



# THE LIGHT

Christians Helping in Crisis™

Christian Clearing House

The light shines in the darkness ... (John 1:5a)

Winter 2017

Volume 3, Issue 4

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Executive Director

**Jill Combs**

Office Manager

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Some days at CCH we see the saddest situations..... Debbie a mother of twin boys was facing a court ordered eviction to move from her trailer. Debbie owed a little over \$1,000 to avoid homelessness. Debbie's husband recently walked away from their marriage and refuses to pay any of the bills that are piling up. She has missed a lot of work due to her son's medical condition and has spent endless days at Children's Medical Hospital (recently because her son was in ICU). The little guy has a seizure disorder and has been on life support several times due to the illness. Not only is Debbie worrying about her son's health, she is struggling with the mounting bills and how to stay in her home. At CCH, we often have hard decisions to make. We offered to pay the last dollars in to keep the family their home, but the agency dollars were not enough. Debbie still needed to come up with \$700 in order for CCH to pledge on the account. There are days when staff and volunteers go home wondering what more can be done to help clients, some days are truly difficult.

This story was posted on Facebook. A donor came into the office wanting to help the family. Tammy, Executive Director was able to contact Debbie and get the necessary paperwork completed to stop the eviction.

While Debbie was in the office another volunteer overheard the story and asked if she would be able to adopt the family for Christmas. In addition, Debbie was referred to

the Hancock County Court House where pro bono legal services help clients. Debbie was able to get the paperwork started to dissolve the marriage and get a court judgement to receive child support. Sometime we see clients at the darkest times in their life....there is a light at the end of every situation. Debbie wrote this thank you note: ***I want to thank you for what you did for my boys and me. I have had a hard time the past few months. I thank the Lord that there are willing people like you out there to help. I hope one day I will be able to help someone that needs it. Again thank you so much, it meant the world to me and my boys. God Bless!***

**Because of YOU, we get the opportunity to make an impact and improve lives. The financial support you provide helps to make lives better.**

**Thank you and God Bless!**

*May the  
Miracle of  
Christmas  
fill your heart  
with joy.*



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## From the Executive Director

**Christian Clearing House (CCH)** is committed to our community. CCH's fifty-two participating congregations, Board, Staff and volunteers (currently more than 80) work in a collaborative manner making a difference in thousands of lives right here in Hancock County.

This past year, CCH was honored to receive the Better Business Bureau's Torch Award for business place ethics and I won the Golden Eagle Award with the Dollar Energy Fund—Neighbor to Neighbor Program (dollars to help keep AEP's clients' service connected). In addition to helping with over 5000 requests annually, CCH was able to distribute over 900 backpacks to area children at the start of the school year and 500 shoe vouchers through Project Happy Feet.

We continue to serve the Lord, strive to fulfill the agency mission, establish strong partnerships with community agencies and work to increase awareness of the assistance we provide. At CCH we are looking for a better tomorrow for each and every individual that has a need in our community.

CCH works with clients facing difficult times with the goal of helping those individuals become self-sustaining. This is often a challenging quest.

CCH's staff and volunteers address issues with clients — offering suggestions, alternatives and support — in hopes that clients seeking our services will make better decisions as they move forward.



Tammy Stahl  
Executive Director

*Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness and caring to change a person's life*

During hard times clients may make less than desirable decisions that cause negative consequences. Everyone entering our doors is treated with dignity and respect, no matter the situation. Financial support from our fifty-two participating congregations and devoted donors continue to allow us to provide assistance to those clients and their families that are seeking assistance. **I want to thank you for your continued support.**

During the upcoming holiday season, please remember each man, woman and child in our community that struggle daily.

Donations can be made at:

[www.cchsupport.org](http://www.cchsupport.org) or in the envelope included in the mailing.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

God Bless You,

Tammy Stahl, Executive Director



**Wishing you and your family a joyous holiday season!**



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## Caring Cupboard Items Needed

***"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish" and He fed 5000 people.***

The CCH Cupboard often seems to work in the same way. Regularly the staff will look at the cupboard and comment on the bare shelves...then through some mysterious way someone will knock on the door with arms full of items or a phone call is received stating they have a van load that needs to be dropped off.

Many area churches including Sunday School Classes and Bible Studies reach out to their congregations and take up collections for these needed items. Youth groups and other community organizations also make donations. These items cannot be purchased when using governmental food programs such as SNAP. **So the need is great!**

These items are vital to help our clients — a bottle of laundry soap or a package of toilet tissue is greatly appreciated by those who are without such necessary items. If you would like to donate to the cupboard, all donations are greatly appreciated.

### CCH Cupboard

- Toilet paper
- Diapers
- Deodorant
- Feminine products
- Laundry detergent
- Shampoo
- Tooth paste
- Tooth brushes
- Bath soap (bars)
- Shaving cream
- Dish detergent
- Baby wipes

### Why I Volunteer.....



Brenda Steed  
3 year Volunteer

*As a young child I saw my parents give their time and financial assistance to the communities we lived in. Since retiring I am able to give more time volunteering. God taught us to pray, give financially and serve others.*

*Volunteering at CCH has enriched my life and made me more appreciative of the blessing God has give me!*

**For more information on volunteering call Jill  
at 419-422-2222.**



Sharon Rider  
6 year volunteer



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## Christian Clearing House

1800 North Blanchard St. Suite 107  
Findlay, Ohio 45840  
www.cchsupport.org  
419-422-2222

### Our Vision:

Christian Clearing House represents Christ to the community through helping people become self-sustaining.

### Our Mission:

To provide emergency assistance for our neighbors facing financial, emotional, or spiritual needs in Hancock County.

### Year End Reminder:

If you turned 70 1/2 this year, don't forget to check with your tax advisor or accountant about taking your Minimum Required Distribution.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID PERMIT #544  
FINDLAY, OHIO

### Donations Received

**In Honor of:** Jack Cramer

**In Memory of:** Rita Fitzgerald  
Gretchen Bard

### Holiday Closings

**December 25 & 26, 2017**

**January 1, 2018**

### Mark Your Calendars

**January 25, 2018**.....Annual Celebration  
(5:30 PM at St. Marks Church DOCK)

**April 5, 2018**.....Velvet Chandelier  
(Garage Sale preview event)

**April 7 & 8, 2018**.....CCH Garage Sale  
(Now accepting donations of large items)



**A financial gift in honor of a friend or family member is a wonderful way to say**

**Merry Christmas!**



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