



THE CARING HEART

A CARE AND SHARE OF CROOKSTON, INC. PUBLICATION



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*Executive
Director's
Memo*



Gratitude in Action at Care and Share

As spring brings renewal and growth, so too does the spirit of generosity that surrounds Care and Share. We are honored to share the many wonderful things unfolding within our walls, all made possible by the continued kindness of our community and our valued partners.

First, we extend our heartfelt thanks to United Way for their ongoing grant funding. Their unwavering support sustains both The New Hope Food Shelf and The Care and Share Soup Kitchen, allowing us to continue serving hot meals and providing critical nourishment to our neighbors in need. This support reaches far beyond our doors, it uplifts every single guest who walks in with hunger and leaves with hope.

We are also deeply grateful to Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, whose continued support in funding for long-term homelessness is helping us offer stability and dignity to those facing some of life's most difficult challenges. Their partnership strengthens the foundation we build with every individual seeking a path forward.

In a beautiful fusion of creativity and healing, we're thrilled to announce that the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council has once again awarded us a grant to support the work of Artist Trey Everett, who continues to bring painting and therapeutic art into our space. Trey's murals are more than just an outlet, they are a source of connection, inclusion, and emotional restoration. Art therapy has proven to be a powerful tool for mental wellness, and we are grateful to offer this opportunity in a place where everyone is welcomed and seen. Each of these organizations, and every single person who supports Care and Share in ways big and small, is a part of something greater. Your belief in our mission brings comfort, healing, and dignity to every guest who comes through the doors. We see the impact daily, and it's nothing short of inspiring.

From all of us at Care and Share: thank you. We couldn't do this without you.

-Carolina A. Diaz



SURVEY



IN 2025, THE CARE & SHARE OF CROOKSTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS CREATING A **STRATEGIC PLAN** FOR THE ORGANIZATION. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY IS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM A NUMBER OF STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL IN DETERMINING THE SPECIFIC PRIORITIES THE ORGANIZATION WILL FOCUS ON IN THE NEXT ONE TO THREE YEARS. THE SURVEY IS CONFIDENTIAL AND SHOULD TAKE LESS THAN 10 MINUTES TO COMPLETE. PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS BY ANSWERING THE SURVEY QUESTIONS. YOUR RESPONSES WILL PROVIDE OUR STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE WITH VALUABLE INSIGHTS AS WE DETERMINE THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES THAT WILL GUIDE OUR WORK IN THE COMING YEARS. YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROCESS REFLECTS OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

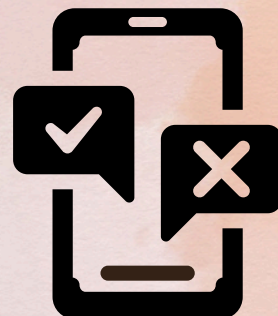
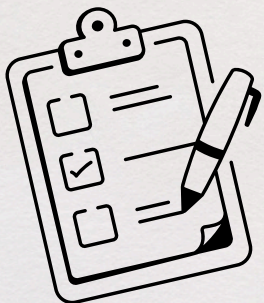
***please note that the previous technical difficulties to the survey have been fixed. The link will take you directly to the survey thank you!**

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY.](#)

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY. WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK.

YOU CAN ALSO FIND THIS SURVEY ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CAREANDSHARECRK.ORG

KARI BRAULT CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTOR CARE & SHARE OF CROOKSTON, INC.



Recognizing Donors & Volunteers



The United Way Board Member Heather W. and her Organization Dee Inc. donated a Pressure Canner to The Care and Share, this gift will help us to preserve food donated by Hugo's & Walmart Thank you Heather!!



Trinity Lutheran of Crookston donating an amazing meal for the guests and attendees for the Soup Kitchen, this donation is as always so heartwarming!! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!!



Mike Enright delivered hams donated by the Polk County Soybean and Corn Growers Association, these donations will be used in the soup kitchen and shared with those visiting the food shelf. Thank you Mike and Polk County Soybean & Growers Assoc.!!



Nexus Church Congregation, Our Savior's Lutheran Church congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church congregation, and the congregation of Our Lady of Sorrows donated Easter baskets for the families at the Hope Center. The baskets brought light, joy, and a sense of hope to those who are navigating some of life's most difficult challenges. Thank you for your generosity and compassion!!!



Board member Leah W. and the Trinity Middle School Early Release Group donated canned food items and donated their generous time volunteering in the donation room. Leah's leadership is truly appreciated, and we are incredibly grateful for her guidance. A special thank you also goes out to the youth for their servant hearts and dedication to giving back to the community. Your efforts make a meaningful impact, and we are fortunate to have such compassionate individuals supporting this cause. Thank you!!!



