




Combined  
Community  
Services


Encouraging healthy and whole families by providing comfort, hope, and resources for neighbors in need in Kosciusko County.



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022

 574-269-6019

 1195 Mariners Dr.  
Warsaw, IN 46582

 [www.ccs Gives.com](http://www.ccs Gives.com)

# ABOUT

## COMBINED COMMUNITY SERVICES

Encouraging healthy and whole families by providing comfort, hope, and resources for neighbors in need in Kosciusko County.



### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

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We exist to help those in our community with emergency needs for food, clothing, utilities, and so much more.



### SELF SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

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Our programs help low-income families achieve economic independence. The goal of the is to help bring individuals experiencing a crisis to stability.



### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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Through the support of local churches, community members, foundation, and grant organizations, CCS is a central agency for Kosciusko County residents to come to when they are in need. Donors and volunteers play a huge role in our mission. With community involvement we are able to make an impact in Kosciusko County.



### CONTACT US

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# THE ROADMAP FOR OUR FUTURE

## OUR 5 PILLARS

In 2022 we began our much-needed Strategic Planning Process to develop the “roadmap” for our future. As a part of that Strategic Plan we developed the five pillars of Combined Community Services.

### 01 | Accessible Services for All Neighbors

When residents of Kosciusko County look for help, we are their first stop. We connect with Guests across geographic and linguistic boundaries ensuring that everyone feels welcome at Combined Community Services.

### 02 | Measured Impact

We utilize measured outcomes from all programs to continually assess and improve our services. Rooted in data and Guest stories, we grow our impact internally and externally, from who we serve to the grants we receive.

### 03 | Strategic Collaboration

When other organizations have a question or need, they turn to CCS to utilize our network. We are actively connected with other nonprofits and community organizations, collaborating and supporting each other to holistically serve our neighbors in need.

### 04 | Community Connection and Awareness

Combined Community Services is known throughout the community for who we are, what we do, and how we do it. Community members connect with us when they're looking to support their neighbors through donations and volunteerism.

### 05 | Organizational Durability

Internally, our policies and responsibilities help us navigate our day-to-day, plan for the future, and ensure confidence in our ability to manage challenges. Our thorough budgeting and funding diversification allows us to achieve financial stability, overcome costs, and use unique funding for specific needs.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We have been so blessed to accomplish many of our goals in 2022! We are continuing our effort to connect with people in our county, hold successful events, and raise much needed funds for our services offered.



**RANDY POLSTON**

Executive Director

Kosciusko County,

I wanted to take a second and reach out to all of you. Where did 2022 go? The last 12 months have literally flown by.

As I look back on the year, we have been so blessed to accomplish many of our goals during this time. We had several successful events such as the Food-A-Thon, Stamp Out Hunger, Adopt A Family, Toy Time and, the "return" of Turkey Lurkey, our very own 5K. All these events help us meet our goal of continuing our effort to connect with all of you while also raising much needed funds.

This past year we were also blessed to hire our new Community Outreach Coordinator, Kiira Churchill. Kiira started last February and "hit the road running."

We were also blessed to receive a grant from K21 to begin our much-needed Strategic Planning Process to develop the "roadmap" for our future. Many of you have been a part of this planning process as we developed our Five Pillars as part of this "map".



Kiira Churchill

### Those pillars are

**Accessible Services for All Neighbors**  
**Measured Impact**  
**Strategic Collaboration**

**Community Connection and Awareness**  
**Organizational Durability**



We welcomed Ben Higgins back to Warsaw for our Love Thy Neighbor Luncheon, had our “Grand Reopening” after the pandemic, applied and received ARPA funds to purchase a brand new vehicle for our agency and replaced the HVAC units on the roof.

Our relationship with Noble Gnomes continues as supported by K21. Because of this support and relationship, we can provide healthy food options from “the ground to our pantry.”

These are just a few of the exciting events from 2022. We wrapped our year up by being featured in Lake City Living—The Mission, The Vision, and The Servants.

I also wanted to take a second to thank our community and donors. As we all have faced challenges over the last year, you have stepped up to donate your time, treasures, and talents to give us the opportunity to impact many lives in Kosciusko County. “It takes a village” and you are all part of that village. **THANK YOU!!**

We have already all been planning for 2023. We are excited to continue our relationships with all of you and to work with you side by side to impact lives. We are all blessed to be God’s hands and feet to make a difference.

We will complete our Strategic Planning in the next few months and we are already making plans for more events this year.

Have the best year ever,

**Randy Polston**  
Executive Director, CCS

“It takes a village” and you are all part of that village.  
**THANK YOU!!**



## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

2022 brought many challenges for Combined Community Services dealing with the effects of a pandemic including high inflation and losing corporate funding. This happened while realizing significantly increased demand in our community for life sustaining services.

We are currently updating our strategic planning with input from the community to help us understand the needs and how to focus our strategies. This process will help tune our vision for the organization in years to come. Our environment is changing and we are learning how to adjust to continue meeting needs.

