Preventing homelessness. Preserving dignity.
You helped make our **40th anniversary** a year of impact and opportunity for people in financial crisis.

Thank You.

Each gift of time, talent and treasure here helps nearly 200 families a day weather financial hardship and meet life’s basic needs. From keeping a roof over their head to a bed to sleep on and everything in between, your help provides more than utilities, clothing, and other essentials.

You empower customers to regain their financial footing and restart their journey toward greater economic opportunity.

Because of you, 58,083 individuals benefited from assistance last year. But the story behind those numbers is even more important. For forty years you and others have reached into the lives of real people – moms, dads, children, grandparents, veterans, bus drivers, teachers, uptown workers, laborers, students, OUR NEIGHBORS – and offered a helping hand and hope in the midst of financial crisis. **That’s the real story of Crisis Assistance Ministry: a place where our community comes together to lift each other up.**

The reality in Charlotte is that many of our neighbors live paycheck to paycheck and are one event away from a financial crisis. Yet, **it is inspiring to see the power of the community working together — across agency boundaries, across economic divides — to ensure everyone can live with dignity in a community that aspires to create opportunity for all.**

The Board of Directors is proud that these efforts have been well-recognized this year by Charlotte Center City Partners, Charlotte Magazine, the White House Council for Women & Girls, and others. We see this as a salute to our volunteers who gave 58,712 hours of volunteer time serving lunches; scheduling furniture pickups; screening applicants seeking assistance; collecting coats, shoes and household goods; raising funds; and much more.

This report is a snapshot of the work you make possible. There are plenty of tangible things to share: emergency rent and utility checks issued; school uniforms and warm winter coats provided; poverty simulations conducted; beds, tables and refrigerators delivered, and so on. But behind those numbers, every one of them, is a person just like you and me. Your generosity and compassion makes it possible for all of us, working together, to prevent homelessness and preserve dignity for families in financial crisis. Thank you.

With gratitude,

Thold Gill
Chair, 2015 Board of Directors
CENSUS: Mecklenburg County population: 377,355
Poverty rate in Mecklenburg County (1970): 12.5%

1985
Named Lead Agency for Financial Assistance county-wide administering Mecklenburg County assistance dollars with operating assistance from United Way

1990
CENSUS: Mecklenburg County population 511,433
Poverty Rate in Mecklenburg County: 9.6%

1999
First pilot program supporting families with extended casework expands

2007
Community Education & Advocacy program is launched to help the community understand and address the realities of poverty in Mecklenburg County

2010-14
Slow recovery begins; 10.3 million jobs added nationally 2010 to 2014

2014
Charlotte-Mecklenburg ranks 50th of 50 major cities in economic mobility. Mecklenburg County and the Foundation for the Carolinas launch the Opportunity Task Force to address the growing economic inequity and ensure opportunity for all.

What began as the dream of volunteers to helping struggling families overcome crisis with proper furniture and appliances has blossomed into the community’s Furniture Bank. Between January 1 and December 31, 2015, your support helped 108 formerly homeless individuals return to stable housing by helping with deposits, furniture, appliances, and volunteer muscle. The Housing First collaboration between multiple agencies allowed this 24-year-old to find permanent housing for the first time since he was 17.

“Care Ring’s unique collaboration with Crisis Assistance Ministry meets our shared goal of helping people gain financial stability. Their focus on keeping our Nurse-Family Partnership families housed, fed, clothed and safe means our nurses can focus on their expertise with moms and their children. Healthy, housed families become our shared result.”

– Don Jonas, Executive Director, Care Ring

First pilot program supporting families with extended casework expands

Crisis Assistance Ministry reaches 40 years working with our community to prevent homelessness and preserve dignity for low-income families. Working together, we can continue to engage all of our neighbors in the crucial task of overcoming poverty and building economic mobility for everyone.

crisisassistance.org | fromthepast | 2015}

From the beginning, Crisis Assistance Ministry has been powered by volunteers. Today, volunteers like Bob Hubbard, 2015 Shirley Henry Volunteer Award Winner, perform 1/3 of the work of the agency. In 2015, caring community members contributed $8,712 helping others – a gift worth $1,354,486 in time, talent, and expertise.

Clothing ministry begins at site of present day ImaginOn

Coalition of churches found Crisis Assistance Ministry which begins operation in Dilworth United Methodist Church on April 15

Census: Mecklenburg County population 377,355
Poverty rate in Mecklenburg County (1970): 12.5%

Census: Mecklenburg County population 404,270
Poverty rate in Mecklenburg County: 10.9%
Inconsistent hours at work, car trouble, and rising rent costs brought her to Crisis Assistance Ministry for help to avoid eviction. Your generosity made it possible to stop the eviction and help Jennifer create a plan to bounce back. Through extended casework, Jennifer is creating a new budget, seeking more affordable housing, and connecting with additional resources to keep her family on track. Because of you, she was even able to select new coats for herself and her 12-year-old daughter free-of-charge. “These are things we must have to survive. It means so much to know that people understand...that people care enough to help me and my daughter.”
You saved Kisha and her adorable girls from homelessness, gave them beds to sleep on, and helped her develop the tools to restart their lives together.

When Kisha first visited Crisis Assistance Ministry, her power was scheduled to be disconnected that day. An emergency payment to the power company stopped the disconnection, but Kisha needed a little bit more help to get back on her feet.

She had just returned to work after a difficult pregnancy. But with her husband unable to work, she just couldn’t get caught up on the bills.

Scared and overwhelmed at the prospect of supporting her three girls on her own, Kisha began to meet regularly with a caseworker to create a plan to get back to stability. She put together a workable budget, learned to negotiate with her creditors, and located a more affordable place to live. Her caseworker also connected her to childcare assistance for all her girls, including special needs assistance for her youngest.

When Kisha mentioned that they had little furniture and no beds for the girls, your generosity made it possible for her to visit the Furniture Bank for basic essentials including beds and a table and chairs for their family meals.

Kisha is just so grateful. When she felt like she had nowhere to turn, your support changed their lives.

Thank you for providing help, hope, and understanding to families in our community.

“People who haven’t even seen my face made sure that my children never had to spend a night in the dark or wonder where they might sleep the next day. Thank you” - Kisha
Stay Engaged.

Join the conversation and stay engaged in the fight against poverty in our community:

- Attend a poverty simulation
- Take an agency tour
- Volunteer your time and expertise.
- Donate new and gently used clothing and furniture.
- Join us on Facebook and Twitter.
- Give financially.
- Be an advocate.

Get connected at crisisassistance.org

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