



CHRISTIANS CONCERNED FOR THE COMMUNITY

"Ramping Up" Christians Concerned for the Community

Summer Newsletter July 2023

To the right is a project from late Spring, a ramp for a neighbor in need.

"Betsy" has been waiting for someone to help build a ramp so she can finally come home from staying at the hospital and be with her husband.



With the help of your generous support, as well as special funding and volunteers from Creekside Community Church and University City Church of Christ, we were able to construct this 36 foot ramp for the neighbor

We need more skilled helpers, teams, and funding to complete the multiple ramp (and other construction related) requests that always populate our wait list, as well as our other ministries like furniture and household goods delivery.



Letter from Rob Goddard, President of the Board

Dear friends of CCC, it is with great pleasure that I introduce you to our new Executive Director, Michael Lynch (pictured below). Michael has been serving with CCC faithfully, loves and believes in our mission, and has great leadership and vision to see us serve more and more neighbors and see our community flourish. We are so excited to see how the Lord will work through him and use him in this role.

I have known Michael since he was in a middle school boys small group that I led as a youth leader, and I have seen him grow in his faith, maturity, and leadership from that time and into his adult years as his love of God and care for others has remained his heartbeat.

I am so excited for this new chapter of CCC and serving neighbors together with Michael in this new role. I ask all of us to encourage him in this role and to give him more work in asking him where we can help fill neighbor needs in our community that keep pouring in through our connections and our neighbors reaching out to us for help. May we continue to be an organization that cares for the needs of our neighbors to the glory of God with Michael at the helm.



Letter from the Director

Greetings to all!

First of all, we want to thank everyone receiving this newsletter for your past and/or continued support in prayer, partnerships, financial support, volunteering, and connections that allow Christians Concerned for the Community to continue our mission of service and love in the name of the LORD. Two core convictions we have are that the Church in this county and city, and the people that comprise her, are called to serve our neighbors in love. And our ministry serves to make visible and connect the needs of those hurting most in the community with the churches and people of Christ who are able to do this necessary work.

I write this to each of you because we are “Ramping Up,” so to speak! Our previous Director (Dan) departed at the end of 2022, and while I was continuing to work in my prior role by continuing our services, the Board and staff at CCC had a re-focusing period that culminated with a Strategic Planning meeting in June. The Board hired me as the new director in April while I finished my schooling, and I am excited and joyous in the Lord for the opportunity to expand our impact and see our community flourish.

Please let me share a portion of Deut 24:19-22 with you, where the Lord states the same idea in multiple ways:

“When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterwards. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, therefore I command you to do this” (Duet. 24:22).

How might this apply to us since we (at least not me) don’t have vineyards! We must ask ourselves, where are the grapes from your work and resources that can be left over and given for those with no advocate or stability? And why are we to do this? Because we too were without home, slaves to a power greater than ourselves. But the Lord miraculously rescued us, and our generosity and care for the poor is a way to celebrate and display the gospel that Jesus has rescued us from the bonds of sin and death, just as he rescued his people from the oppression of Pharaoh thousands of years ago.

The sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow are all present in Alachua County, but oftentimes we can’t see them. But I can testify to you that CCC sees them, and that we get so many requests each year that we are unable to meet because we don’t have the people to help or the partnerships in place to connect servants to the needy. I see the lonely and

single mothers without beds for their kids, and the disabled who are unable to leave their home because there is no ramp. We talk to these and more, and we visit them every week.

Thanks to your help, we just gave 3 mattresses, a dresser, and tables to a single mom with 6 kids. As well as this, you can see our recent work (first part of this newsletter) building a 36 foot ramp for a neighbor whose wife was away from home for 6 months because of an accident and they didn't have the funds to buy a ramp. This is just a small picture of our work.

It is a gift for me to now be the Director and steward the amazing organization that CCC is. We are in year 34 now, and we want to keep expressing the love of God in the same ways and in new ways. What is difficult is that we are undershooting our current budget by about one-third. Supporter turnover is expected in a leadership transition, but we need more support if we are going to continue in our work.

We need more men and women who are able to lend their time and skills to help increase our ramp ministry, whether with wooden ramps or with metal ramps. And as well for those who could visit the lonely, and/or do home repairs. We want to use your skills and connections to show the power of the Gospel by loving our neighbors in unity!

Please contact our office (office@cccgainesville.org) if you want to get involved, or contact me with any questions and if you want to meet me if you don't know me! (michael@cccgainesville.org 352-672-5898). I want to and will continue the legacy of expressing God's love through good deeds that was started by Lynn and Suzanne Groce back in 1989. Also, I implore you to share this with people who might be interested in donating their time and/or resources to assist us in our mission, that we might do more of the Lord's work. And as always, pray for the staff (Lenora and myself), the Board, and our efforts to serve and love the people here.

In Christ,

Michael Lynch

Donate

Follow us on Facebook (click the Facebook logo) to keep better updated about our projects, impact, and the needs of CCC and our neighbors. We will often post about certain items that we are low on, such as the current Household item needs:

- Twin, full, and queen sheet sets and blankets/comforters
- Bath towels, hand towels, washcloths
- Pots and pans
- Dinner plates and bowls
- Silverware and Kitchen utensils

And a special thank you to Queen of Peace and their Christmas in July program that will help our ministry needs!



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