

2009
Report

30 years of

PARTNERING
with our
COMMUNITY
to achieve
STABILITY
for our
NEIGHBORS
in need





DAVID McCRAE is a CM volunteer, father of a toddler, and graduate of our retail training and job search program Harvesting Hope. When hard times followed the closure of the family business, David turned to us to get back on track:

“Getting back in the world was wonderful,” he says of the footing he regained through our work program. Now, even with a 45-minute bus ride to the job he loves and thrives in—in the electrical department of **Hamilton’s Home Depot**—he arrives a half hour early. He settles in with a cup of coffee before a day of customer interaction, a job strength he sharpened at CM and gladly gives back as a CM food store volunteer: “I’ve learned a lot, and I want to see how far I can go with it.”

Life turned around at home, too: “I come home with a paycheck again. Our attitudes toward each other are better. I can buy my kid sneakers. I pay my rent. I look forward to holiday dinners now. It’s a good time.”

DIANA GRAY, a CM volunteer and UUCP member, describes the scene in our Trenton food store:

“People know one another, meet, greet, chat, and often laugh. Volunteers cheerfully assist shoppers and bag groceries. Time passes quickly and while I am trying to be efficient, I remind myself to look customers in the eye and give a friendly greeting. They are gracious, but restrained, not anxious to share their stories with a stranger.

As I see evidence of their daily struggle to meet individual and family needs with insufficient income, along with physical and mental illness, loss, and other life burdens, I have much to ponder. The raw courage, love, strength, and daily perseverance of these Mercer County neighbors—my neighbors—humbles me.”





JUDITH AVILA is the director of the Crisis Ministry's Princeton office, located in Nassau Presbyterian Church in the heart of the Borough.

Combining her warm, welcoming presence with fluency in Spanish and experience in advocacy and in student mentoring, Judith provides excellent service to neighbors in the Princeton area.

In addition to her experience working with the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Foundation, Judith is a leader in Futuro, a group that encourages achievement among Latino and Latina students at Trenton Central High School, from which she graduated. She is now enrolled part-time at Rutgers University.

We are excited that Judith is a part of our team, welcoming and serving the neighbors in need who come to our Princeton office for assistance.

LOXLEY POTTINGER works hard to keep up his neighborhood's appearance, and encourages his neighbors to do the same.

He is also the first homeowner we assisted in our new foreclosure prevention partnership with Isles, Inc. Isles helped to broker a loan modification while we helped with fees to enable Loxley to keep his home.

Having worked his way up over 33 years with the State of New Jersey, Loxley experienced a drop in salary through restructuring. He retired and searched for a better paying job. But the economy was going into a free fall. He depleted his savings, fell behind in bills, and, finally, was hit with foreclosure on the semi-attached, 4-bedroom house in which he'd raised his family. Always the one to help others and provide for the family, it was hard for Loxley to seek help. But he did: "I thank God for putting the people here in place for me. I'm not quite where I want to be but I thank God for where I am! You can't give up. You need to learn who will be there for you."





CM volunteer and Nassau Presbyterian Church member Yak-Fa Cheung conducts an intake interview with a CM client seeking housing assistance.

In 2009 the Crisis Ministry was named Gateway Agency for homelessness prevention. We are the first agency Mercer County families in housing crisis turn to for emergency assistance.

13,050 total visits to the Crisis

Ministry's Princeton and Trenton locations were recorded in 2009.

5054 separate households across Mercer County sought food or financial help from the Crisis Ministry in 2009.

278 families received help with utilities that are vital to health, safety, and stability, like electricity, heat, and water.

593 families kept their roofs over their heads through these homelessness prevention services: mortgage assistance, back rent, and security deposit assistance.

3670 unduplicated households—including **3,090** children—had access to healthy food every month.

91% of the families we assist with back rent, mortgage, and security deposits are stably housed six months later. **86%** remained stably housed 12 months later.

In 2009 our workforce development program **Harvesting Hope:**

- Hosted **42** welfare-to-work participants
- Gained employment for 9 participants.
- Provided an important source of staffing for our Trenton store

Free Tax Prep services for 2009 taxes were provided to **113** low-income households and returned:

- \$178,787 in federal refunds
- \$23,023 in NJ state refunds
- \$61,341 in earned income federal credit
- \$12,268 in earned income NJ credit

The Crisis Ministry distributed a record **252** tons of food in 2009:

217 tons donated through:

- Food drives in the community (see right)
- Donations from:
Philabundance
Whole Foods Market
Trader Joe's
Italian People's Bakery
Nassau Seafood
Lucy's Ravioli

38.2 tons provided in-kind or at low cost:

- *Mercer Street Friends*
- *McCaffrey's Supermarkets*
- *ShopRite*

New in Hunger Prevention in 2009:

- **29%** increase in donated food
- **300%** more fresh produce provided by opening our **Free Community Farmer's Market**
- Indoor waiting area
- Private intake interview cubicles
- Handicapped-accessible classroom space
- Better shopping experience

These food drives alone collected 84 tons in 2009:



Yes We CAN! Food Drives—A CM community partner

Yes We CAN! Food Drives was formed in late 2008 by a group of dedicated people who wanted to act on behalf of hungry neighbors across greater Mercer County. Within a year the group had established itself as a vital resource for the Crisis Ministry's food inventory, averaging nearly 3.5 tons of food collected for our clients *each month*.

