

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Katie Virtue
PresidentDeeDee Alvelo
Vice PresidentDavid H. Paine
TreasurerPaul Johnson
SecretaryJohn Alten
Greg Harbour
Janna Kepner
Deanna Leitner
James Miller
Sam Naumann
Daphnie Norris
Marin PennAnie Simard-Lendal
Catherine Starwalt
Eric R. