



We Are CCU

In response to Christ's call to love our neighbors, Christian Churches United brings together local churches, community partners, and concerned neighbors to serve those facing homelessness, incarceration, and poverty through supportive programs and compassionate engagement.

Engagement Opportunities

www.ccuahbg.org



No one is immune to crisis.

We've been there. We've lost jobs. We've had bad choices, our own or others, get in the way of hopes and dreams. We've had an illness strike and threaten our jobs or housing. We've lost the life we thought we had.

In a crisis, look for the helpers.

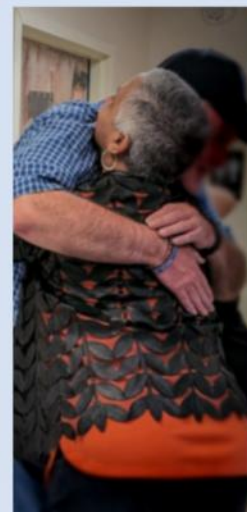
Mr. Rogers knew what he was talking about. All around us there are helpers. Whenever there is a crisis, there are those who choose to help. Even when the crisis is beyond their ability to fix, the helpers roll up their sleeves and do what they can. The helpers lean in, the helpers engage. When helpers engage, the power of the crisis begins to fade, and the power of hope, the power of love begins to rise. When helpers come together, when they engage and lock arms with one another and with those experiencing the crisis, transformation takes place. Entire communities are changed.

Together, we are CCU!



But where do I even begin?

We are so glad you asked! This Engagement Opportunities booklet outlines different ways you can engage with those experiencing a crisis, those experiencing homelessness, incarceration and poverty. You can offer your presence. You can offer your time. You can offer your skills. You can offer your money. All of these have a part to play in helping, a part to play in transformation.



Three ways to help

Individually

There are ways that you can serve alongside CCU's team in helping those in crisis. We'll help connect you and your skills and passions to opportunities to serve and help in ways that bring you joy. Play board games, drive a truck, organize storage rooms, plan events or be a smiling face when someone needs it most!

Engagement Projects

Create a shared story with your small group, your family, your coworkers or some of your friends. Together you can partner with the team at CCU in serving a meal, clearing yard space, helping clean laundry, preparing a room for a new guest, or providing resources for those who need it most. Together we can write a story that is filled with lasting memories.

Financial Support

Transforming communities and helping people walk out of their crisis takes money. Together we can help bridge the gap of our clients dreams and the funds that are necessary to get there. Your support sustains the spaces that create the environment for transformation. Your support sustains the staff and leadership that leads to transformation.

This booklet reflects CCU's current needs and opportunities. It is not meant to be exhaustive or complete. There will always be new needs that could arise. That said, CCU will do our best to honor donations made towards suggested areas. Some projects have a higher priority than others. This order of importance on projects and funding allocations are at the discretion of the Administrative Team at CCU and its Board.

Vision

Christian Churches United of the Tri-County Area is a partnership of over 100 Christian congregations in Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry Counties that work together with concerned individuals, public and private funders, and numerous partner agencies to support our neighbors in need. We provide a continuum of programs seeking to address both crisis housing situations and chronic causes of housing and financial instability. While motivated by Jesus' love and example, we service clientele without regard to religion or creed. We are Christian Churches United: united in service and love to those facing homelessness, poverty and incarceration.

Mission

In response to Christ's call to love our neighbors, Christian Churches United brings together local churches, community partners, and concerned neighbors to serve those facing homelessness, incarceration, and poverty through supportive programs and compassionate engagement.



CCU's Family of Ministries

A long-term residential facility for chronically homeless men with a mental health diagnosis, Safe Haven is a two-tiered program focused on supporting men towards health and independence. Safe Haven's community room is also the site for our Winter Overnight Men's Shelter, offering space for up to 23 men on the street to find rest out of the cold.



HELP Ministries or "The HELP Office" is a community hub providing a continuum of crisis management and homeless solutions. Prevention Services include crisis counseling, utility assistance, and rental assistance to prevent homelessness. Short-Term Aid includes managing access to most Dauphin County emergency shelters for women, single moms, and intact families along with operating a Women's and Non-Binary Overnight Shelter and serving individuals currently unhoused. Long-term solutions include helping households find and obtain permanent housing through Coordinated Entry.



Project A.S.K. is a trusted community partner for schools in the West Shore School District to call upon for help when their students are in need. We partner with individual elementary schools through their guidance counselor, nurse and principal to help meet the unseen financial needs of their most vulnerable students.



The Prison Action Committee is a collaboration of volunteer prison ministries in Harrisburg. Through the committee, an associate chaplain is placed at the Dauphin County Prison to support the spiritual needs of inmates as well as other efforts in the community. The Committee also leads a Work Release Worship Service and Community Connections Reentry Breakfasts for individuals looking to build community upon reentry.



Individual Engagement Opportunities

Support at Safe Haven

The men who call Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven home would love to spend some time with you! There are opportunities throughout the week to connect with these men in different social activities and meals. You could also volunteer in serving alongside the team at Safe Haven with administrative tasks. If connecting with people is how you are wired, we invite you to join us! The men would also welcome your help in maintaining the property. Bring your church small group or business over to serve as well! If interested, reach out to Denise Sturnes, dsturnes@ccuhbg.org or Nick Mucci, nmucci@ccuhbg.org.

Time Commitment: 1-2 times a month, Resources Needed: You

Overnight Shelter Volunteer

Every evening individuals seek rest and refuge indoors at the year-round Women and Non-Binary Overnight Shelter and the Men's Winter Overnight Shelter (seasonal). Volunteers at the shelters welcome guests as the first line of hospitality. You'll have the opportunity to help establish the shelters as a warm place to find rest and encouragement. Volunteers also help provide support with organizations and meals when provided.

Time Commitment: 7:00pm-10pm, 1-2 nights a month | Resources Needed: Hygiene Items & Pre-packaged Foods

Food Bank Pick-Up

Twice a month we are able to visit Midwest Food Bank to pick up food for Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven, the Women and Non-Binary Overnight Shelter, as well as for our Unsheltered Services Team. The wonderful thing is, you just walk through the warehouse, point at the things we need and Midwest will load it up into your vehicle. There are six opportunities each month for someone to help provide needed food resources for those who are experiencing homelessness. Contact Nick if you are interested in serving in this way! nmucci@ccuhbg.org

Time Commitment: 2hrs, 1-2 times a month, Resources Needed: Driver and Truck/Van



Administrative Tasks

Every organization needs those who do things behind the scenes! Things like volunteering at or planning fundraising events, helping with data entry, folding brochures, stuffing envelopes, or organization and filing. Our Administrative Team would love to work alongside you! If serving in any of these ways sounds like you, please contact Matt Reichard (mreichard@ccuhbg.org) or Nick Mucci (nmucci@ccuhbg.org) and let's talk!!

Time Commitment: varies on role, 1-4 times a month, 2 hrs at a time | Resources Needed: Just You!

Board and Committees

Every strong organization is supported and guided by a group of individuals who uphold the mission and vision of the organization while strengthening and uplifting the Executive Director and staff. We are looking for men and women who enjoy strategic thinking and engaging with the challenges our world faces imaginatively. If you are interested in joining CCU's Board and Committees, please connect with Matt Reichard at mreichard@ccuhbg.org.

Time Commitment: 1-2 Times a month | Resources Needed: Just You

Facilities Team

CCU is fortunate to provide services in multiple buildings. There is an incredible team who address many of the facility concerns, helping with minor handyman-type fixes or more intensive projects. This team meets to discuss the state of the buildings and makes plans to work on the spaces. They also serve as those who receive calls if something needs to be quickly addressed! If you are interested in using your handyman skills as a member of the Facilities Team, we would love to have you join us!

Time Commitment: 1-2 times a month, Resources Needed: Tools and YOU!





Engagement Projects

Loads of Love

Once a month our Unsheltered Services Team connects individuals who are currently homeless with laundry services at Morris Laundromat on Front Street in Steelton. We would love to partner with your church or business during those Loads of Love events. Teams are also encouraged to consider bringing food to share with those getting their laundry done. Loads of Love happens the 3rd Tuesday of every month. If you are interested in sponsoring a Loads of Love event; please contact us, info@ccuhbg.org.

Group Size: 4-6 Time Commitment: 2-3hrs, Resources Needed: Your team, \$250-\$300, a meal

Game Night

Who doesn't love a little friendly game?! We would love to invite you to come play some board games with those who utilize the Women and Non-Binary Overnight Shelter as well as the men of Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven. Each location has games or you could bring your own! It is a great way to spend time as a group connecting while also reminding others that are often on the margins that they are not forgotten and are deeply loved. Contact Kendall (kbeverly@ccuhbg.org) or Denise (dsturnes@ccuhbg.org) if you are interested in bringing a group for a game night.

Group Size: 4-10 | Time Commitment 1-2 hours | Resources Needed: Snacks, Board Games

Welcome Home Kits

This is a great opportunity for your small group, business or entire church to put together one or more kits that individuals and households would receive when they move into a new space after a time of homelessness. These kits include laundry and cleaning supplies including a garbage can, laundry basket and broom. Welcome Home Safe Haven Kits include specific needs for the men who move into Safe Haven. Interested? Contact Nick Mucci at nmucci@ccuhbg.org

Group Size: Any Size| Time Commitment: Anytime



Adopt-a-Room

There is nothing quite like moving into a brand new apartment! When the men at Safe Haven move upstairs we want them to have that new Apartment feeling- clean and furnished! We are looking for churches who are willing to not only remodel and furnish that space, but also willing to walk with the man who moves in. This project also provides opportunities to connect him with your church and your community.

Group Size: 4-10 | Time Commitment: 1-2 mornings | Resources Needed: People, Room Furnishings

Connections Breakfasts

Relationships matter. Feeling connected to others can be the difference between overcoming a challenge or facing it over and over again. We are looking for churches that would host a Re-Entry Community Connections Breakfast for men and women who have ended their time of incarceration and are re-entering the community. These breakfasts serve as an opportunity for men and women to build new relationships and imagine their future post-incarceration.

Time Commitment: Once a Month, 3-4 hours | Resources Needed: Space to host, Breakfast and supplies

Work Release Services

Every Sunday men and women arrive at the Sanctuary at CCU for an opportunity to worship alongside one another. We are looking for churches to help lead in worship and in relationship with the men and women who attend the service. By connecting with them while they are on work release, it creates opportunities for relationship and support prior to their entering back into the community.

Time Commitment: Once a month, 3:30pm-5:30pm, Resources Needed: Worship Team

Theme Night

Christmas Party? Valentine's Party? Fourth of July Celebration? National Brownie Day? National Donut Day? No matter the 'holiday' we would love to have your group join the Women's and Non-Binary Shelter (WNBS) for a theme night! You could help decorate the space, provide activities as well as some food for the evening! This a great way for a group or company to serve together and continue to help community be built at the WNBS!

Group Size: 4-8 | Time Commitment: 1-3 hours | Resources Needed: Theme Related decorations, activities and snacks.





Financial Support

Loads of Love

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Resources Needed: \$300 each Month

Getting Ahead Empowerment Course

As the individuals that we serve walk this next phase of their journey, we want to empower them with the tools they will need to thrive! Getting Ahead in a Getting By World is a program designed to empower individuals to make choices that help create financial stability, increase community engagement, and strengthen their personal relationships. This course will serve households across all of our programs and will create the opportunity for long-term stability in their lives. You can support this program financially so that the materials and incentives designed for the program can be secured. You can also rally your church or small group to support this program by providing a meal and helping with child care. Contact us at info@ccuhbg.org.

Time Commitment: Once a week for 17 weeks, 4-6 volunteers, Resources Needed: \$12,000/year

Technology Needs

We are looking forward to upgrading our hardware and software systems. These systems are how we provide incredible support and services to the households we help together. The hardware and software we have been utilizing have been wonderful tools, but are in need of being replaced. CCU is pursuing not only upgraded hardware that can handle the processing speeds of new and updated operating systems; but also new software that can streamline the processes we utilize when supporting our guests.

Updated Hardware and New Software | Resources Needed: \$50,000



Matthew 25.40 Monthly Support

Matthew 25.40 says, Jesus states, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Each person we encounter bears the image of God and you can show your consistent support and partnership by joining our Matthew 25.40 Monthly Support Team! You can sign up by scanning this QR code.



Planned Giving

Planned giving is a great way to continue a legacy of generosity that lasts. Including CCU within your estate plans creates a lasting investment through the work of Christian Churches United and in your community for years to come. Contact Nick Mucci if you are interested in discussing planned giving.

General Giving

Your gift has the power to make a real difference in people's lives within our community. We pride ourselves on being great stewards of our resources; we'll do everything in our power to ensure your gift makes the biggest possible impact. People experience stability because of those who give! You can scan and give today!



Become a Member Church

Christian Churches United was started by local churches across the Tri-County Area. Churches across denominations and communities are all committed to loving our neighbors. We would love to partner with your church. Contact us for information on what it means to be a Member Church and how to become one! nmucci@ccuhbg.org

Sign Up to Volunteer

If any of these opportunities interests you, we would love to have you volunteer! You can sign up online today! Just scan the QR Code and let's get started!



Christian Churches United started as a response of local churches to the crisis brought by Hurricane Agnes in 1972. Since it's formation in '76 Christian Churches United has continued to be a conduit of the local church and a vessel for the community to serve those experiencing homelessness, incarceration, and poverty. Today hundreds of local churches, multiple organizations, and dozens of businesses work together to provide hope, support and love for those experiencing a crisis. Christian Churches United is not just the staff who are employed through CCU, but also every volunteer, every donor, every church, every business; every champion of CCU is who we are. Together, we are CCU!



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About Our Work: While motivated by Jesus' love and example, we serve clientele without regard to religion, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status. Our ministries are funded through public funding and support from individuals, churches, businesses, other private funders, the United Way of the Capital Region and special events. CCU is a registered non-profit with 501(c)3 status.

