank you, Beth and Pat Nair, Bob
Votaw and all who have and
continue to pitch in to keep our little
garden growing. That includes the
Master Gardeners of Northwest
Indiana for their financial support
and encouragement.
We have basil ready to harvest and
very soon we will have tomatoes.
Our cucumber and squash plants are
coming along very well, too. Stop in
to check out everything we have
growing. See how you can help; see
how you can benefit.

Our raspberry bushes have ripe
berries!! Our basil has produced
enough so far for Bonnie to make a
double batch of pesto!



Stories from the Warehouse

There have been several Vacation Bible Schools in our communities in the last few weeks. One such VBS at the Crown Point 1st United Methodist Church collected money for CHN throughout the week. A young boy brought forward to the altar money to donate from his recent birthday. He had two \$100 dollar bills and put them both in the offering container. Upon seeing this, his teacher took him aside, believing he did not understand the significance of the amount he had just given. He told his teacher he wanted to give his birthday money to help feed hungry kids. When asked if his parents know about his generosity, he said he did not want them to know. About this time, his mom arrived to pick him up, and was rather shocked by what he had done. The teacher and his mom discussed the incredible gift with the little boy and in the end, one of the \$100 bills remained in the donation container!

We are grateful to CPFUMC and this young philanthropist.

Your Buddy Bags Race Team continues to
make strides against food insecurity in
South Lake County.

Races where you will find us with our own table:

Hub City Race – Sept 17th – Fairgrounds

Witches in the Woods – Oct 27th - Fairgrounds

Find out how to join and/or support Team Buddy
Bags by emailing Paul Sills:

harrier113049@gmail.com



Ladle of Love returns Saturday **August 5th** at 11:00 am!

We're cooking out and our guest griller
is none other than
Mayor Pete Land!!

Come join us for some great food, fun, door prizes and
maybe some music.

Everyone is welcome and there is no charge.

A free will offering is accepted but never expected.

Crown Point Summer Student Meal Program.

This program is for Crown Point Students
who are missing their free breakfast and
lunch meals from school. The program
runs Wednesdays from 5 pm to 7 pm and
Saturdays from 10 am to Noon.
Last distribution will be August 5th.
Come to the front of the building at 550
East Burrell Drive.



From Bonnie's Messy Desk

Buddy Bags Summer Program

for our Buddy Bag Families began June 13th. Families will be able to come to our location once a week for an eight-week period to receive a bag of groceries. The items that we include are:

Pasta, rice, beans, canned fruit, canned vegetables, tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter, jelly, boxes of cereal, catsup, mustard, mayo, syrup, pancake mix, flour, sugar, coffee, etc.

Pretty much anything you would shop for.



Things are hopping at CHN! Our Buddy Bag Summer Program is in full swing with approximately 45 families coming each week to receive a bag of groceries. Our Household Pantry is currently serving over 60 families each month and that number is growing. We launched our Crown Point Summer Student Meal Program on July 5th, handing out 25 bags of groceries to students missing their free breakfast and lunch from their schools.

Ladle of Love returns on August 5th with Mayor Pete Land at the grill. The garden is progressing rapidly. We have a play/fundraiser the last two weekends of July. Amazon's Regulated Waste Program continues to bless us and others with amazing donations. More on that a later time. There are plenty of opportunities for volunteering. Check our website.

Household Pantry – Providing hygiene items, paper products and cleaning supplies to low-income families in South Lake County. Open Tuesdays 9:00 am until 1:00 pm and Saturdays 9:00 am until Noon. We are in need of Community Partners who can keep a collection bin for pantry items in their place of business. Call or email if you are interested. Thank you!

Little Free Library – A large selection of books for all ages. All books are free. Open any time there are people at the warehouse. Want a book, take a book. Have a book, leave a book.

Crossing Over
A Play in One Act
by Laura Toops

July 21, 22, 28 and 29 @ 7:00 pm
July 23 and 30 @ 2:00 pm

Tickets \$20
Refreshments included before and after performances.
Reserve tickets via www.communityhelpnet.org
Use the "Donate" button.

Performances will be in the Dining Hall of the ARC Building at 550 East Burrell Drive, Crown Point (Across from Crown Point High School)

Proceeds Benefit Community Help Network, Inc.

Go online and get your tickets today!

CENTURY CLUB

Many thanks to Bette Oesterle and Sue Riester for making it happen!! Thank you to those of you who have already joined.

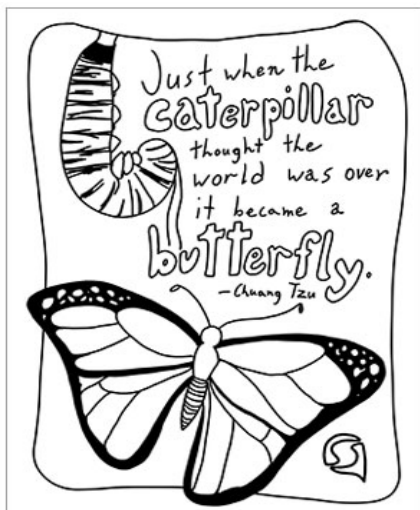
Community Help Network Century Club!

Please consider contributing at one of the following levels:

- Red Apple Club - \$100.00**
- Silver Apple Club - \$500.00**
- Gold Apple Club - \$1,000.00**

An "APPLE" plaque displaying your name will soon be hanging on the wall at our Warehouse.

Please consider making your gift an annual contribution and become a **CHARTER member.**



We've made a few changes to the inspirational cards. Now the kids have something to color. We put important information for parents on the back side.



Community Help Network, Inc.



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Lake County's Community Foundation



Basecamp Fitness Fundraiser

Executive Director Bonnie Meyer, accepts check for \$510 from Leah of Basecamp Fitness in Schererville. Thank you to all of the incredibly energetic and dedicated folks who participated in the Basecamp Fitness Fundraiser on June 17th. Items for the Household Pantry were also collected at this time. And, thank you from Bonnie for not making her ride the bike.



Buddy Bags Family Fun Fair

June 16, 2023



Our illustrious food volunteers:
Mitch Gibbs, Denny Woods, Barb Woods, Ruth Argenta, Gay Blech, Janelle Haack and Paul Sills.



Dian Reyome & Sharon Stochel



Balloontacular!



Christy Miller Helps with prize selections. All the incredible prizes were donated by Amazon.



Bob Votaw runs one of the bean bag toss games. This is a story he told from the Fun Fair. *At the Buddy Bags Family Fun Fair, while running the bean bag toss, a small boy in worn-out, slightly oversized shoes, came back to play often. I asked him if he liked the game and he said yes, very much. I asked if he had something to eat and he said yes and it was very good. I asked him if he picked out a prize he wanted to buy with his tickets and he said yes. And he added that he'd never done anything like this before. So, I gave him a few extra tickets.*