

2024

Clemson Community Care Newsletter

*Neighbors
Helping
Neighbors
Help
Themselves.*

CCC Board of Directors

Vicki Miesbauer, *President*
Stacey Miller, *Secretary*
Benji Cumbie, *Treasurer*
Charlie Barron
Barbara Blackmon
Susan Boatwright
Kristin Goodenow
Rev. Pat Kelley
Pat Marcondes
John Peters
Rachel Rowe

CCC Partners

Clemson Free Clinic
Clemson Montessori School
Clemson University
Community Foundation of
Greater Clemson
Family Promise of Pickens County
Food Share South Carolina
Foothills Federally Qualified
Health Center
Safe Harbor
SC Works
School District of Anderson 4
School District of Pickens County
Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina
SHARE
Southern Wesleyan University
Tri-County Technical College
United Way of Anderson County
United Way of Pickens County

CCC Staff

Karen Carter, Executive Director
Lauren Russell, Program Director
Kasia Jerzmanowska, Finance Director
Linda Breazel, Office Manager

From the Director

Friends,

As we write this newsletter, all of us are in the process of recovery from the devastating damage brought to our community and others by Hurricane Helene. For many of you, the repairs are still ongoing and our thoughts are with you. In this challenging time, we at Clemson Community Care have seen such positive and heartwarming actions from so many different people wanting to help us meet the new needs of our clients. We are grateful.

On a daily basis throughout the year, we see people who face the challenges many of you have also faced recently-a lack of food, shelter, and utilities. The people we serve live each day with the insecurity that has now faced the community at large due to the storm.

We are thankful for you, our supporters, who are there for us throughout the year every year and who are now rising to also meet the new obstacles facing people around us.

This has been another difficult year for our clients with their costs remaining high and their wages remaining stagnant. The barriers to their stability include the lack of skills, transportation, education, and healthcare. This has been another difficult year for us as an organization with the stretch on our resources required to meet the needs.

However, just like all other years, there is so much good that we see daily as well-beginning with our supporters who are there for us at all times and without whom we could not operate. Whether you are a corporate partner, retail, community group, church, or individual, you are an integral part of making CCC work.

Our volunteers are a treasured part of us and we cannot fully express our appreciation for all that is done by this group of dedicated people. We have pantry volunteers, interviewers, office help, donation pick up drivers and others who choose to give their time to help others. Again, we could not operate without these dedicated people-they also bring joy to our days and we are thankful to be allowed to be a part of their lives.

Our clients also allow us into their lives which is a privilege. We are humbled to walk beside them as they navigate difficult times and hopefully, together we can make that journey a little easier.

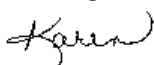
Our Board is a tremendously talented and dedicated group of people who give much time to the oversight of CCC. Because of them and the Boards that served ahead of them sharing their commitment and vision, we have been able to remain stable through some very difficult times.

We have a staff that feels grateful to be given the opportunity to be the caretakers of this place-the community's organization. We will continue to work diligently to maintain the trust you have placed in us and to be good stewards of the gifts you share.

Please continue to partner with us as the journey continues to make the lives of people around us better.

We wish for you and your family recovery and a safe and happy holiday season.

With gratitude for all you do,



Karen Baker Carter, Executive Director

Families Served by Clemson Community Care

In 2023 CCC distributed 332,961 pounds of food to 3,908 families in our service area. Of this amount, 233,361 pounds were donated by individuals, groups, or grocery stores. To meet the demand, CCC spent a total of \$116,370 from donations to purchase an additional 91,143 pounds of food.

As of September 30, 2024, with three months of the year remaining, we had already distributed 247,688 pounds of food and spent a total of \$92,930 to purchase additional food to meet client needs. On average, CCC distributes over 1,600 pounds of food daily.

"Housing is absolutely essential to human flourishing.

Without stable shelter, it all falls apart."

—Matthew Desmond

In order to help stabilize the shelter needs of our clients, to date in 2024, CCC has helped 266 client families with a total of \$61,058 for payment of utility bills. We have spent \$133,612 to assist 198 client families with rent payment.

For every service provided, we talk with our clients individually and go over their expenses and income, their family situation, and any other issues that are relevant to our assistance.

We are a partner with them in stabilizing their situations. For every financial commitment our organization makes on their behalf, a client must pay a portion of the bill.

We are grateful for volunteers who serve as client interviewers, and we appreciate their care, compassion, and thoroughness in listening to difficult life stories and making careful decisions.

"If you cannot feed one hundred people, then feed just one."

