



VOLUME 12
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THE CARING HEART

A CARE AND SHARE OF CROOKSTON, INC. PUBLICATION



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Executive Directors' Memo

Happy July from Care and Share of Crookston

As we welcome July, we hope this season finds you grounded, grateful, and able to enjoy the small moments of summer, whether that's a meal shared with loved ones, time spent in nature, or simply a quiet moment to reflect.

Here at Care and Share, July brings more than warm days, it brings deep concern. Across the nation, life-saving programs are under threat. Congress is moving closer to passing legislation that would result in the largest cuts to food assistance our country has ever seen. The impact would be devastating, not in theory, but in real, measurable harm to the people and communities we serve every day.

If passed, this legislation would:

- Shift billions in benefit costs onto states, a first in SNAP's 50-year history.
- Expand harsh work requirements to millions more adults, including older adults and parents.
- Eliminate all funding for SNAP-Ed, a vital program that helps families stretch food budgets and make healthy choices.
- Put food assistance at risk for nearly 150,000 parents, caregivers, children, and seniors right here in Minnesota.

And it doesn't stop there. The same bill proposes massive cuts to Medicaid, placing the healthcare coverage of nearly 1.4 million Minnesotans at risk. These are not just budget lines. These are lifelines. SNAP and Medicaid are two of the most effective anti-poverty programs our country has ever created. Slashing them isn't just a policy change, it's an attack on the dignity, health, and safety of millions.

This is why your support has never meant more. As shelters and food shelves across the country prepare to absorb the fallout of these potential cuts, Care and Share of Crookston remains a beacon of hope for our community. But we cannot do it without you. Cuts to federal aid will lead to an increased need for emergency shelter, food support, and compassionate services, and all while nonprofit organizations like ours face rising costs and shrinking public funds.

If we are forced to reduce services, or close our doors, the most vulnerable in our community will have nowhere to turn. That includes children, veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, and working parents doing their best to get by. Your contributions are not just helpful, they are powerful. Every donated dollar helps us stay open. Every meal you help fund nourishes a neighbor.

Every bit of support you give keeps someone from falling through the cracks.

We are profoundly grateful for our community and the generous spirit of those who give. But we also need your voice. With Senate leaders hoping to pass this bill before July 4th, we urge you to contact your representatives and let them know that these cuts are unacceptable.

Together, we can stand up for those who need us most.

Together, we can keep hope alive.

With urgency and gratitude,

Carolina Diaz

Highlights of past Donors

We would like to shine a spotlight on
10 random donors this month.

*St. John the Evangelist Church

*Dennis & Cheryl Bivens

*Juanita Samuelson

*Robert & Carla Roppel

*Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

*Brian Anderson

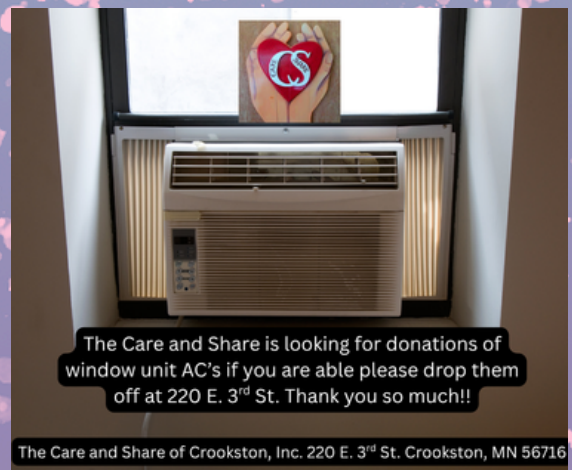
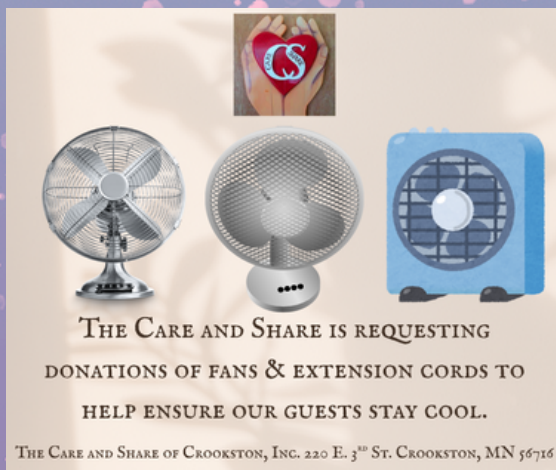
*Curtis & Norma Hoppe

*Freedom Church

*Marcel & Jean Lajesse

*Kelly James

We couldn't achieve our mission without you, and we truly want to highlight your incredible generosity. Your support is absolutely essential, and for that, we are so grateful!



