



COMMUNITY OF HOPE

MISSION:

To demonstrate the abiding word of God through faith and good works and expressing the love of Jesus Christ by providing daily necessities as well as hope for the future to those in need.

December 2024

Wishing You A Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year



Board Members:

Shari Olson, President
Patti Svaleson, VP
Marcie Antell
Pastor Joy Armstrong
Tom Ochocki

Committees:

Creative Media – Kim Ochocki
Donations – Tom Ochocki
Finance –
Networking – Shari Olson
Outreach – Charity Okon
Prayer – Robin Brady
Research –

Questions?

Call 218-600-6520

Emails:

For General Inquiries:
info@communityofhope216.org

Items for the Board:

board@communityofhope216.org

Questions on Donations:

donations@communityofhope216.org

Upcoming events or suggestions:

events@communityofhope216.org

Prayer for yourself or someone else

prayer@communityofhope216.org

Web Address:

www.communityofhope216.org/



Being out in the community as much as we are, we have the opportunity to meet many people from various walks of life. Some of those have been homeless individuals or those who have a home but are struggling to make ends meet. I would like to introduce you to two men that have had many struggles in their life, but through the efforts of our organization and others, they are now receiving the opportunity to change their lives. They both qualified to move into an apartment at Aspen Arms.



James Citrowski is a Veteran



James Cuiilty has medical issues

They both were in a situation in which they had an apartment but no furniture. As CofH has been collecting items for situations such as these, we were able to provide them with what they needed. One is still in need of a platform frame for his bed. His mattress is on the floor and he struggles getting up off the floor. Both were very appreciative for what we were able to give them. Both have come out of their shell and are connecting to neighbors, people at church and the community. What a blessing it is to be able to help those who are less fortunate! If you are able to help in any way, please let us know.

Have a Merry Christmas and God's Blessings to You All!

Shari Olson, President

DECEMBER 21ST IS NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

December 21st is National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, a day dedicated to remembering and honoring those who have experienced homelessness and, tragically, lost their lives while living on the streets. This day has been commemorated annually since 1990. While our lives may be busy with the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it's important to think about the significance of this day. Because for some of us this season revolves around joy, happiness and spending time with family, there are many of our neighbors living without homes of their own or not having the option of spending time with family or loved ones or even getting in out of the cold.

The Crisis of Homelessness

Homelessness is a complex and pervasive issue that affects millions of people worldwide, transcending age, race, and gender. Many of those are in our own community and are at risk of facing the challenges of homelessness. Many lack access to necessities like food and healthcare to survive in harsh weather conditions, especially in our frigid winters here in Minnesota. National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day serves as a poignant reminder of the lives lost to homelessness. It is a poignant reminder of the issues that lead to homelessness, such as unemployment, mental illness, substance abuse, and inadequate social services.

The Importance of Compassion for those that are homeless

Homeless individuals are often viewed as invisible members of society because they are not 'front and center' in our line of sight. But just because we don't "see" them doesn't mean they are not there. While December 21st is a reminder, we should show compassion to them, acknowledge their humanity, engage in conversations, and offer a helping hand whenever it is possible. Compassion goes a long way in restoring hope and dignity to the homeless people in our communities.

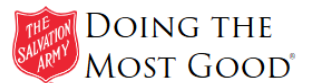
Supporting Organizations

This day also offers us an opportunity to recognize all those individuals who work to help those in need. There are many shelters, nonprofits, and community groups that are dedicated to providing food, shelter, medical care, and rehabilitation services to those that are homeless or in need. These organizations tend to rely on the support of volunteers and donors to make a difference. It is important to contribute in any way you can, whether it is by volunteering or by donation. Your donation to an organization like the Community of Hope is extremely important. Please consider supporting local organizations that provide critical support to those in need.

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day reminds us of the importance of and need for empathy and compassion for the homeless in our society. This December, remember those who have no place to call home and answer the call to contribute towards a future where homelessness is a thing of the past. If you wish to contribute to the ongoing mission of the Community of Hope, please send your donation to: Community of Hope, PO Box 192, Cloquet MN 55720 or online at: <https://www.communityofhope216.org/donate-now/>.

