

THE CARING HEART



A CARE AND SHARE OF CROOKSTON, INC. PUBLICATION



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MEMO



American Crystal
Sugar Company

RIISING TOGETHER: SUNSHINE, RENEWAL, AND COMMUNITY CARE IN FULL BLOOM

AS THE DAYS GROW LONGER AND THE WARMTH OF THE SUN RETURNS, WE'RE FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT AND HOPE. THE SIGHT OF GREEN GRASS EMERGING AND BRIGHTER SKIES AHEAD REMINDS US THAT RENEWAL IS HERE, AND WITH IT COMES NEW ENERGY FOR CONNECTION, COMPASSION, AND COMMUNITY ACTION.

WARMER TEMPERATURES MEAN WE CAN ONCE AGAIN GATHER OUTDOORS, AND WE ARE THRILLED TO BEGIN PLANNING SOME OF OUR MOST ANTICIPATED SUMMER FUNDRAISERS. STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS ABOUT OUR UPCOMING COMMUNITY CAR WASH AND AN ENERGIZING 5K WALK/RUN, BOTH WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO COME TOGETHER, HAVE FUN, AND MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT.

WE'RE ESPECIALLY EXCITED TO SHARE THAT OUR ONLINE AUCTION FUNDRAISER WILL BE LAUNCHING IN APRIL 7TH ENDING MAY 7TH, 2026. THIS FUNDRAISER PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN SUSTAINING OUR MISSION. EVERY DOLLAR RAISED HELPS US CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE FOOD SHELF, SERVING HOT MEALS THROUGH OUR SOUP KITCHEN TWICE A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, AND COVERING ESSENTIAL OPERATING COSTS THAT KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN TO THOSE WHO NEED US MOST.

WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THE INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES WHO HAVE ALREADY STEPPED FORWARD IN SUPPORT OF THIS AUCTION. THANK YOU TO THE JEWELER, GATE CITY BANK, AMAND BOCHOW, GOD STAR STEAM CLEANING, H&R BLOCK, AMERICAN CRYSTAL SUGAR COMPANY, COCONUT & CLOVE BAKERY, AND THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR VERY OWN CARE AND SHARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. YOUR KINDNESS AND COMMITMENT TRULY EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY CARE, AND WE ARE SINCERELY THANKFUL.

WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE AUCTION. IF YOU OR YOUR BUSINESS WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE KNOW HOW DEEPLY APPRECIATED YOUR SUPPORT WOULD BE. THIS EVENT REPRESENTS MORE THAN FUNDRAISING, IT REFLECTS A SHARED COMMITMENT TO ENSURING OUR NEIGHBORS HAVE ACCESS TO MEALS, RESOURCES, AND DIGNITY.

WE ALSO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR VALUED PARTNERS AT THE UNITED WAY OF CROOKSTON FUN WALK ON SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH FROM 11 AM TO 2 PM AT THE CROOKSTON SPORTS CENTER. LET'S SHOW UP IN FULL FORCE TO UPLIFT THEIR IMPORTANT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY. BE SURE TO STOP BY THE CARE AND SHARE BOOTH FOR A GAME AND A TREAT! OUR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, CANDACE SAM, WILL BE SHARING A TRADITIONAL GAME INSPIRED BY HER NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE, AN OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE CULTURE, CONNECTION, AND LEARNING IN A RESPECTFUL AND ENGAGING WAY.

TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A STRONGER, MORE COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY. THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THIS JOURNEY.

WITH GRATITUDE-
CAROLINA DIAZ



Coconut + Clove



RECOGNIZING DONORS

- JUANITA SAMUELSON
- RICK THOMPSON
- RAY I. & GELENE GULLEKSON
- DEANNA PATENAUDE
- NORTHLAND ASSEMBLY (BADGER, MN)
- CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
- ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH
- HIGHWAY 2 CRUISERS
- BETH CARLSON
- PAMELA SWENSON

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS



LIVED EXPERIENCE STORY



1. IF YOU ARE COMFORTABLE SHARING YOUR STORY, PRIOR TO COMING HERE, WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES LED YOU TO CARE AND SHARE/HOPE CENTER OF CROOKSTON AS A CASE MANAGER?

MY PATH TO CARE AND SHARE/HOPE CENTER WAS BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL. I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS, BUT MY OWN LIFE EXPERIENCES DEEPENED THAT CALLING. AFTER NAVIGATING SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL CHALLENGES, INCLUDING SERIOUS HEALTH ISSUES AND MAJOR LIFE TRANSITIONS, I DEVELOPED A STRONGER SENSE OF PURPOSE AND RESILIENCE. I WANTED TO BE IN A POSITION WHERE I COULD DIRECTLY SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS FACING CRISIS, INSTABILITY, AND HARDSHIP. THAT DESIRE ULTIMATELY LED ME TO CASE MANAGEMENT AND TO CARE AND SHARE, WHERE I COULD MAKE A MEANINGFUL, HANDS-ON IMPACT IN PEOPLE'S LIVES.

2. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT CARE AND SHARE AND HOPE CENTER FROM A CASE MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE?

FROM A CASE MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE, CARE AND SHARE AND THE HOPE CENTER ARE NOT SIMPLY PLACES OF TEMPORARY SHELTER—THEY ARE STRUCTURED PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY, GROWTH, AND LONG-TERM STABILITY. EVERY GUEST IS GIVEN EXPECTATIONS, GUIDANCE, AND SUPPORT. THE WORK THAT HAPPENS BEHIND THE SCENES INVOLVES COORDINATION, PROBLEM-SOLVING, AND HELPING INDIVIDUALS OVERCOME COMPLEX BARRIERS SUCH AS LACK OF IDENTIFICATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, HOUSING CHALLENGES, AND PERSONAL SETBACKS. IT IS A PLACE WHERE REAL WORK HAPPENS EVERY DAY, BOTH FROM STAFF AND FROM GUESTS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THEIR SITUATION.

4. HOW IS CARE AND SHARE DIFFERENT THAN OTHER SHELTERS?

CARE AND SHARE STANDS APART BECAUSE OF ITS EMPHASIS ON STRUCTURE AND PROGRESS. THERE ARE CLEAR RULES, CONSISTENT EXPECTATIONS, AND ACTIVE CASE MANAGEMENT INVOLVEMENT. GUESTS ARE NOT ONLY PROVIDED WITH SHELTER, BUT THEY ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED AND REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMMING THAT SUPPORTS THEIR GROWTH. THIS INCLUDES GOAL-SETTING, ATTENDING APPOINTMENTS, FOLLOWING GUIDELINES, AND WORKING TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO HELP INDIVIDUALS MOVE FORWARD, NOT REMAIN STAGNANT.

5. WHAT IS YOUR SUCCESS STORY NOW AS A CASE MANAGER?

MY SUCCESS AS A CASE MANAGER IS REFLECTED IN THE PROGRESS I SEE IN THE INDIVIDUALS I SERVE. SEEING SOMEONE OBTAIN IDENTIFICATION, SECURE EMPLOYMENT, FIND HOUSING, OR SIMPLY BEGIN TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES AGAIN IS INCREDIBLY REWARDING. ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, MY SUCCESS IS ALSO ROOTED IN MY OWN GROWTH—I HAVE TURNED MY LIFE EXPERIENCES INTO PURPOSE-DRIVEN WORK THAT ALLOWS ME TO SUPPORT OTHERS WITH EMPATHY, UNDERSTANDING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY. I AM PROUD TO BE PART OF A PROGRAM THAT NOT ONLY PROVIDES SHELTER, BUT ALSO CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR REAL CHANGE.

IN CLOSING, CARE AND SHARE AND THE HOPE CENTER REPRESENT MORE THAN A PLACE TO STAY—THEY REPRESENT STRUCTURE, SUPPORT, AND A PATHWAY FORWARD FOR THOSE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN THE PROCESS.

PATRICE FLODSTROM
CASE MANAGER @ CARE AND SHARE OF CROOKSTON

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!!

SCAN me to go to
**our Amazon
Wishlist**



Board of Directors

- Kari Brault – Chair
- Anna Corona – Vice Chair
- Angel Korynta – Treasurer
- Mike Anderson – Secretary
- Dede Butenhoff – Director
- Kevin Thompson – Director
- Stephen Larson – Director
- Leah Winjum – Director
- Ted Krmpotich – Director
- Eric Abrahamson – Director



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS



April 2026



EMPLOYEE of the MONTH



AURORA S. - SECURITY

"Hard work like yours doesn't go unnoticed!"
"Aurora has been with us for awhile and she brings her A game!"
"She makes work better just by showing up!"
"She will go above and beyond when it's needed!"
"Aurora is a hard worker"



The Care and Share
of Crookston
would like to wish

Jane F.

Happy Birthday!

220 E. THIRD ST. CROOKSTON, MN 56716

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CROOKSTON, MN 56716
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FAX 218-281-5795

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO
OUR E-NEWSLETTER E-MAILING LIST PLEASE SEND THE EDITOR CANDACE S. AN
E-MAIL @ CANDACES@CAREANDSHARECRK.ORG

[HTTPS://WWW.CAREANDSHARECROOKSTON.ORG/](https://www.careandsharecrookston.org/)

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Editor: Candace Sam