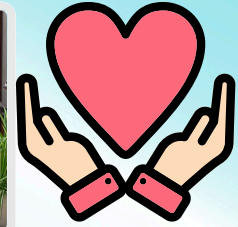


Lived Experience

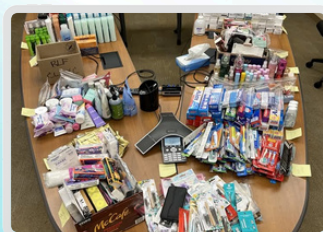
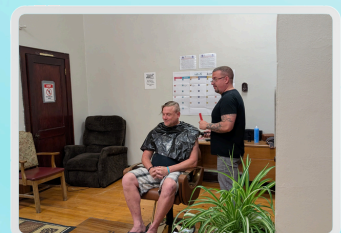
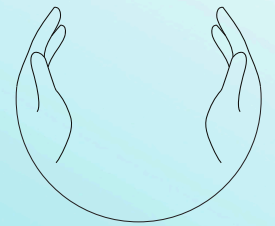
- 1. I became involved with the Care & Share/Hope Center as part of a college course focused on community engagement. After researching various local organizations, I was drawn to Care & Share due to their approach of addressing homelessness and its emphasis on dignity, support, and long-term solutions. Volunteering here has allowed me to contribute meaningfully to an organization that aligns with both my academic goals and personal values.
- 2. The Care & Share/Hope Center is much more than a temporary place to stay. It is a place of compassion, dignity, and support. The staff and volunteers work tirelessly and commitment to help individuals move forward, not just by meeting their basic needs but by offering encouragement and resources suited to each person's journey. It is a welcoming environment where people are treated with respect.
- 3. As someone who experienced homelessness as a child due to circumstances beyond my parents' control, volunteering here has been deeply personal. It reminded me that sometimes life takes unexpected turns, and having a supportive environment can make all the difference. Being part of that support for others has been incredibly meaningful.
- 4. Although I haven't stayed at Care & Share as a resident, I have volunteered at other shelters. What sets Care & Share apart is its strong emphasis on personal connection. Their focus goes beyond providing basic needs; it's about truly listening and engaging with residents. People aren't treated as just statistics or cases—they're seen and respected as neighbors, friends, and equals.
- 5. My success story is still unfolding. Volunteering here has helped me become more mindful and compassionate in my daily life. I've built meaningful relationships, learned how to better support others, and grown into a stronger advocate for people facing housing insecurity. After every shift, I feel like I've received more than I've given.

Alexis D.

Recognizing Volunteers



-4-



Recognizing Volunteers



Employee Recognitions

We are encouraging community members, volunteers, & guests to continue voting for our Employee of the Month! please inquire within the Care and Share on how you can vote!!

Please ask your server for a voting slip!!!

Employee of the Month Voting Here!!

We invite our community to participate in selecting our July Employee of the Month! If you're interested, please cast your vote in the poll listed here are your options 🙏 We appreciate your feedback!

<u>Keith De Remer</u> - Food Shelf Manager	<u>Sofia Galvan</u> - Security
<u>Candace Sam</u> - Administrative Assistant	<u>Kayla Waslaski</u> - Case Manager II
<u>Maria Gonzalez-Rodriguez</u> - Chef	<u>Aurora Serrano</u> - Security
<u>Jayden Lopez</u> - Security	<u>Klarissa Rodriguez</u> - Security
	<u>Heather Tronnes</u> - Security Manager
	<u>Adam Lehman</u> - DR Manager/Security

Please ask your server for a voting slip!!!

The Care and Share of Crookston, Inc. 220 E. 3rd St. Crookston, MN 56716

July 2025 Employee of the Month

"Very nice"

"Wonderful"

"She is the most self-less worker I know. She is always ready to step in. I never see her taking a break. Great asset to Care and Share."

Candace S.

Administrative Assistant
Volunteer Manager
Newsletter Editor

"Always kind & helpful"

"Keep up the great work!"

"Candace helps with questions that are asked. She will either show you or tell you."

The Care and Share of Crookston, Inc. 220 E. 3rd St. Crookston, MN 56716

Board Member Intro

My name is Leah (Olson) Winjum I was born and raised in Crookston, MN. My husband of 24 years, Chris Winjum, is from Crookston as well. We moved away for about 10 years but returned 15 years ago to raise our 4 children in Crookston so that they would have 4 loving grandparents nearby and to have our kids experience the support and love of a community that lives out the phrase - "it takes a village". Our Oldest Walker (22) attends NDSU, Hayden (20) is at UND, Halle (19) is starting at UMC this fall, and our youngest Reggie (16) is a junior at CHS.



The Winjums are grateful for when our schedules align, and we can simply spend time together. We especially like being active and doing things such as tennis, pickleball, and basketball. Along with spending time at the woods or lake with our extended family.

I currently work as the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries at Trinity Lutheran Church. Through my role at the church and in the community, I have had a lot of overlap with different service projects and service groups that have volunteered at the Care and Share. The staff at Care and Share have always been wonderful to work with and have always created a welcoming and warm environment. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve on the Board of the Care and Share. I look forward to working alongside the Care and Share staff and with the other Board Members to serve the guests and play an active role in the mission of the Care and Share.

CARE AND SHARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<i>Kari Brault- Board Chair</i>	<i>Leah Winjum- Director</i>
<i>Anna Corona- Vice Chair</i>	<i>Kevin Thompson- Director</i>
<i>Angel Korynta- Treasurer</i>	<i>Jon Street- Director</i>
<i>Mike Anderson- Secretary</i>	<i>Deanna Butenhoff- Director</i>
<i>Stephen Larson- Director</i>	

The Care and Share of Crookston, Inc.

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CANDACE S. AN E-MAIL @
[CANDACES@CAREANDSHARECRK
.ORG](mailto:CANDACES@CAREANDSHARECRK.ORG)

THE GENEROUS DONATIONS WE
RECEIVE, INCLUDING THROUGH THE
AMAZON WISH LIST HELP US BETTER
MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR GUESTS,
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATE
THROUGH OUR WISH LIST!!

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Editor: Candace Sam