—Mother Teresa

Back to School Workshop and Backpacks

As we have for many years, CCC again partnered with the local schools in our service area to provide a back to school workshop for our client parents and children.



Principals and guidance counselors from these schools share information and answer questions regarding bus routes, school feeding programs, attendance, scheduling, and

supply needs. This program allows families to begin the school year with all the information they need to get the year off to a great start.

We appreciate Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Central hosting our Central and Clemson families and the Pendleton Community Center for sharing their space with our Pendleton families. A hot dog dinner and the ice cream truck completed the evening.

Participating families received a backpack packed by CCC individually for each child based on the specific supply list provided by the child's school and grade.

We appreciate the support of the Rotary Club of Clemson for providing funding for this program by purchasing some of the backpacks and supplies needed.

A total of 187 backpacks were provided to students at nine schools in our service area.



CCC Welcomes New Finance Director

In early 2024, CCC welcomed Kasia Jerzmanowska to our staff as Finance Director. Kasia comes to us with a background in economics and finance, and she previously served as a CCC volunteer. She brings much enthusiasm to her job and we are glad to have her as a part of our team.

Kasia follows our long time Finance Director Elaine Laiewski, who retired in February.

We wish Elaine a wonderful new life season and welcome Kasia!



Elaine Laiewski (left) retired last year and Kasia Jerzmanowska (right) joined CCC as the new finance director.

Amazon Wish List

CCC has developed an Amazon wish list for donations to the pantry.



You may find the link on our website or scan the QR code to the left.



We so appreciate all of you who have donated this way already. Please list your name and address on your order.

TRIO Event to Be Held December 6

Come join us on Friday, December 6 as we join our friends at the Clemson Free Clinic for a holiday event focusing on those in need of our services. The event supporting Hope, Health, and Community will be held from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

Our organizations work closely together to serve the residents in our area by providing basic needs—food, shelter, utilities, and medical care. Trio is the largest fund raiser for both organizations and we would love your help in making it a success. Money raised from the event will help both organizations provide for our clients. We are grateful to our sponsors and to all who purchase tickets. Thank you as well to those who serve on our planning committee. A great way to kickoff the holiday season is to help others, so we hope to have you with us on December 6!



TRIO Tickets Order Form

TRIO tickets are \$50.00 each and may be ordered using this form or purchased from Clemson Community Care or the Clemson Free Clinic.

No paper tickets will be distributed. Ticket holder names will be at the door.

Enclosed is my check for TRIO tickets payable to Clemson Community Care in the amount of \$ _____ Number of tickets: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to Clemson Community Care, P.O. Box 271, Clemson, SC 29633.

CCC Dates to Remember

November 11

Holiday Food Distribution Begins

November 28-29

Closed for Thanksgiving Holidays

December 6

TRIO Event

December 23-26

Closed for Christmas Holidays

December 30-31

Closed for Inventory Day

January 1, 2025

Closed for New Year's Day

CCC Corporate Donation Partners

Certified food pantries are regulated through Feeding America nationally and then through regional food banks. Our regional supervisory agency is Second Harvest Metrolina in Charlotte. Our staff is required to complete an annual training course and we have routine inspections to check for compliance with regulations such as freezer temperatures, pest control, and food storage.

Through Feeding America, food pantries have donation partnerships with local grocery stores. CCC is fortunate to receive donations through this program from Wal-Mart, Publix, and Aldi. Our volunteer drivers pick up donations of bread, some produce, and other grocery items from these stores each week.

In addition, we are an approved partner in the Food for Sharing campaign with Publix supermarkets. Twice yearly, donations are accepted at the registers at Publix and CCC is then able to purchase food with these donations.

Our Pendleton Food Lion provides us with all the paper bags we use to pack our food for distribution each day. We are so grateful for the partnerships we have with these retail stores in our area and appreciate all that they do for us.



Food Share Program

CCC is in its second year of serving as a FoodShare SC Fresh Food Box distribution partner site. FoodShare SC aims to increase access to healthy and low-price fruits and vegetables across the Upstate. Additionally, the program supports local farmers by giving them an effective way to distribute their produce. Fresh Food Boxes contain a variety of fruits and vegetables such as squash, greens, apples and potatoes. Recipes are included in the box that reflect the produce provided.

The program is open to everyone in the upstate community. Pickup is twice a month on Wednesday afternoons at CCC. Boxes are \$5 for clients with SNAP benefits and \$20 for those paying cash. Orders must be placed online the week before distribution and are available for pick up from 4-5:30 pm at CCC. For more information and to place orders, please visit: <https://feedandseedsc.com/foodshare/>.