Yes We CAN! volunteers hold regular Saturday and Sunday food drives at area supermarkets and farmers markets that generously host their activities.

Partner retailers include ShopRite in Ewing, ShopRite in Montgomery, Pennington Quality Market, McCaffrey's Supermarket, and, seasonally, the West Windsor and Pennington Farmers' Markets.

For more information, find the Yes We CAN! Food Drives website linked to the Crisis Ministry's site.

COMMUNITY

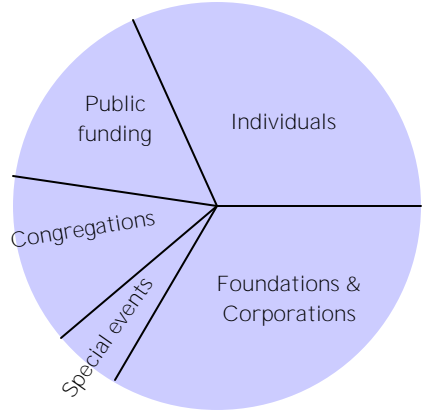


Working in the Princeton office, CM volunteer **and All Saints'** member Jan Logan welcomes a Princeton area resident who has come for access to healthy food.

2009 Income Sources

(percentages shown compare to 2008)

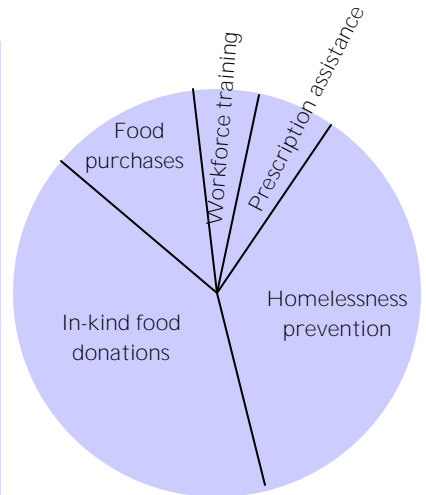
- ▲ + 2% Congregations: \$162,332
- ▼ - 11% Individuals: \$292,527
- ▲ + 16% Public funding: \$271,906
- ▲ + 14% Foundations/Corporations: \$336,800
- ▼ - 45% Special events: \$35,000



2009 Direct Aid

(percentages shown compare to 2008)

- ▲ + 30% Homelessness Prevention: \$388,144
- ▲ + 45% Back Rent: \$211,159
- ▲ + 22% Security Deposit: \$114,572
- ▼ - 5% Utilities: \$62,413
- NEW — Mortgages: \$28,986
- ▲ + 23% Hunger Prevention: \$571,300
- = Food Purchase Budget: \$100,000
- ▲ + 29% In-kind Food value: \$471,300
- = Workforce Training: \$42,000
- = Prescription Assistance: \$40,000



89% of every dollar directly serves neighbors in need, as reported in our 2008 audit by Klatzkin and Co.

Our Founding Congregations

Nassau Presbyterian Church

Trinity Church Princeton

Our Partner Congregations

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
Aquinas Institute
All Saints' Episcopal Church
Central Presbyterian Church, Summit
Christ Congregation
Congregation Beth Chaim
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Dayton Presbyterian Church
Episcopal Church at Princeton University
Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
First Baptist Church of Pennington
First Baptist Church of Princeton
First Baptist Church of Trenton
First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck
First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton Square
First Presbyterian Church of Pennington
First Presbyterian Church of Plainsboro
First Presbyterian Church of Trenton
Friendship Baptist Church
Grace-St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Hopewell Presbyterian Church
Jewish Center of Princeton
Kingston Presbyterian Church
Kingston United Methodist Church
Langhorne Presbyterian Church
Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church
Lutheran Church of the Messiah
Mt. Pisgah AME Church
Nassau Christian Center
New Covenant United Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville
Presbytery of New Brunswick
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Princeton Society of Friends
Princeton United Methodist Church
Princeton University Center for Jewish Life
Princeton University Office of Religious Life
Princeton University Presbyterian Campus Ministry
St. David The King
St. David's Episcopal Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
St. Matthias Episcopal Church
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church
String of Pearls
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton
Titusville Presbyterian Church
Titusville United Methodist Church
Trenton Ecumenical Area Ministry
Trinity Episcopal Church of Rocky Hill
Trinity Cathedral
Union Baptist Church
Washington Crossing Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Windsor Hightstown Area Ministerium
Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

