



Cunningham Township

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Cunningham Township Supervisor's Memo June 13, 2022

Town Bills Report

- Town fund = \$74,112.57
- General Assistance Fund = \$136,270.03
- TOTAL in expenditures = \$210,382.60

Spotlight: School's Out Event in Township's Solidarity Gardens

Our May 28th event brought in over 225 people and was one of our biggest events ever. It was in partnership with the Urbana Free Library and Urbana Park District featuring live music by Brandon T. Washington and UrVana activities for kids. 25 pizzas were distributed plus a lot of fruit! 17 families received free scholarships for summer camps through the

Park District. Several voters were registered through the League of Women Voters. Dozens of seedlings were given away for residents to start their own gardens. We were visited by an international group of librarians hosted by UFL.



We had a surprise visit from Dr. Patch Adams and Dr. Susan Parenti who clowned with the kids.



General Assistance

A monthly grant for Urbana residents who are disabled or out of work, alongside support to seek/train for work or apply for federal disability payments (SSI)

- 57 current participants
- 8 are homeless
- 33 males / 23 females

Education and Employment Track

- 2 participants pursuing training opportunities.
- 4 are being screened for their goals and interests.

Disability and Wellness Track

- 11 participants have been awarded SSI/SSDI since July 1, 2021. 16 participants were awarded SSI/SSDI last fiscal year.
- 12 residents have been helped to date with submitted applications and intensive SOAR case management since our program started September 1, 2020.
- 5 participants are currently being evaluated for SOAR case management and medical referrals.
- 3 SSI/SSDI reconsiderations have been submitted and 1 is in progress
- The Social Security office has been open to in-person services since April. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are strongly recommended as wait times may be longer without an appointment.
- Our SOAR case manager was able to sit in on a disability hearing this month, allowing for first-hand experience and better support for participants going through the same process.
- Participants are being continuously screened for eligibility for Pinewood Place and placement on the waitlist.

Transportation Assistance

- MTD began charging bus fares again in July 2021.
- YTD: 51 annual passes at \$60 = \$3,060.
- 55 DASH passes, which are free for those who qualify, saving Township \$3,300.

Vaccination Assistance

- CTSO has been offering \$50 to any current CTSO participant who presents a complete vaccination card at CTSO and \$25 for each child.
- 63 participants have received this incentive.

Rental Assistance

Rental assistance for Urbana households behind on rent or homeless moving into housing.

- 8 households were supported with CTSO Rental Assistance last month.
- CTSO will be reimplementing a max of 2 months of assistance based on need.

Housing Advocacy

Housing advocacy for participants who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to access all available subsidized housing opportunities and move in.

Subsidized Housing Advocacy

- 354 participants representing 223 households received help applying to subsidized housing since our advocacy program began July 1, 2020.

100 households have successfully moved in!



COVID Housing Vouchers

- The Housing Authority has received 163 vouchers for homeless and high risk residents. 50 of these were distributed in the first round. September 6, CTSO started making referrals for the second round of 113 “EHV vouchers.”
- CTSO made 76 referrals for EHV and 59 households, or 77%, have been awarded vouchers.

Housewarming Gifts

- Housewarming gifts are entirely funded by private donations which are used to provide vouchers to formerly homeless households to buy furniture and housewares at Salt and Light and Habitat for Humanity Restore.
- 41 homeless households have been assisted with the Township Housewarming, since the program began in February, 2021; 4 in the past month.

Bridge to Home - Homeless Services

A continuum of services for the homeless provided by CTSO.

Street Outreach

Services include food, transportation to services, weather appropriate clothing and engagement events.

- Members of the public are encouraged to call CTSO for wellness checks on residents who may be homeless.
- CTSO is currently supporting 18 individuals with Street Outreach.

Emergency Housing

If no other shelter option exists, short term emergency housing will be considered as long as the resident is meeting with a case manager, pursuing goals, and seeking permanent housing.

- Last month 4 households were sheltered in a hotel. One individual exited into permanent housing with a supportive housing voucher.

Rapid Rehousing

CTSO provides housing stabilization and up to 12 months of rent for literally homeless individuals and families in Champaign County, referred by Centralized Intake for the Homeless.

- 4 active households. 3 households are single males. 1 household is a married couple with a young child.
- 3 of those households are in housing and working or actively looking for employment.

Good Morning! Hot Breakfasts for Homeless Residents

Every day CTSO ensures hot breakfast delivery for residents at CU at Home. The service is provided by Red Herring Restaurant and Bridgewater Life Sullivan Center

- In May, 1170 total breakfasts were served.

