

United Way of Central Illinois

2016-2020 Basic Needs Investments

Supporting a safety net of food and shelter for our community's most vulnerable members



Total Basic Needs Investments: \$321,665

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois Holy Family Food Pantry

Holy Family Food Pantry has been operational since 1989 and provides a 7-10 day supply of food that individuals or families can prepare within their own living environment. The program was initiated in response to local clients with immediate food needs that were not being addressed. In an effort to avoid duplication and serve more families, Holy Family Food Pantry has a 90 day wait period for return visits rather than the more typical 30 day wait. Other non-consumable items such as diapers, blankets, personal hygiene products, and school supplies are provided when available. The Pantry serves approximately 120 families per week and makes referrals to other pantries and programs when appropriate.

Mobile Food Pantry

The Mobil Food Pantry program assists hungry households in the rural areas of Sangamon and Menard Counties where access to a food pantry is limited and/or unavailable due to transportation and/or other causes. Rural partners assist in identifying the at-risk and food insecure households in their area, and insure a sufficient and dignified distribution for the families. The rural partners also serve as conduits to educate families about the SNAP program and how to apply in order to help them become more stable.

St. John's Breadline

St. John's Breadline is a congregate meal site, providing two meals per day Monday through Saturday and one meal on Sunday. Meals are served 365 days per year within a hospitable and positive environment that respects the dignity of the individual. These well balanced and healthy meals provide food security to the hungry and often homeless members of the local community. Not only is the Breadline a safe place to ease physical hunger, it is truly a community center where the most desperate members of the community can socialize, build friendships, and access a myriad of social services through contact with agency staff.

Contact Ministries and Helping Hands of Springfield, Inc. Emergency Shelter and Support for Men, Women and Children

This new collaboration between two of the largest shelters in Springfield helps coordinate and support the shelter needs of homeless men, women, and women with children. The facilities are open every evening and are equipped with 84 beds which include 10 pack-in-plays. The facilities provide a clean bed with bedding for each resident and a hot meal served at 5:30pm each night. Individuals have access to shower and laundry facilities as needed. Both facilities are fully equipped with security cameras, staff and safety procedures in place to provide a safe and secure environment for all who stay with them. Each facility allows for residents to stay for up to 90 days. In special circumstances, residents are allowed to extend their stay at both facilities.

Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery Crisis Nursery Core Program

Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery's "Crisis Nursery Core Program" provides immediate, temporary childcare of at-risk children, keeping them safe while also helping their parents/caregivers in resolving the crisis they face, and is the only nursery of its kind in a 60 mile radius. The Crisis Nursery Core Program is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All services are free, regardless of income. When parents and/or guardians are experiencing a crisis, the Nursery can reduce the incidence of abuse and/or neglect by providing a safe, nurturing environment for their child. The Crisis Nursery Core Program has a maximum capacity of 10 children at any given time per DCFS licensing standards.

Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc.

Daily Bread

The Daily Bread Meal Program provides nutritious home-delivered meals to seniors who cannot prepare a nutritious meal for themselves and who are physically unable to visit one of the Daily Bread supported congregate meal sites. There is no fee for a meal from the Daily Bread program, but a suggested donation of three dollars per meal is asked of seniors ages 60 and older who are able to contribute. Although the average Daily Bread client is 70 years or older, female and experiencing one or more age-related health problems, any individual age 60 or older qualifies for this program.

Sojourn Shelter and Services

Adult and Children Shelter

Sojourn provides emergency shelter and provisions including food, clothing and personal care items 24 hours/day, 365 days/year to any adult and child victim of domestic violence in Sangamon and Menard County. There are no fees for any service. Sojourn's emergency homeless shelter has 32-beds and serves anyone regardless of gender, race, age and economic status. Many of the victims that Sojourn serves have lived with routine physical assaults, threats/attempts on their life, severe isolation and degradation. Securing safe shelter, without daily fears for personal safety, is the first goal/benefit to Sojourn's clients. Last fiscal year, Sojourn provided 9,069 days/nights of safe shelter. Through safe shelter and provisions, the immediate quality of life for those Sojourn serves improves immediately.