Steering Committee

Bill Creager and Thalia Mingo, Co-chairs

Carolyn Biondi	Deborah Picott
Helen Burke	Fred Van Sickle
Gerald Delk	Chris Waaben
Barbara Flythe	Dave Youmans
Daphne Jones	Ann Zultner
Dave Pettit	

Foundation & Community Supporters 2009

Rita Allen Foundation
The Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation
Mary Owen Borden Foundation
The Bunbury Company
Community Foundation of New Jersey
Concordia Foundation
Anonymous
Essig Enright Family Foundation
The Johnson Company, Inc.
J. Seward Johnson, Sr. 1963 Trust
The Joyce and Seward Johnson Foundation
Robert Wood Johnson 1962 Charitable Trust
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Karma Foundation
KSD Foundation
David Mathey Foundation
Curtis McGraw Foundation
Merancas Foundation
Princeton Area Community Foundation
Rotary Club of Princeton Foundation
The RSW Foundation Inc.
The Fred C. Rummel Foundation
Tenacre Foundation
Van Dyke McLane Foundation
Lawson Valentine Foundation
RSW Foundation
The Girl's Friendly Society of the Diocese of New Jersey

Corporate Supporters 2009

Andersen Corp. Foundation
Bloomberg
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund
Convatec
GE Healthcare
Anonymous
Novo Nordisk
Ortho-McNeil Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
PNC Bank Advisors
Regal Foundation/Regal Entertainment Group
Roma Bank Community Foundation

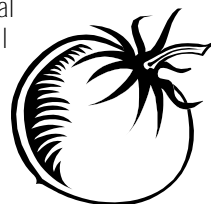
Public Funders 2009

City of Trenton Community Development Block Grant
FEMA (through United Way of Mercer County)
Mercer County Health and Human Services
Mercer County One-Stop Career Resource Center
New Jersey Office of Faith Based Initiatives
State of New Jersey Social Services Block Grant

1,030 Individuals donated a total of
\$292,527 to the Crisis Ministry in 2009.

TRENTON FRESH!

Trenton Fresh is Crisis Ministry's new collaboration with our partners Isles Inc., Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Mercer Food Council, Habitat for Humanity/East Trenton Center, and CityWorks. *Trenton Fresh* will expand access to fresh, local produce to underserved neighborhoods in Trenton. Summer 2010 will mark our first Trenton Fresh Market on the corner of North Clinton and Olden Avenues in the East Trenton neighborhood. On Saturdays, it will offer farm-fresh food plus health screenings, cooking demos, and health and wellness programs. Our goal is a sustainable, market-driven way to close the gap between local farmers and the underserved urban market. The vendors will sell produce and also accept food stamps using a wireless EBT machine. *Trenton Fresh – Mobile* will put fresh produce within reach of even more Trenton neighborhoods with a refrigerated truck that follows regular routes.



MORE WELCOMING

Changes in our Hunger Prevention program reflect growing need, sharper nutrition focus, and improved hospitality. We piloted new, expanded hours and increased refrigerated storage in Princeton. We expanded our space in Trenton, making for a



warmer welcome and more efficient intake process that includes new Food Stamp enrollment. Neighbors who come to us:

- Have an appealing, spacious waiting area indoors
- Proceed in an orderly manner to private interviews
- **Experience smooth traffic "flow" in the store's more open, accessible space**
- Select fresh produce from attractive new displays
- Check out at new bagging stations staffed by **workforce trainees so the "greeting to goodbye" time has dropped from 35 to 20 minutes**

STAFF

Jarrett Kerbel, Executive Director
 Dara Lewis, Client Services Director
 Mark Smith, Food Services Director
 Margaret Cowell, Work Program Director

Judith Avila, Princeton Office Director
 Delia Bailey, Work Program Assistant
 Tearyan Brown, Facilities Manager
 Tiffany Clark, Care Coordinator
 Elizabeth Ferguson, Homelessness Prevention Social Worker/Volunteer Coordinator
 Pat Foo, Administrative Assistant
 Shantia Loving, Homelessness Prevention Assistant
 Sarah Unger, Communications/Development Director
 Warentha Washington, Homelessness Prevention Care Coordinator

NEIGHBORS

www.thecrisisministry.org

www.facebook.com/TheCrisisMinistry

TRENTON:

123 E. Hanover St., Trenton, NJ 08608
 609-396-9355

PRINCETON:

61 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ 08540
 609-921-2135