Moving into 2023 we will focus on securing new sources of revenue and investigating better ways to partner with other organizations to better meet needs in this community. It is also important we increase visibility within the community to our important work.

Our work at CCS is critically important for our guests and it is a great opportunity for us to act as the hands and feet of Jesus sharing His love with those around us. We do that right here in our community by providing urgent needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. We also have programs to help get people back on their feet financially so they, in turn, can productively provide for the material needs of their families. Each interaction with our guests is an opportunity to share God's love in practical ways.

We live, work, and serve in our great community of Kosciusko County. When individuals in our community understand a need, they are known to respond and let their compassion spill out in action. We look forward to partnering with more of our community in 2023 to facilitate the work.

**Paul Lewis**  
Board President, CCS





# OUR 2022 IMPACT ON FOOD INSECURITY

1,956



Households Served

5,768



Individuals Served

1,791

Individuals served who were  
kids aged 18 and younger

## 18,115

Pounds of nutrient dense produce was delivered this summer through Noble Gnome, which makes an average "share" around 9.9 lbs per week or 259 pounds per share.

Produce per pound costs \$3.86. This program was made possible with K21 Foundation funds.



### 236,879.33 pounds

Amount of food donated



### \$329,593.71

Amount of food in monetary  
value donated

### 203,250 pounds

Amount of food given away



### \$304,875

Amount of food in monetary  
value given away

Your Choice  Healthy Choice  
Dane's Family Pantry

# EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

## Clothing Pantry

Number of Families Served	...579
Number of Individuals Served	...1879 (including kids)
Number of Children Served	...661
Amount of Clothes Donated	...623 bags/boxes

## Utility Assistance

Number of Families Served	...218 with a total of 653 members (including kids)
Number of Children Impacted	...243
Amount of Monetary Resources Used	...\$29,009.54

**All Utility Assistance guest are referred to Energy Assistance Programs with Real Services and CCS Self Sufficiency Programs.**





# VOLUNTEERS

10

Number of  
Food Pantry Volunteers

1133.2

Number of Hours  
Food Pantry Volunteers  
Served

4

Number of  
Clothing Pantry Volunteers

416.25

Number of Hours  
Clothing Pantry Volunteers  
Served

\$ 11,335

Financial (in-kind) impact volunteers  
made in 2022



# SEASONAL EVENTS

## Tools for School

Number of Warsaw Students Served	...953
Number of Tippy Valley Students Served	...120
Number of Triton Students Served	...14
Number of Whitko Students Served	...60
Number of Sacred Heart Students Served	...6
Number of Lakeland Students Served	...3
Number of Wawasee Students Served	...76
Number of Students Served Through Various Community Ogranizations (CASA, DCFS, etc)	...76
Number of Students Served Through CCS After School Began	...90
Number of Haircuts Provided	...179
Bibles Handed Out (provided by the Gideons)	...375
Good News Caboose Vists	...52 visited 12 children prayed the salavation prayer
Number of Volunteers	...43
Volunteer Hours Served	...200
<b>Total students served with school supplies:</b>	<b>1398</b>

## Glass Slipper

Number of Students Helped	...15
Number of Dresses Donated	...19
Amount of Money Saved	...750

## Coat Drive

Businesses Who Collect Coats	...Kerlins (Silver Lake), WRSW, Willie 103.5, Wildman Business Group, Peerless Cleaners
Number of Coats Donated	...1200

## Toy Time

Number of Toys Brought in During the Toy Sale	...19,346
Amount of Money Raised to Buy New Toys	...\$13,992.74
Number of Children Impacted by the Toy Giveaway	...1,639
Number of Families Served by the Toy Giveaway	...482
Number of Volunteers	...58
Volunteer Hours Served	...1,297 Hours over 10 Days



## SEASONAL EVENTS CONTINUED

### Adopt A Family

Number of Families Served	...112
Number of Children Impacted	...249

### Kids Market INC Partnership

Number of Families Provided With Baby & Children's Clothes and Nessesities	...89
Number of Children Impacted	...243
Resources donated to CCS from Kids Market, INC sales for self-sufficiency participants' household items and incentives	...\$5,020



# SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

## Hand-Up Program

10 Number of individuals in the handup program in 2022

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16 Number of children impacted by the hand-up program in 2022

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5 Number of graduates in 2022

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6 Number of individuals working

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1 Number of individuals in school or vocational training

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\$150 Amount it costs to provide case management for one month

## Project Indepence

30 Number of individuals in the PI program in 2022

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45 Number of children impacted by the PI program in 2022

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3 Number of graduates in 2022

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22 Number of individuals working

---

5 Number of individuals in school or vocational training

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\$150 Amount it costs to provide case management for one month

### Self-Sufficiency Program Donations

#### **\$10,000 Zimmer Biomet Grant**

Helps provide case management for guests in Self-Sufficiency and Hand-up Programs .