FOODSHARE
feeding a need in our community.

Holiday Programs

Holiday programs at CCC begin in early November and include a holiday meal and gift card assistance.

Holiday Turkeys

As in the past, a turkey will be included if possible with holiday food items distributed to our clients. If you would like to donate a turkey, please pick one up for a neighbor when you shop. Turkeys may be delivered to the back door at CCC Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The Pendleton Food Lion, Ingles in Central, and the Clemson Publix will allow you to leave turkeys after purchase to be picked up daily by CCC volunteers. ***Distribution begins November 11.***



Holiday Gift Assistance

For many years, we have provided gift cards to our families to assist with holiday purchases for their children. Qualified families will receive one gift card per child given to the parent. Last holiday season, CCC provided a total of 498 cards for a total investment of \$19,920.

Did you know...

CCC administers a deposit program to assist people moving from homelessness into a sustainable situation?

CCC regularly provides for the transient population in our community by providing water, snack packs, pop top foods, blankets and other items, sometimes on a daily basis?

CCC has a home repair program that provides for roof, plumbing, electrical and flooring repairs?

Can you help with the holiday programs or make a donation?

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

☐ Check here if this is a new address

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Designation: ☐ Food ☐ Gift Card ☐ No Preference

Tribute Information (if applicable):

☐ In Honor of ☐ In Memory of

Name of the person you wish to honor/remember: _____

Name and address of person to be notified of this gift: _____

Please visit clemsoncommunitycare.org (or scan the QR code) to donate with Paypal or credit card, or mail this form with your donation in the envelope provided.



Thank You to All Our Supporting Churches

Abel Baptist Church
ALIVE Wesleyan Church
Bethel United Methodist Church
Central United Methodist Church
Clemson Chinese Church
Clemson Community Church
Clemson Presbyterian Church
Clemson United Methodist Church
East Clemson Baptist Church
First Baptist Church–Central
First Baptist Church–Clemson
First Baptist Church–Pendleton
Fort Hill Presbyterian Church
Freedom Center
Freeway Church
Golden View Baptist Church
Greater Faith Baptist Church
Holy Trinity Episcopal Parish
Lawrence Chapel United Methodist Church
Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
New Holly Light Missionary Baptist Church
New Hope Baptist Church
Peace Congregational Church
Pendleton Presbyterian Church
Pendleton United Methodist Church
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
Refuge Baptist Church
St. Andrew Catholic Church
Trinity Wesleyan Church
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson
University Lutheran Church



Note: All photos used in this publication have been released for use by CCC through a photo release statement.



About Clemson Community Care

Clemson Community Care was established in 1988 by ministers from various churches in Clemson, Central and Pendleton as a non-profit charitable corporation to serve the local community. The goal of CCC is to support low income families and individuals to overcome periods of financial crisis and become self-sufficient, contributing members of the community.

In cooperation with local religious, civic, educational, and private agencies, staff and individual volunteers, Clemson Community Care supports a variety of basic human needs, emphasizing development of self-sufficiency. Services offered by CCC include:

- Food pantry
- SNAP application assistance
- Utility bill assistance
- Rental assistance
- Homeless support services
- Home Repair program
- Back to school assistance
- Holiday help for Thanksgiving and Christmas



P.O. Box 271, Clemson, SC 29633

105 Anderson Hwy., Clemson, SC

Phone: (864) 653-4460 :: Fax: (864) 654-5109

e-mail: ccc@clemsoncommunitycare.org

Website: clemsoncommunitycare.org

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/clemsoncommunitycare>

Instagram: [@clemsonccc](https://www.instagram.com/clemsonccc)



SCAN ME

Scan this QR code to visit CCC's website: request help, donate, volunteer, or learn more.

"Do your little bit of good where you are, it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

—Desmond Tutu



Hurricane Helene Response

In the weeks since Hurricane Helene, Clemson Community Care has been the recipient of a tremendous outpouring of love and generosity. We cannot begin to thank all who have checked in with us, donated food, given financially, and volunteered time. It has been a busy time, but our work is lighter due to the help we have received. You may never meet our clients who were impacted by the storm, but please know they are better taken care of because of you and your generosity. We are grateful to live and work in a community that shows such care and compassion for all people in it.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #33
CLEMSON, SC
ZIP CODE 29631

Clemson Community Care
P.O. Box 271
Clemson, SC 29633
(864) 653-4460