Pamela A. donated much needed pillows and blankets. Community support like yours plays a vital role in what we do, helping us provide essential items to build a sense of belonging, and uplift those going through challenging times. Thank you!!!



Penny & Jessie with Our Saviors Church delivered nearly 11 large bags filled with quilts to donate. Your gift of time, talent, and love, a true reflection of what it means to serve others. Your kindness brings comfort not just physically but emotionally to those going through challenging times. We are truly humble and grateful for your continued support and the example you set. Thank you for reminding us all of the power of giving from the heart.



A big thank you to our amazing administrative assistant, Candace S., for stepping in while Chef Maria takes a well-deserved break. Candace brought one of her many hidden talents to the table, literally, by treating us to a delicious breakfast feast for lunch. Who doesn't love brunch?



Happy Empantha Friday! We're not just celebrating the flavors we love. We're celebrating the heart behind them. Chef Maria, the soul of our kitchen, is back after a much-needed and well-deserved break. She returns recharged, full of fierce passion, and as always, with deep compassion for every soul she serves. Her presence in the shelter kitchen isn't just about the meals (though those empanadas are life-changing), it's about the love, dignity, and care she puts into every dish.



We are incredibly grateful to Evelyn from the University of Minnesota Crookston for visiting our shelter and generously donating beautifully handmade blankets. Your thoughtful contribution brings both comfort and warmth to those we serve, and it's gestures like yours that truly make a difference in our community.

We're so grateful for her dedication, creativity, and commitment to the team. Thank you, Candace, for going above and beyond! 🍀

Recognizing Donors & Volunteers

Northland Technical College Nursing Group



Today, the Nursing Group from Northland Technical College volunteered their time to assist with various tasks, including measuring blood pressures, providing foot care, organizing the donation room, and arranging the food shelf for community members and guests.



This guest is taking advantage of the services today to have his blood pressure checked. 😊



Food Shelf Manager Keith D. is having his blood pressure checked today.



Administrative Assistant Candace S. is having her blood pressure checked and is pleased that it is a good number! 😊



Security/Donation Room Manager Adam L. is having his blood pressure checked today.



This guest is currently benefiting from our foot care services. Foot care is incredibly important!



This guest is taking advantage of our foot care services today. Foot Care is very important!!



This guest understands the significance of proper foot care! Today, he had the opportunity to enjoy some exceptional foot care.



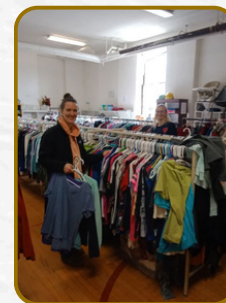
This guest is utilizing our services today for foot care, and he mentioned that he felt like a million bucks afterward. 😊



Assisting in stocking the food shelf can be a tedious task, but it is essential work. Thanks to these two dedicated volunteers, it has been successfully replenished!



One of our most valuable resources is the Donation Room, where community members and guests can access essential clothing and household items.



This volunteer is organizing and displaying clothing items that have been donated by fellow community members for others to use.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Frita L. and the incredible nursing students from Northland Technical College for visiting the shelter and generously sharing your time, skills, and compassion with both staff and guests.

Your presence reminded us how powerful small acts of kindness can be. In moments when many are facing difficult and uncertain challenges, simple gestures of self-care, offered with gentleness and empathy, can provide not only comfort but also a sense of peace and dignity. You helped people feel seen and valued, and that is no small gift. We are deeply grateful that you chose our organization as a place to share your talent and training. Your compassion and willingness to connect with others in their time of need make a lasting impact. Thank you for embodying the true spirit of care and community.



Lived Experience Story

My circumstances prior to coming to Care and Share happened this way: My mom had passed, I got married, covid hit and after 50 years of age I became homeless. It was a very trying time in my life. I was not very self sufficient at this time. I was also a guest at C&S a year ago, unfortunately at that time I was not ready to deal with my demons.

The Care and Share is a place that has a lot of programs, and if you really need the help it's there for you if you work at it. When you have nowhere else to go C&S is there for you. What was most helpful for me was the partnership that the C&S has with Alluma and Riverview Recovery. The Case Manager and the friendly staff will help you guide the way. I would say C&S are way more personal and look at you as an individual and not as a mass group of homeless people. Today I am working on getting a place, I am more happy with myself and that's the most important thing to me. And getting on with my life and improving every day. Thank you for taking the time to read my story,

Brad L.

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RECEIVE, INCLUDING THROUGH THE
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MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR GUESTS,
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Editor: Candace Sam