

# CROSS Ministries

## Annual Report 2012

### A Message From The Director

These are exciting and critical times at CROSS Ministries! Reflecting the commitment of our volunteer board, the faith community, and our loyal contributors, CROSS has remained a major force in addressing and solving issues faced by low and no income Iowans.

Throughout 2012 growing economic challenges led to an increased need and demand for our services at a time when many of our loyal donors were similarly experiencing financial limitations. CROSS has consistently stepped up and helped to fill the void in social services created by shrinking government budgets. We remain committed to being an effective and compassionate service provider for those who are in crisis, a collaborative partner with all who are committed to finding solutions, and a passionate advocate that will consistently challenge our community to make it normative that all individuals and families have access to services that alleviate poverty. With your help we can continue to make a difference together in 2013!

Dr. Roberta Victor



*Waiting for Mom to receive food at the Food Pantry.*



### Our Mission

- To prevent homelessness and to provide food, and other basics to people in need.
- To advocate for changing social, economic, and political systems which perpetuate poverty and oppression.
- To create a vision of justice and provide educational opportunities to churches, organizations, and the community concerning the plight of the poor.

**9,305  
acts of  
service  
provided!**



**THE POVERTY LINE**

### 2012 Major Accomplishments

- Assisted 377 households representing 763 individuals with rent, deposits, mortgage, or utility bills to prevent homelessness.
- Provided 626 households representing 1,799 individuals with personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, laundry vouchers, bus tokens, baby items, and/or storage costs for households in transition.
- In partnership with the Des Moines Area Religious Council gave food boxes 1,756 times feeding 5,243 hungry bodies (some duplicated).
- Served 1,500 children from low income households with a new backpack filled with grade appropriate school supplies.
- Advocated to improve the quality of life for all Iowans facing issues of poverty.
- Offered informational lectures, sermons, and workshops on poverty.

# CROSS Ministries 2012

## Committee

The CROSS Committee meets monthly to receive reports, make decisions regarding the ministry, and to provide support for the Director. Monthly and/or annual reports are given to the Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church Session, the Des Moines Presbytery, and various grantors. The membership of the committee consists of volunteer representatives from various Presbyterian congregations, the CG Pastor, and the Director.

Mary Kay Barker  
Presbytery Liaison  
Covenant Presbyterian Church, DM

Rhonda Heggen  
Treasurer  
Central Presbyterian Church, DM

Joyce Hoffman  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Heartland Presbyterian Church, Clive

Walter Johnson  
Founding Member  
Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church, DM

Rev. Dr. David Madsen  
Pastor  
Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church, DM

Linda Myers  
1st Presbyterian Church, Dallas Center

Joanne Page  
Union Park Presbyterian Church, DM

Steve Rech  
Douglas Ave. Presbyterian Church, DM

Pam Rees  
Secretary  
Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church, DM

Barb Schmidt  
Central Presbyterian Church, DM

Chris Schnucker  
Heartland Presbyterian Church, Clive

Susan Van Essen  
St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Johnston

Dr. Roberta Victor  
Executive Director  
Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church, DM

## Staff

Dr. Roberta Victor, Executive Director  
(Full time)

Amanda Duncan, Administrative Assistant  
(Part time)

Joyce Hoffman, Volunteer Coordinator  
(Volunteer)

David Moore, Food Pantry Assistant  
(Part time)

## Volunteers

are the foundation of our organization providing over 2,000 hours of dedicated labor each year, most notably in the operation of the CROSS Food Pantry, the Annual Back to School Giveaway, and with fundraisers. Special thanks go to Joyce Hoffman for the many hours she spends coordinating those volunteers.



### ***Making a difference one family at a time!***

*Carla, Ron and their eight year old daughter are typical of many low income households struggling to make ends meet. Even in the best of times, their financial situation was challenging. Then one day while doing some odd jobs, Ron fell off the roof of a house and severely injured his back. As an independant contractor who wasn't able to work for several weeks, the family struggled to meet even their most basic needs. CROSS came to the aid of this family assisting with a portion of the rent because they were not eligible for governmental assistance.*

## Homelessness Prevention

CROSS Ministries, formed in 1974, is a social outreach ministry of Cottage Grove Avenue Presbyterian Church with the financial support of the Presbytery of Des Moines and its member congregations. Additional funding sources include grants from Prairie Meadows, the Iowa Finance Authority, fundraisers, churches, and private donors. Food grants are received from the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network.

CROSS provides direct financial emergency assistance to low and no income households for homelessness prevention and utility bills; assists with a one week supply of food once every calendar month; and provides an array of basic needs including personal hygiene boxes, cleaning supplies, bus tokens, and laundry vouchers.

