Dear Friends of CRS,

SHINE BRIGHT FOR OUR COMMUNITY! That’s what we do at Community Resource Services (CRS). The past 12 months have been a success for CRS, accomplishing many goals designed to alleviate the effects of poverty facing members of our community. Over 460 different families made up of 1,261 people (151 seniors, 529 adults and 581 children) reached out for help through one or more of our various programs. We addressed issues of food insecurity by distributing 117,500 pounds of food—the equivalent of $198,575—and provided financial assistance 245 times to prevent eviction or utility disconnection. We helped send 221 school-aged kids back to school in August with all the supplies they needed through our Back-to-School Readiness program; 274 children received Christmas gifts, pajamas, coats and boots through our Santa’s workshop; and we hosted a series of Summer Farmers' Markets (thanks to Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio) to give our clients better access to fresh fruits and vegetables and encourage healthier eating habits.

We couldn’t have done any of that without the generous support we receive from countless patrons and friends. We are blessed to have community support from so many individuals and corporations who contribute through various fundraising efforts, along with outstanding community partners like The Alyce J. and Ann J. Metka Foundation, The City of Avon, The City of Avon Lake, Avon Lake Regional Water, Community Foundation of Lorain County, Community West Foundation, the Hools for Hunger Team, Lorain County Community Action Agency, The Nordson Corporation Foundation, The Salvation Army and The Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio. What do all these constituents have in common? They believe in our mission and enable us to help the residents of Avon and Avon Lake who need a helping hand.

There are people living in our community who are having trouble making ends meet, wondering where their next meal will come from or whether their heat will be turned off in the winter. Maybe they’ve experienced an unexpected job loss or medical emergency and simply need short-term help to get back on their feet. Or perhaps their needs are greater and require longer-term assistance. Poverty doesn’t discriminate—it hits every community, including ours.

Thanks to everyone who shines bright on our agency, we’re making a difference for people living in our own backyard. Helen Keller may have said it best, “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” We are grateful for the opportunity to work together with so many caring and dedicated groups and individuals. It's because of you that we’re able to continue meeting the needs of the residents of Avon and Avon Lake and to shine some light on our neighbors who are struggling through darker times.

Sincerely,

Susan H. Poole
Executive Director

John M. Alten
Board President

---

**Finances**

**Revenue**

- General Donations $73,799 (13%)
- Corp/Org/Church $42,496 (8%)
- Fundraising $94,024 (17%)
- Grants $124,811 (22%)
- In-Kind $214,808 (39%)
- Other $7,795 (1%)
- **Total** $557,733

**Expenses**

- Management/General $54,622 (11%)
- Fundraising $36,579 (8%)
- Direct Aid $398,544 (81%)
- **Total** $489,745

*Based on Management Prepared Financials.
CAR REPAIR – “I am a senior living off of my Social Security income. I do okay... until something unexpected happens. Last winter, my car broke down and I knew I wasn’t going to be able to afford the repair. I don’t have family in town to help and I didn’t even know of a place I could trust to give a fair price. CRS helped with ALL that. Not only did they refer me to someone they’ve worked with a lot and who would give an honest opinion on whether my car was worth fixing, but they also helped cover some of the cost. Without their help, I might have had to take out one of those high-interest loans. I’ll always be thankful for their help – and yes, that old car of mine is still running!”

SUMMER LUNCH COLLABORATION – We’re grateful to be part of this international grassroots effort to raise money and awareness in the fight to end hunger.

FARMERS’ MARKET – As a proud member of Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, CRS is able to offer fresh fruits and vegetables to our clientele each summer. A total of 145 clients took advantage of this opportunity in 2017.

EMPTY BOWLS BY THE LAKE – We’re grateful to be part of this international grassroots effort to raise money and awareness in the fight to end hunger.

SANTA’S WORKSHOP – “I’m a single mom with three kids, and Christmas always stresses me out! I can’t afford most of the things my kids ask for, but like all moms, I want to see them happy, especially during the holidays. I can’t tell you how much the help from CRS meant to me and my family. I got to come in and pick out a coat, boots, pajamas and toys for each child, plus I got a basket filled with games we could all play together. I don’t know where all the stuff came from – or how they do it – but my family sure had a Merry Christmas this year!”

HOOKS FOR HUNGER WALLEYE TOURNAMENT – Thanks to a group of local fishermen, a total of $24,500 was raised for CRS this year!

CHARITY BALL – “The Charity Ball is the primary fundraiser for CRS. The 28th Annual Charity Ball raised $78,000 this year.”

SOUPer BOWL – This annual rivalry between the Avon and Avon Lake school districts netted a total of $15,759 and 7,015 pounds of food.
US SHINE HELPING

The following grants made to the Avon/Avon Lake Community Resource Ser Enrichment Fund of the Community Foundation of Lorain County are on behalf of...
SERVICES PROVIDED BY
1 full-time and
4 part-time staff
226 volunteers

117,500 lbs
dofood distributed

145 clients
received fresh
fruits & vegetables
through our
Summer Farmers’ Markets

176x
we helped prevent
utility disconnection

274 kids
received gifts,
pajamas, coats &
boots for
Christmas

151 senior citizens
utilized our
services
3,059x

SHINING BRIGHT
FOR OUR COMMUNITY

8,734x
we made a difference for the
residents of our community.

221 kids
were given
school supplies