Ways To Volunteer

- Salvation Army Bell ringers - starts each November and runs through Christmas Eve. Information or to sign-up: <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/northern/bell-ringing/>
- Home for the Holidays – Check the calendar of events at <https://www.visitcloquet.com/index.php/home-for-the-holidays/>
- Christmas Day Dinner - Zion Lutheran Church; 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. To volunteer contact 218-879-2647



COMMUNITY CHURCH EVENTS

Good Hope Community Church: 55 Armory Road Cloquet

- **Christmas Missions Gift Opportunity** – Support a mission in honor of someone on your Christmas list. Place your order by December 6th by emailing Darren @ groups@goodhope.ag.
- **Christmas Eve Services** – (Cloquet) Monday Dec 23rd at 6:30pm, OR Tuesday Dec 24th at 1:30, 3:00, or 4:30pm.
- **No Services December 28 and 29** at Good Hope Cloquet.
- **Bake Sale** – December 14th and 15th. Proceeds help to finance youth camp and MYC.
- **Best Christmas Ever** – Help support a local family that has fallen on hard times. Visit the tree in the foyer, grab a tag, buy a gift listed on the tag and return the unwrapped gift by Dec 18th.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church: 615 12th Street, Cloquet

- **Candlelight Christmas Eve Services** – 3p.m., 5 p.m., and 10:30 p.m. No Christmas Day service.
- **Advent Festival Bake & Craft Sale** – December 15th For more info contact Jan @ janbruce79@gmail.com
- **Giving Tree – Adopt A Child** – a program that provides gifts for children in the community who might not otherwise receive a gift. Visit the tree in the Narthex. Bring your item(s) in by Dec. 11.
- **Women's Christmas Potluck Gathering** – Tue. Dec. 10th @ 10 a.m.



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church: 4 Elizabeth Avenue, Esko

- **Silent Auction** – Dec. 8th 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- **Mid-Week Advent Services** – Dec. 4th, 11th, & 18th @ 6:30 p.m.
- **Children's Christmas Program** – Dec. 22nd @ 10:30 a.m.
- **Christmas Services** – Dec 24 – 3 p.m., 5 p.m., & 10 p.m. /Dec. 25 – 9 a.m



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church: 515 Skyline Blvd, Cloquet

- **Directory Pictures** – December 22nd @ 10 a.m.
- **Christmas Eve Service** – @ 6:30 p.m./**Christmas Day** @ 10 a.m.

Journey Christian Church: 1400 Washington Avenue, Cloquet

- **Decorating Journey for Christmas** – Friday, Dec. 6th @ noon to decorate.
- **Journey Family Christmas Adventure** – Dec. 8th 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Family meal, Christmas carols, crafts & more.
- **Christmas Eve Services** – 3:30 p.m. 6 p.m.



Greetings from the Donations Team Lead:
As the year ends we wish you a very Merry Christmas and give thanks for your continued support. Without you we would be unable to provide the items and service we do.

Many Blessings to you and yours!
Donations Team

THANK YOU'S

A big Thanks to all of you that have given of your time, talents and donations through this last year. May God richly bless you in the coming year.





DINNER SCHEDULE - DECEMBER

- December 1** **Journey Christian Church**
Turkey soup, salad, fruit, dessert
- December 8** **Good Hope**
Teriyaki Chicken, garlic bread, salad, fruit, dessert
- December 15** **Our Redeemer Church**
Beef Stroganoff, salad fruit, dessert
- December 22** **Our Savior's Church**
Pulled pork, chicken soup, salad, fruit, dessert
- December 29** **Good Hope**
Ham, salad, fruit, dessert