## Back to School Giveaway

Recognizing that education is an important step in ending the cycle of poverty, for the 20th year CROSS has provided a new backpack filled with grade appropriate school supplies to the children of low and no income families. While the Giveaway is one of the most labor intensive endeavors of each year, with approximately 140 volunteers of all ages providing more than 450 hours of work, it is also one of the most rewarding! This year CROSS was able to provide supply packs and reading books to 1,500 children!



## Food Pantry



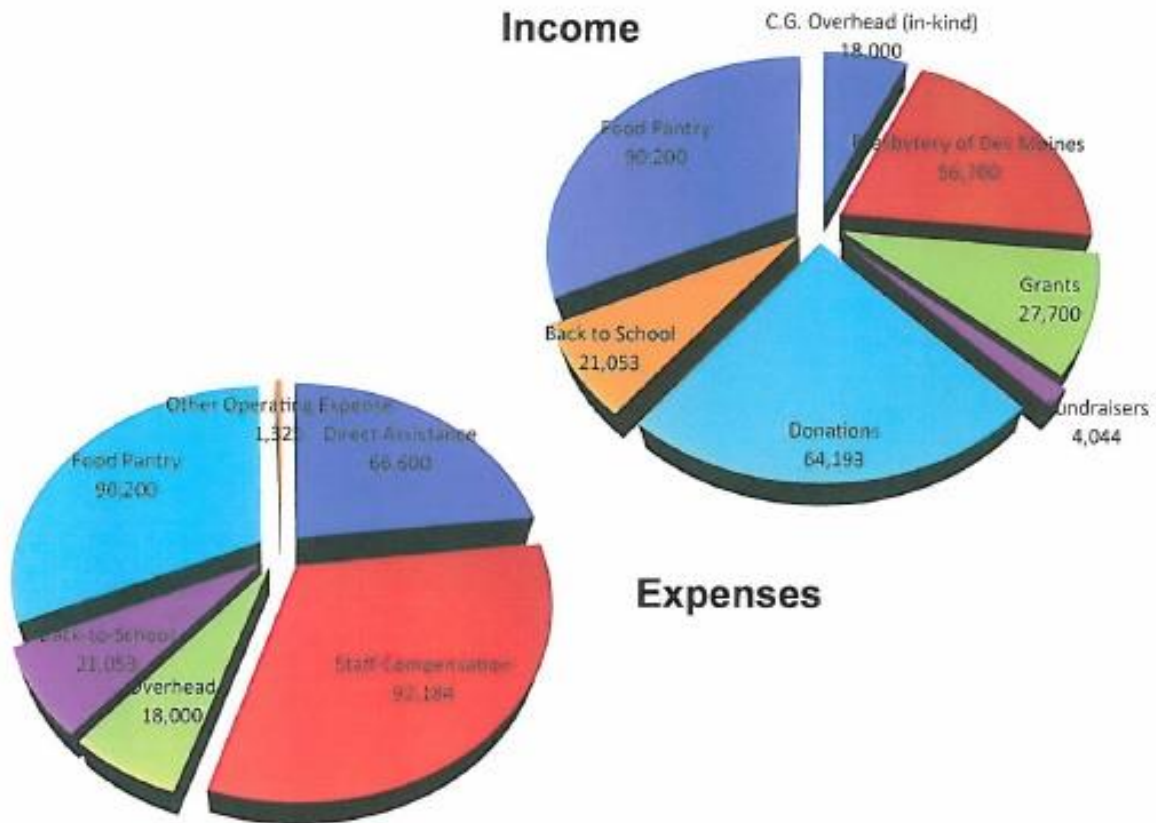
*Volunteers working in the food pantry.*

Through a partnership with the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network, in 2010 CROSS Ministries opened the first alternative hours food pantry. Recognizing that many of the working poor are unable to access food pantries during standard business hours, the opening of a centrally located evening and weekend pantry, and without geographic boundaries, helped to ensure greater food access for all.

With more than 30,000 residents of Polk County living at or below the poverty line, it isn't surprising that 20% of children in Polk County live in households without enough food. As a result,

CROSS works to end food insecurity. Special thanks to Trader Joe's for supplementing our pantry with extra produce, breads, and even flowers and thanks to JOPPA Outreach for delivering the items to our door!

# CROSS Ministries 2012 Budget



## Notes

1. The C.G. Overhead is an in-kind donation.
2. The Food Pantry income and expenses include the cost of donated food as determined by the Des Moines Area Religious Council Move the Food program.
3. The Back-to-School income includes cash and the value of donated supplies.

Donations may be made to:

**CROSS Ministries**  
 1050 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Des Moines, IA 50311