

January 2024



The Apple Newsletter

News and Highlights from
Community Help Network, Inc.



Volume 23

From Bonnie's Messy Desk



2023 was an amazing year. Trying to recap everything that happened this past year would take too many pages. I will try to capture the most exciting and most important events and accomplishments, but I know I will forget some. Please forgive any omissions that may involve you. We are so grateful for the hundreds of people that support CHN. The students in the schools we serve, their staff and their families, so many local businesses, service organizations and individuals. You all are a blessing to us and to those we serve.

In April we celebrated our third anniversary as an organization and launched the Apple Century Club which has had great success.

In May our wonderful volunteers packed the 100,000th Buddy Bag!!

Hometown Happenings Run Like a Mother Walk/Race on Mother's Day saw the launching of Team Buddy Bags.

The Household Pantry grew rapidly as we increased awareness to our Buddy Bag Families. The Pantry now serves approximately 100 families each month.

Our Vegetable Garden increased its yield and we were pleased to be able to share produce with our Pantry clients.

Our bimonthly free luncheon, affectionately called Ladle of Love, enjoyed an increase in attendance thanks to our partnerships with Tavern on Main, Full Plate Catering and the Great Harvest Bread Company. Not to mention that thanks to the continued generosity of Amazon's Regulated Waste Program, we are able to give away some very nice door prizes at each luncheon.

Amazon has blessed us with donations a plenty. We have been able to share with other organizations that serve the community such as Hearts in Motion, who graciously allows us to use their large truck to pick up the large donations from Amazon.

Thanks to Amazon and a gracious donation from the Bronowski family in memory of the late Judy Bronowski, we were able to have a massive clothing give away that saw more than 80 of our Buddy Bag Families receive large bags of clothing. We will soon host another clothing give away for our Buddy Bag Families, thanks again to Amazon.

We had our annual Buddy Bags Family Fun Fair in June at the Lake County Fairgrounds where families enjoyed food, face painting, storytelling, balloon shaping, games for prizes and more food.

For eight weeks during the summer break, we offered our Buddy Bags Families the opportunity to come to the warehouse for a bag or two of groceries. Much of the food we had to offer was donated from the Lowell Rotary's May Purse BINGO.

We participated in the Lowell Labor Day Parade with two vehicles and several volunteers, young and old. We are looking forward to participating Crown Point's 4th of July Parade this summer.

We once again were able to offer our Buddy Bags Families a Holiday Celebration with gifts for the whole family and refreshments.



From Food Drives, Pantry Drives, Purse BINGO's and Penny Wars, CHN gains support from all corners of our service area. We are grateful for all the students and families who work to keep our programs going.

We are grateful to all our many volunteers who work tirelessly to keep shelves filled, bags packed and making our clients feel welcomed.

We are grateful to our community partners, individual donors, and our grantors who keep CHN going and growing.

We hope to make 2024 a year of serving more and helping more people move into a life of self-reliance.



New Pantry Days & Hours

Providing hygiene items, paper products and cleaning supplies to over 100 low-income families in South Lake County each month.

Open Tuesdays and Saturdays 9:00 am until Noon and Wednesdays 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm

Use This QR Code to Donate



Tavern on Main, Full Plate Catering and Great Harvest Bread Co. join forces for Ladle of Love on Saturday, January 20th. Chef Honey from Tavern on Main and CHN cooks will be working together to present some delicious food. Great Harvest Bread Co. will provide the best bread this side of the Atlantic. There will be NO Ladle of Love on January 6th, 2024.

Ladle of Love

Bi-Monthly Free Luncheon
1st and 3rd Saturdays of the Month
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

300 East Burrell Drive
Crown Point, IN
219-805-3717

Free Will Offering Accepted But Never Expected



The kids have something to color. And, we put important information for parents on the back side.

CROWN POINT community foundation
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Crown Point, Indiana
FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Full Plate Catering
Tavern on Main
NIPSCO
Strack & Van Til food market
amazon.com
Franciscan ALLIANCE
ALDI
LEGACY FOUNDATION
meijer
OLD NATIONAL BANK
Peoples Bank
Centier BANK
CHASE
LEANKitchen COMPANY
John W. Anderson Foundation

Community Help Network, Inc.
 550 East Burrell Drive
 Crown Point, IN 46307
 (219) 805-3717
 communityhelpnetwork2020@gmail.com
 www.communityhelpnet.org
 Like us on Facebook