

Thanksgiving Distribution - Thank You, Volunteers!



Volunteers are smiling and ready to serve



Neighbors line up to receive their numbers



CES provides the ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal



We welcome guests of all ages! Children are invited to color while they wait



Left and Above: Neighbors have a chance to socialize as they wait to be served

Needed Items - Jean's Closet

Jean's Closet is a program that assists with household items, especially for those setting up new housing situations.

- Utensils, preferably packaged in sets (One knife, fork and spoon held together with a rubber band)
- Pots and pans
- Can openers
- Pillows (new)
- Blankets (clean, new, or gently used)
- Queen sheet sets (labeled by size and held together with painters or masking tape)

Need a New Car?



Subaru America is donating \$250 to Meals on Wheels and other non-profits for every new or leased Subaru vehicle from **November 15 through January 2**.

CES will receive a portion of all the MOW donations statewide, so buy a car and choose MOW. **Tell your friends!**



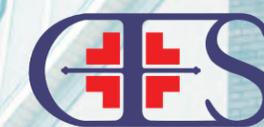
If you are 55+, consider this meaningful volunteer opportunity as a senior companion. LSS Senior Companion volunteers share their time and talents - enhancing the lives of older adults to stay active, healthy and remain in their own homes.

For information, call Laura Rowe at LSS Senior Corps Programs at 651-310-9459.

CES Mission

Rooted in God's loving grace, Community Emergency Service transforms lives by serving neighbors, sharing resources and becoming community

a place where people come hungry and leave hopeful.



1900 11th Ave S
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www.cesmn.org

Phone: 612.870.1125
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ces@cesmn.org

Community Emergency Service

The Spotlight Newsletter

Beyond Bread to the Bread of Life . . . Beyond Ourselves to Jesus Christ

Merry Christmas from the CES staff



Pictured (left to right, front to back)

Foreground:

Kelsey Hansen *Development/Graphic Designer*
Danny Bryant *Warehouse Coordinator*
Melanie LaPointe *Volunteer Coordinator*
Sara Denzer *Food Shelf Program Coordinator*

Middle:

Juanita Lindgren *Office Manager*
Latrellis Holden *MOW Frozen Food Specialist*
Bob Nepple *MOW Distribution Coordinator*
Mike Lynch *Home Delivery Assistant*
Mike Lloyd *Executive Director*
Mike Krachmer *Operations Director*

Background:

Ken Brown *Program Associate*
Shawnda Hobson *MOW Administrator*
Chris Nelson *Director of Development*
Saundra Holden *Program Coordinator*
Michel Seaboy *Program Associate*

Not Pictured:

Sahra Ali *Somali Program Assistant*
Harold Lewis *MOW Driver*
Debra Kemp *MOW Driver*





Director's Discourse

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our Friends from all of us at CES,

It is a joy to share a Christmas greeting with all who have so faithfully supported the work of CES. Wow, how quickly 2018 has passed. Here we are again, celebrating this joyous season. I hope it is a special time for you and those you love!

CES has many activities at this time of year that celebrate the season and brighten the lonely, isolated and less fortunate.

Each year, on the Saturday before Thanksgiving we are blessed to provide a distribution of grocery items sufficient for a great Thanksgiving meal for our friends from the neighborhood. Around 250 neighbors come to CES. With the help of over 40 volunteers, mostly from congregations that support CES, we help our friends select items for their thanksgiving meal. A prayer is offered, a guest musician shares some wonderful songs, we celebrate God's great generosity and a couple of hours of being a community are shared.

Hot meals are delivered to

our homebound senior population through our Meals on Wheels program for Thanksgiving, the day following, Christmas and New Year's. These nutritious meals are distributed with the help of over 60 volunteers. They are individuals who want to give to others, families who want to teach their children the value of service, grandparents with their grandchildren who share the joy of helping others and all seeking to make lifelong memories.