Low Barrier Winter Emergency Shelter

- The Low Barrier Winter Emergency Shelter served homeless residents dealing with mental health or substance abuse issues. It closed April 16, 2022.
- Last month the Champaign City Council in study session supported a \$3.1 Million proposal to fund the City of Champaign Township to operate a 24/7 Low Barrier Shelter for two years, along with additional funding for housing and homelessness through an RFP process.
- Due to concerns about homeless women's unique needs, sexual violence and stalking,

and LGBTQ safety, as well as encouragement from homeless services partners, CTSO is preparing an request for funds to operate a low barrier shelter in Urbana for women identified and LGBTQ homeless residents.

Emergency Housing for Urbana families

Emergency Housing for families with children in Urbana schools of Crisis Nursery or residents with disabilities who are referred from CU at Home.

- Total served: 50 households including 54 adults and 89 children (since July 2020)
- Last month: 6 households served. 2 Families have moved out of emergency housing. 1 exited with an Emergency Housing voucher. 1 exited to Maple Grove transitional housing. Currently serving 15 Urbana children.

Utility Support

Privately funded utility bill support for residents who face shut offs.

- 21 Households helped in May, up from 14 in April.
- **Due to the combination of a record number of requests causing a shrinking number of Angel Donor funds, CTSO will only provide utility assistance to residents with an Urbana, Illinois address starting June 1, 2022.** RPC continues to have funds for county wide residents.
- Dozens were referred to RPC's LIHEAP & the new COVID relief Water Assistance.
- 158 households served since program start Nov. 2020
- 133 households served this fiscal year.

Housing Case Management in Urbana Schools

CTSO has an agreement with Urbana School District to locate a full time Housing Case Manager in Urbana Schools.

- Total Referrals: 19 (15 of these in the first 2 weeks)
 - Doubled up/Hotel: 7
 - Unsheltered: 4
 - Behind on rent/facing eviction: 8
- Actions:
 - 11 resolved/referred out
 - 5 active
 - 3 unresponsive, we have followed up with social workers

Eviction Tracking & Prevention

CTSO initiative to reduce the number of evictions in Urbana through advocacy for residents threatened with illegal or legal evictions.

- Below is a table that shows the data we have collected on the volume of eviction hearings in Champaign County that have occurred since the expiration of the eviction moratorium on 10/3/21. (NOTE: Not every first appearance is a unique case, sometimes due to errors in filing, first appearances have to be rescheduled, etc.)

Champaign County Eviction Court		
Date	1st Appearance*	Total Cases
10/4/21	49	65
10/12/21	6	11
10/18/21	13	31
10/25/21	31	48
11/1/21	34	59
11/8/21	57	64
11/15/21	17	30
11/22/21	36	56
11/29/21	34	44
12/6/21	24	60
1/3/21	40	73
1/10/22	23	49
1/18/22	16	26
1/24/22	23	57
1/31/22	20	50
2/7/22	28	72
2/14/22	11	31
2/28/22	40	101
3/14/22	19	39
3/21/22	40	57
3/28/22	35	57
4/5/22	33	46
4/11/22	29	53
4/18/22	39	59
4/25/22	41	66
5/2/22	44	58
TOTAL	789	1.405

Digital Inclusion Campaign

A campaign to supply low income Urbana residents with smartphones, computers, tablets, and internet access.

- Distributed to date:
 - #Total of benefits: 249
 - # Smart Phones and Lifeline service: 199
 - # Internet benefits: 18
 - # Laptops/tablets: 32

- This month's events:
 - On May 28th we had a phone event in the Township Garden.

- New distributor to help streamline the sign up process and provide access all month:
 - We have partnered with Cricket Wireless who will attend our events and provide tech support and activations throughout the month and continue to provide free phones and service through the ACP benefit.

Bucket Brigade

CTSO funds Channing Murray Foundation to provide the Bucket Brigade weekly food pantry delivery service to residents who are in need.

- We are currently averaging delivery to 30 Urbana households per week.
- Bucket Brigade served over 232 neighbors last month, of them 77 were children.
- We have served 6050 people including 2,494 children since we started on March 25, 2020.
- The Bucket Brigade has been a necessary benefit for those with mobility issues, PTSD, anxiety, and other mental health issues. We have also seen an uptick in people who are having issues obtaining or renewing SNAP benefits.

Get My Refund Campaign

Outreach to Urbana low income Urbana residents to help them access Stimulus Funds, Child Tax Credits, Earned Income Tax Credits, and Child care tax credits.

- The grant funded portion of this project is wrapping up with the final day being June 15, 2022. CTSO will continue to encourage participants to get their refund and provide assistance as requested through October 15, 2022.

sincerely,

Danielle Chynoweth

Cunningham Township Supervisor