



CHRISTIANS CONCERNED FOR THE COMMUNITY

"A Firm Foundation"

Fall Quarterly Newsletter October 2023

Please consider becoming a monthly donor and being a part of a firm foundation for CCC!

Service Highlights



"When no one else helped me, y'all, a bunch of strangers, gave me so much help"

It's been a busy end of the summer for us at CCC!

Just last week, I got to see such a beautiful picture of the Gospel of Jesus Christ lived out. The Creekside Women group sent some ladies (above) to deep clean for a neighbor's home in NE Gainesville, but there is much more to the story.

Despite Ms. L's heartbreaking story of depression, loss of children, and neglecting her own body and home, she kept her faith in the Lord. When I entered her home this summer, her home was barely livable, with German Roaches and clutter everywhere. But with the time spent by staff and many volunteers, and the assistance and services of other businesses and nonprofits (Rebuilding Together North Central Florida and Florida Pest Control), CCC has helped show her the redeeming love and grace of God in a tangible way. Over this last month, we helped clear her home of German roaches and dirt, replaced her fridge and re-painted the kitchen, and cleared out many excess items she has been hoarding for years.

Only with your support, generosity, and time given, was this made possible. Thank you so much for making the Gospel embodied in our lives and in the lives of our neighbors who are in need.





Above we see a delivery to a single woman and daughter whose previous apartment burned down. We replaced many of her kitchen and household goods, and large furniture items.

We also see our newly cleaned up office by volunteers from Greenhouse church! They also came out to paint a brand new lengthy rail project that I completed with a Creekside volunteer for an older woman. Thank you Greenhouse!

Letter from the Director

I need to give a big thank you to everyone who supports the work that we do here at Christians Concerned for the Community! As I have been acclimating to the Director role in the last few months, I am learning to better appreciate the generosity and support of CCC partners. There is so much good work (much more than shown above) that Lenora (Social Service and Office Administrator) and I (Michael) get to do because of those who support us.

The title for this Quarterly Newsletter is "A Firm Foundation", for three reasons: Reliance of Jesus' teaching, highlighting our work that is centered on the home, and CCC's need for a firm financial foundation. First, and most importantly, this is pointing to the words and teachings of Jesus which include a well-known construction analogy:

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-27

These words give hope and direction to all of us who follow Jesus and trust in the Lord with our lives. He tells us to follow his teachings, which in this specific context, are those found in the Sermon on the Mount.

The image provided is a home, and on what foundation that home is built. I see many homes in my work, as do the volunteers who get to go with me. I get to see what happens when people depart from instruction of the Lord, and/or when the wind and waves beat against their lives. But I also get to see the moments full of Gospel richness, where people see and appreciate the work of God through CCC. And we make sure to tell everyone that we are but vessels of God's love, portraying the free gift of God's grace by helping provide for people's core needs in their dwelling place for no cost.

Lastly, I chose this theme because in order to operate sustainably, a firm foundation is what CCC needs financially. Besides ensuring that CCC remains grounded in Christ, a part of why the Board hired me is so that we can push CCC to sustainably operate with a regular and dependable donor base in order to better connect our people to serve our neighbors.

I have a big ask for everyone: Please share this newsletter and the need of our ministry with your friends, families, and churches! And if you are not a donor, please consider becoming a monthly donor! Right now, we still need about \$2500 of average recurring support each month to operate without a deficit. Thanks to the planning, and sometimes partial hours of previous years, we are able to operate for many months without exhausting our reserves. But to be responsible we must raise the current support levels.

I am currently meeting with churches and individuals to strengthen our ties and our foundation here, but I need more connections and opportunities to grow our partner base and therefore our impact. Once this development work is out of crisis mode, I can devote more time to our services and loving our neighbors that way.

And I must not forget to trust in the Lord for all things, and to seek his Kingdom first. Thank you for everyone who is involved, and in whatever way that is. Please continue to pray for me in my role and for our work. Reach out to me with any questions, ideas, or interest in serving (michael@cccgainesville.org). **And if you are able, please consider being a part of our firm foundation so that we can embody and share the true firm foundation of a life built on Jesus Christ.**

In Christ,

Michael Lynch, Director

Specific Needs

Currently recruiting 2-3 more Furniture Delivery volunteers. Around once a month commitment asked for but not required. 3-4 hours during weekday mornings (usually Wed, Thur, and Fri).

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:

- Bath towels, hand towels, washcloths
- Twin, full, and queen sheet sets and blankets/comforters
- Adult Beds

- Silverware and Kitchen utensils
- Wood-working and Construction tools

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