#### **\$4,328.26 Kosciusko County Community Foundation - REMC**

Provides incentives and gas cards for completing goals and workshops.

#### **\$5,020 Kids Market Grant**

Provides household items and incentives for participants.

# Workshops Offered in 2022

**59** Number of participants that attended workshops in 2022

**68** Number of children that were impacted at the workshops in 2022

- **Vision Board**  
Making a vision and goals for 2022
- **Budgeting**  
Create a working budget (follow up w/ cm monthly)
- **Summer Safety and Grow Your Own Container Garden**  
Shared info on summer safety and participants received sunscreen, first aid item, & containers for garden & seeds
- **Coffee Conversation/Community Resources**  
Community non profits came and shared about services
- **Crockpot Cooking**  
Shared a meal with participants and each participant received a cookbook
- **Christmas Celebration**  
Families took a craft to do together, santa passed out gifts to children, and family pictures were taken.

## Project Independence

Three years ago, I was a single mom who lost my comfortable office job due to “workforce reduction.” At the time, I had been thinking about taking one class a semester with the goal of completing the degree I started twenty plus years ago. It seemed logical that I should just go back to school full-time, so I enrolled not knowing how difficult it would be financially (severance, unemployment, and financial aid, scholarship, time-consuming, to say nothing about the coursework).

A friend told me about the Project Independence program. I met with a case manager, Sabrina Philips, and she helped walk me through the steps of financial aid enrolling in school and referring me to local agencies that could help me along the way.

While it was challenging, there were many rewards along the way which I was able to share with my Project Independence case manager who encouraged and supported my efforts through the trials and tribulations of being a single mom and full-time student. The emotional support from my case manager or as I like to think of her as my, “life mentor” was invaluable. She accompanied me to my divorce hearing (moral support), came to my work for appointments when I was without a car, provided information about resources for help with my utility bill, clothing pantry, food, cleaning supplies, hygiene products, transportation vouchers, and so much more!

I am so grateful for the program and all the help my case manager provided to me. I am now working in my field of study and give back to the program when I can.

**- Jennifer, Project Independence Participant**



# HAND-UP PROGRAM

## TESTIMONIES

### Levi

Levi, a participant on the Hand-Up Program, found himself homeless due to abuse from a family member whom he was placed with due to the death of his mother. The family member became more abusive once he turned 19 and the SSI benefits stopped.

A Hand-Up Case Manager walked along side Levi making calls to the local abuse shelter and Levi found safe housing at Beaman Home.

Levi was put on the wait list for HUD housing. Over the next few months, he was able to get an apartment with the help of Beaman's Home Rapid Rehousing program.

Beaman Home and the Hand-Up Program work with Levi on basic life skills such as housekeeping, how to maintain finances, and basic living skills. The Hand-Up Program has partnered Levi with a family that is helping him fulfill driving hours to obtain a driver's license. Levi has gained employment at a local business and is now at a living wage.

### Erika

Erika was a 19-year-old high school senior last fall. Just before Christmas she found herself homeless after her Dad kicked her out of the house so she started couch surfing.

Soon, she ran out of couches and she wasn't sure what to do. Just after the CCS Christmas Toy Time event the Hand-Up Case Manager ran into Erika's Teacher of Record. After sharing about her new job at CCS, the teacher asked, do you know about Erika?

Erika came onto the Hand-Up Program in January after spending 2 weeks at a local, not so nice hotel that a friend paid for. The Hand-Up case manager has walked alongside Erika and has helped her obtain many life skills to live independently.

Erika was welcomed into a bed and board situation near the high school, was entered into the 4H program, and given a chance to see a loving and caring family home.

Erika GRADUATED WITH THE WCHS CLASS OF 2021! She showed Llamas and poultry at the fair this year, selling her poultry in the 4H auction. On July 21, Erika was given the key to her first apartment and has a job within walking distance from her apartment. Her new goals are to obtain her driver's license and to learn how to budget.

A participant in the Hand-Up Program found herself homeless and shunned by her family at a young age. She did not have a driver's license and didn't graduate from high school. She was praying for help but felt confusion because of her Amish upbringing.

She has been in the Hand-Up Program for several months and has already achieved the goals of employment, a house to rent, and a driver's license. She also just completed the HSE and received her diploma this month.

She shares that her walk with the Lord is stronger and her faith is deepening. She is attending women of faith conferences and has thoughts of one day being in the mission field, possibly working in an orphanage. She in some way wants to help children.



## Jodi

Jodi, a participant on the Hand-Up Program, found herself in a rut. She hadn't worked in almost 10 years due to taking care of her ill father. Jodi was ready to join the workforce but lacked skills and confidence to obtain employment. A Hand-Up Case Manager came alongside Jodi and helped with a resume, a mock employment interview, and Jodi obtained employment as a Pharmacy Technician and completed her certification.

Jodi had zero income when she started the program and is now at 258% FPL income level. She continues to give back to the program by donating household supplies monthly.

- Ami Pitt, Hand-Up Case Manager

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