



Love Chapel Volunteer Newsletter

Ecumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County Churches, Inc.— September, 2020



Love Chapel

▶ Note From The Executive Director

We are seeing a surge in demand for food and assistance as of the mid part of August. As the financial assistance programs have dropped off, the moratorium on evictions has ended, and extra unemployment benefits are gone, needs are quickly rising. Listed below will give you a good idea of the surge we are seeing. I have included July and August numbers to show the sudden increase we are seeing.

God has provided well for Love Chapel over the last six months. He knew what we would face in the way of need and as always, He is a good and loving God. We are charged with being His Hands and Feet and with your help, we will show love to those in need. Won't you consider joining us by volunteering or making a financial gift? It will make a difference to those in need!

Kelly Daugherty

July and August 2020 – Clients Served

Christ's Love in Action

LOVE CHAPEL

Food Pantry

292 Center Street

Columbus, IN 47201

LOVE CHAPEL

Emergency Assistance

311 Center Street

Columbus, IN 47201

812.372.9421

BRIGHTER DAYS

Homeless Shelter

421 S Mapleton Street

Columbus, IN 47201

812.344.4512

	July	Aug
Number of Households at Food Pantry	689	963
Number of Individuals at Food Pantry	2,648	3,704
Total Number Served at Brighter Days	42	54
Average Number Served at Brighter Days	13	19
Number Receiving Financial Assistance	20	24
Dollars Committed to Financial Assistance	\$7,041	\$7,260
Dollars Committed to Direct Assistance	\$6,186	\$6,180
VIM Care	\$500	\$500
Average Number of Volunteers for Mo.	106	100
Hot Meals Served on Tuesdays/Weds	308	271
Pounds of Food Distributed (lbs)	100,284	88,762

Upcoming Volunteer Orientation Sessions

All volunteer orientation sessions will be held via Zoom, beginning September 14th. To register, please call 812.372.9421.

Monday, September 14th—1:30 PM Monday, September 28th—1:30 PM
Thursday, October 1st—5:30 PM Monday, October 12th—1:30 PM



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Financial Assistance Available

With the financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic being astronomical, a number of organizations and government entities have stepped up to try and meet the needs. Love Chapel has a long history of helping those in need and this will continue on through this pandemic and beyond. At this time, though, there are many programs available to assist—listed below are some of those programs and a brief synopsis.

Hot Meal Service

All hot meal sites are still operational—for an up to date listing—please see our website. All sites in operation are grab and go meals, meaning the meals are pre-boxed and then passed out to those in need who can take them home to eat.

Upcoming Mobile Pantries

September 22nd—Garden City Church of Christ

October 27th —German Township Fire Department—Taylorsville

This year our mobile pantry is sponsored solely by Love Chapel. Each month, food is distributed to prepare 3 to 4 meals. Items will include the ingredients to make these meals, along with other miscellaneous items.

Township Trustees—there are 12 townships in Bartholomew County and help is available through these agencies for current month's rent and utility bills. The need does not have to be COVID related. Columbus Township, which encompasses 75% of the county's residents is open five days a week. Other Trustees must be contacted for appointments.

Love Chapel—Love Chapel will help with rent, mortgages, utilities, and deposits. We generally work with a Township Trustee to acquire help there, then try to supplement their help by working with clients to fill in the gaps. Help here does not have to be COVID related.

United Way—UW has funds available to help those affected by COVID-19. Contact person is Cathy King at the United Way—cking@uwbarthco.org.

The City of Columbus has funds available to help those affected by COVID-19. Contact organization is ARA: bethany@aracities.org. They can help with multiple months. This program is for City of Columbus residents only.

The State of Indiana also has funds available to help those affected by COVID-19. Contact IHEDA at IndianaHousingNow.org. This program is open to all Bartholomew County residents—note this program is on hold as of 9/9/2020—may re-open at a later date.



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▶ **Help the Hungry—One Meal at a Time**

Have you ever experienced true hunger—not being just hungry, but going days without eating?

Would it bother you to hear that there are families right here in Bartholomew County who go days without eating?

Did you know that:

\$5 can provide a meal for a family of four?

\$20 can feed a family of four for two full days?

\$75 can feed a family of four for a week?

\$300 can feed a family of four for a month?

The COVID-19 virus has been a physically destructive agent, causing illness, and sometimes death. This virus has been financially destructive as well. Today in Bartholomew County, there are individuals who have nothing to eat and no means to get food, people with no safety net, no food, and no money.

Love Chapel serves these families through monthly pantry visits, weekly Love Chapel Cares packs, mobile pantries, daily hot meals, and meals for the homeless. The demand is increasing and we are seeing many new families who have no where else to turn. Many families will go unfed without your help.

Would you consider a gift to Help Feed the Hungry. We need your help to continue this vital mission. The need is growing and we may see record numbers of hungry families over the next year. Please click on the Donate Button on our website and select “Help the Hungry.” Your gift is tax deductible and will be used to provide food resources to the many who are struggling in our community.

Mother Teresa once said: “If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one.” You can make the difference for someone today.

Send checks to LOVE CHAPEL, 311 Center Street, Columbus, IN 47201

Or go to :<https://lovechapel-bartholomew.org/> to donate!

Brighter Days

Brighter Days, our homeless shelter, re-opened on June 15th, successfully. The shelter had temporarily ceased operations on March 23rd, due to the COVID 19 crisis. Operations are quite a bit different, with many measures implemented to protect staff, volunteers, and clients.

The capacity at the shelter has been reduced to 50% - allowing guests to have six feet of distance between themselves and others. Our current occupancy limit is 25 beds—14 for men and 11 for women. Guests wear masks while in the shelter and many measures have been implemented to maintain physical distancing, such as intake for one person at a time, no use of the common areas, breakfast to go with no congregating in the dining room. For more details, please feel free to visit our website. Also—please read the article on the back page about our new focus!



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What Is the Love Chapel Foundation?

A faith-based foundation dedicated to ensuring Love Chapel continues to provide help for those in need – both now and into the future

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- Foundation funds are managed for long-term sustainability of the organization, focusing on the ability to help for future generations.

- Foundation resources are used in support of Love Chapel; by enabling the launch of new services or to expand the capacity of existing services.

- The Love Chapel Foundation helps to ensure the sustainability of Love Chapel's outreach ministry.

Brighter Days 60-Day Process

One of the biggest differences as Brighter Days re-opened, has been in our focus. Brighter Days staff have developed a 60 day program to re-integrate our clients back into permanent residency within 60 days. The expectation and resources have been devoted to push for achieving this goal within 60 days.

Prior to this change, our guests could stay indefinitely , and many had stayed at Brighter Days for six months or more. The 60 day requirement will help to place urgency on our case managers and on our clients to meet goals to achieve a place of their own.

Four separate tracks have been developed to design an outline of goals to achieve this independence. These tracks address individuals who have situational homelessness, those with mental health issues, those with substance abuse issues, and those who are disabled or on limited income.

The goal is to make homelessness as brief as possible. In addition, we hope to be able to continue case management up to six months after permanent residency is achieved—to reduce the chance for recurrence! For more questions, feel free to check out our website.