These are special days when our neighbors are being greeted with smiles when they might otherwise be alone, isolated and often feeling abandoned.

During this time, we continue to meet the needs of our regular client services in our community. Our dedicated staff work hard in pursuit of meeting our neighbors hunger needs with a spirit of service.

On the Saturday before Christmas, we host our annual "Christmas Party," one of the highlights of our year. This event for over 250 people celebrates God's great gift of His son given to us during this precious season. City Church of Minneapolis, as well as other congregations, provide volunteers to conduct this event. Cookies and punch are served, a choir or vocal group come to share with our neighbors and a photo booth may be offered so our guests can snap a fun holiday picture with friends. After everyone joins in singing Christmas carols, we end with a distribution of

grocery items that allow our neighbors to have a wonderful family Christmas meal, including a pie for dessert.

These events describe CES – a place "where people come hungry and leave hopeful." We seek to do as our Lord has directed us in Deuteronomy 15:11, "For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and the poor in your land.'"

This is the mission of CES; this is our calling.

As I have often communicated, without the services of all those who come to CES as volunteers and without the financial support we receive from you, we could do nothing.

In this season of Thanksgiving, I give thanks for each one of you. In this season of rejoicing, I rejoice in being in service to our Lord hand in hand with all of you!

As we come to the end of 2018, please continue to remember the work of CES and the great need of all those we serve. Your financial support is critical to this ongoing effort that is Community Emergency Service.

Thank you and God bless!

Mike Lloyd

Mike Lloyd, Executive Director



Singers, Packers & Givers – City of Lakes Rotary



"Gladys, come quick, we don't want to miss the City of Lakes singers!" said Beth as they wheeled walkers down the hall to the distribution of the Home Delivery groceries. "Today is a special day! Entertainment and food! We don't get that often, do we Gladys?" Beth and Gladys joined others as they enjoyed the concert and a fun rendition of *Java Jive*.

City of Lakes Rotary Club provided a concert at one of the high rises that CES Home Delivery brings bags of pre-ordered groceries to. Excitement abounded as the

concert began, and smiles were plentiful by those who are rarely able to attend anything of the likes.

Serving CES for many years with monetary donations and assisting with the Home Delivery program since its inception, City of Lakes Rotary is a constant at CES. Each year hats and gloves are delivered to help warm the hands and heads of our neighbors in the frigid Minnesota winters.

Rotary is a 110-year-old international organization with approximately 1.2 million members worldwide. The

mission of Rotary is "to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders."

One hundred members strong, the Minneapolis City of Lakes Rotary Club has been providing volunteer services since 1985. Examples of these services include volunteering at CES, raking lawns in South Minneapolis for seniors in the fall, singing at nursing homes and care facilities, delivering over 1,000 hats and gloves annually to Twin Cities social services organizations as well as many other services locally and worldwide.

Thank you City of Lakes for your support of CES and your service to those in need!

Won't you as readers reach out, volunteer and donate to bring smiles and joy to our neighbors this holiday season? As Gary, a member of the Rotary stated, "I'm sure we get far more out of it than the people we serve."



Christmas Eve Tradition - Meals on Wheels

We deliver meals to our clients on **Christmas Eve day, Monday, December 24.**

Family groups come to serve before they serve themselves, replacing our usual corporate volunteers. We deliver two meals: one for the day and one for Christmas. We also bring some simple gifts.

If you would like to participate, it's easy:

1. Call Melanie at **612-870-1125 ext. 128** or email mlapointe@cesmn.org to let us know you are going to join us on Christmas Eve day.
2. Give us your name and tell us if you have Meals on Wheels experience so we can assign a suitable route.
3. Show up at CES with a smile and a car.
1900 11th Ave S
Minneapolis 55404

Warm beverages and treats are available at 10:30.

Meals are ready for delivery by 11:00. Your team follows the route list to each delivery address and returns the empty delivery bags back to CES. Routes generally take about an hour. We look forward to serving with you.

Merry Christmas!

