



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

Volume 5, Issue 12

December 2022

Our Mission: Bringing together an ecumenical coalition of Quad City area churches to help feed the hungry, offer emergency assistance to those in crisis, and provide a transitional housing program for women and children who are victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.

Hope



We are about three weeks away from celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In these times of turmoil, political upheaval, economic uncertainty, cultural and racial division, I am reminded of the Hope that this season offers. Into all of the hurt and inability to co-exist, God enters human history to offer hope in the midst of pain and confusion. A passage I have focused on before comes from the fourth chapter of Luke when Jesus is visiting his hometown synagogue. When He is handed the scroll of Isaiah, he turns to the 61st chapter and reads these words as captured by Luke in chapter 4:18:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Luke says that Jesus handed the scroll back to the attendant and sat down. Now everyone in that gathering knew that this particular passage was speaking of the coming Messiah and at first, they were positively disposed to see Jesus as that messenger of God. Luke says that they spoke well of him. But Jesus does not let those good feelings simply sit there. He goes on to draw from the stories of these people, stories about Elijah and Elisha and how these two prophets of old reached out to those outside of the community when need was presented. Now the people of Nazareth were angered to the degree that they were ready to throw Jesus off of the top of the hill upon which the town was set. They were angered because the Messiah was not for everyone but in their view, this Messiah was coming for them to make their lives so much better.

Clearly the message of the Scriptures is that God is calling us to reach out beyond artificial boundaries. In Matthew, we heard Jesus point again in the 25th chapter that the message of God's love is for all and our task is to bring that message to the world. This Christmas season may we remember that God is calling us to work for that message for those most in need. That God is calling us to offer the love we have received from God to those around us. In Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth, we hear his description of this God given value.

May the gift of love be yours this Christmas season!

Blessings,
Mel

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Thank You

Thank you, Canadian Pacific. The Holiday Train was amazing. We're very thankful for your generous donation to our hunger ministries. We're thankful to you for bringing our community together with this event.



Thank you, Lindsey's Moving & Delivery for helping us collect and transport donations. We are grateful for all the help you provided.



Thank you to our volunteers who collected donations prior to the event and at the event. It was chilly, but you persisted.



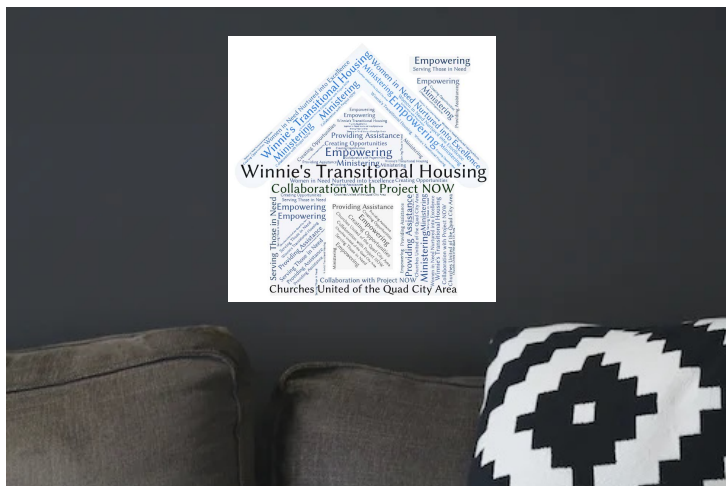
Thank you, Quad Cities. Your generous donations enable us to continue serving those in need in our area.



Work Day at Winnie's Transitional Housing

Have you watched a lot of home selling shows? Are you ready to test your staging skills?

We need volunteers to help at Winnie's Transitional Housing on Saturday, December 10th. Volunteers will be staging apartments, so they are ready for clients to move in. For more information or to volunteer, contact Betsy Vanausdeln at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.



Thank You



Thank you, CBI Bank and Trust for your holiday donation.

Thank you, Family First Foundation for your recent donation.



Merry Christmas!

From the Board of Directors,
Staff, and Volunteers of
Churches United of the Quad City Area

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO LET THE OPPRESSED GO FREE, TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR, LUKE 4:18



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Give Today to Churches United

Online at <http://www.cuqca.org/donate.php>

Call us at (563) 332-5002

Mail or drop off your gift:
Churches United of the Quad City Area
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Bettendorf, IA 52722

Thank You!

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Support CUQCA by designating us as your charity and by purchasing items from our Wish List.

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/19QO2R6L5908/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist



Needs List for Winnie's Transitional Housing Clients



Our clients at Winnie's Transitional Housing often leave domestic abuse situations with very few possessions and no money. We are also seeing an increasing need for basic goods from those in the community coming to us for help through our meal site and pantries. Donations of gift cards, household items, and food help those who are struggling tremendously.

Our job seeking clients can benefit from office supplies and the children who live in our shelter often need school supplies

If you would like to donate, please drop off your donations at our office or mail them to us.

A Living Nativity

St. James Lutheran Church
1705 Oak & 18th St. Bettendorf (access via Oak St.)

Join us and experience the Savior's birth

Sunday, Dec. 18 4-7pm

Please join us for a hot soup supper in the church from 4-7 pm.

Presentation of the Christmas story every 30 minutes. Also, come see and pet our live animals.



Donations are welcome for the St. James Food Pantry & Clothes Closet (coats, hats, mittens etc)

Find us on Facebook: St. James Bettendorf