October: 218 Total Meals Served
November: 299 Total Meal Served

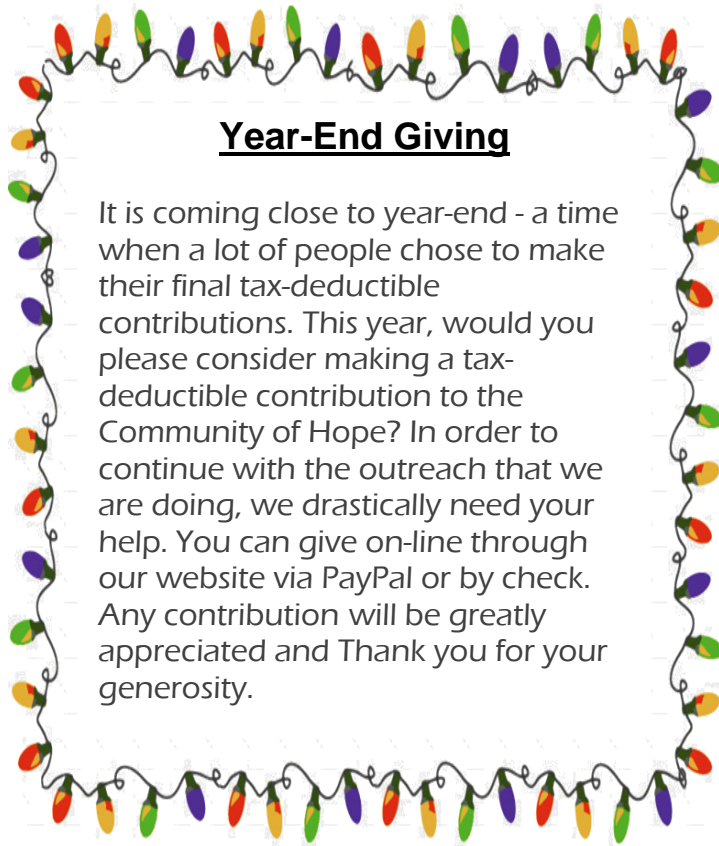
What a blessing it is to have helped serve so many!

THANKS for all you do!



Year-End Giving

It is coming close to year-end - a time when a lot of people chose to make their final tax-deductible contributions. This year, would you please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Community of Hope? In order to continue with the outreach that we are doing, we drastically need your help. You can give on-line through our website via PayPal or by check. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated and Thank you for your generosity.



HYGIENE KITS FOR THE HOMELESS

Won't you join us in providing the basic needs for those less fortunate?



It's a growing challenge in so many communities, including ours — people who are unsheltered, trying to get by on their own while enduring a host of unmet needs. Maybe you've wondered what you could do for the person holding a sign at a stoplight or waiting in line at a food pantry. Our hearts hurt for our neighbors on the streets. Most of us want to help but are not prepared to do so.

Through the month of December, the Community of Hope will be collecting items to put in hygiene bags to provide to those in need. We will then be setting aside a day in January to put these kits together. You can help by donating the items below and/or joining us in putting these items together. Here is what we need:

Comb
Stick deodorant

Bar of Soap
3 oz. Shampoo

Hand towel
Unopened toothbrush & toothpaste

Items can be dropped off at our office or by emailing donations@communityofhope216.org

Galatians 4: 4-7

Excerpt from Our Daily Bread

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law. - Galatians 4:4-5

My wife, Marlene, and I enjoy watching home improvement programs. We love learning from the experts as they transform a tired living space into something new and remarkable. But there's a catch to all that learning: we have to understand the before of that old house before we can appreciate what leads to the after.



In infinitely more important ways, this reality applies to the Christmas story. When we tell the story, we tend to start "too late." We celebrate the arrival of the baby Jesus—which is wonderful—but we forget He had to leave His home to come to ours. We don't reflect in wonder on the before—what He gave up. The eternal Son of God left the Father's presence in order to become that helpless baby.

In Galatians 4:4-5 we read, "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law." The key word here is sent. Jesus was sent here from somewhere else—a somewhere in which He'd lived for all eternity past. That He would leave that place and come to this place is one measure of how deeply we're loved. And that's the love we celebrate as we remember the birth of the eternal One in human form.

"Father God, as we celebrate the birth of your Son, fill our hearts with the joy that comes from knowing Him. May the joy of Christmas be a constant presence in our lives, reminding us of the true source of happiness found in Jesus Christ. Let us share this joy with others and be a reflection of your love in the world. Amen."

WE HAVE AN OFFICE!

WE NOW HAVE A PLACE TO HANG OUR HAT! OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH HAS GRACIOUSLY ALLOWED US SPACE FOR AN OFFICE. WE ARE NOW LOCATED AT 615 12TH STREET. ENTER THROUGH DOOR 3.

OFFICE HOURS ARE:

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

WE HAVE A PHONE!

OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER IS:
218-600-6520



Community of Hope 2:16
PO Box 192
615 12th Street
Cloquet MN 55720

We are currently looking for individuals that would like to serve on our Board. If interested, please call or email: Board@communityofhope216.org.

