



February 2018

Email: Newsletter@cuqca.org

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Hunger Ministers Rescue Food



Churches United food rescuers Michael Guster, left, and Carl Kirkpatrick.

The bags Michael Guster and Carl Kirkpatrick use to rescue food for Churches United pantries are empty. But not for long.

Carl fills his bags five mornings every week with donations from three Starbucks stores. Michael takes away five bags of pizzas, sandwiches, and chicken from the Pilot Truck Stop in Woodhull, Illinois, twice a week.

The Churches United hunger ministry volunteers drove 8,500 miles in their personal vehicles rescuing food for pantries in 2017. Carl picked up his first delivery last February. Michael joined the team in April.

“I’ve got the time to give,” Michael said. “There’s people out there in need because the economy caused them to be in a situation.” Carl understands that need. The food pantries helped feed his family for three years while his wife furthered her education. “I was a full time teacher and coach with kids at home,” Carl said. “I’m retired now and have time to give back. It’s the right thing to do.”

Mike and Carl encourage others to volunteer and rescue food.

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Churches United Names Interim Executive Director



Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes has been selected by the Churches United of the Quad City Area Board of Directors to serve as Interim Executive Director. Dr. Grimes will continue the tradition of Christian faith-based leadership until a new Executive Director is chosen to replace Anne Barss, who stepped down in December.

Dr. Grimes has been active in the ministries of Churches United for much of his adult life. The past president of Churches United's board of directors currently serves on the board executive committee as Finance Director.

Greetings from Winnie's Place! I would like to share T's story:

"From the time I was 18 years old I have chosen the wrong men. My kid's father beat me for 4 years. One day I woke up and said, "I'm tired of being beat on and controlled for no reason." So I left. Well, I've gotten out of one abusive relationship into another. He decided that I wasn't being a good girlfriend and in his mind I was cheating on him, so he beat me 1 to 2 times a week. I thought I was in love. I was with this man for 7 years until he went to jail for something unrelated and that was the last of me and him. Well, last January I gave a young man a chance for about 4 months. Every day he would buy me things, give me money, take me to work, pick my kids up from school. One day he got drunk, started pushing me around and calling me names. He even slapped me. I decided to leave. I will no longer get beat by no man."



It is not uncommon to hear that a woman left one abusive relationship and ends up in another. Our first concern is always personal safety. Additionally, therapy and time to heal between relationships is recommended! What I would like you to see in T's story is that she stayed in the relationships for less and less time. That shows she is learning to set boundaries. She is expecting respect. It is never easy to step away from any relationship so please pray for safety and strength for all who need to make some changes in their lives.

Because of Him, Kit

Winnie's Place needs baking powder, barbeque sauce, ketchup, mustard, butter, cheese, milk, peanut butter, dish washer detergent, black eye liner, tea, coffee creamer, egg noodles, crackers, pillows, radios, juice, Kool-Aid, sugar, sour cream, pizzas, frozen potatoes, and parmesan cheese. Call us at 309-764-9466 if you can help. **Thank you!**

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"The businesses don't want to throw food away," Carl said. "They're happy to have somebody come in."

"You get to know the employees and build relationships with people," Michael said. "We always need more volunteers."

To find out how you can help rescue food, contact Associate Director Betsy Vanausdeln at (563) 332-5002 or bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.

"Where do I go for help?"

CHURCHES UNITED IS HERE

25 food pantries † 3 hot meal sites † Winnie's Place emergency shelter

Visit our website at www.cuqca.org † Call us at 563-332-5002

Grantors Funding Our Ministries *THANK YOU!*

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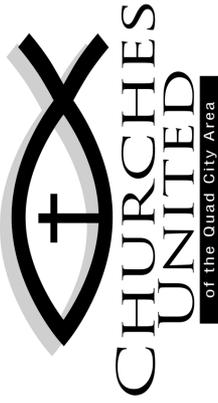
Melvin L. McKay Trust

Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

Member Church Events & Classifieds

Valentine Evening for Couples: Laughter-the Language of Love, Friday, Feb. 9th, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Benet House Retreat Center at St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island; \$45 per couple. For information on this and all upcoming programs in February at Benet House Retreat Center, call 309-283-2108, email retreats@smmsisters.org, or visit www.smmsisters.org/retreats.

Grief Support Group at First Presbyterian Church, 777 25th Ave., East Moline, ever other week, beginning February 13 from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Library. Contact group facilitator Laura Brown at 309-314-5605 for more info.



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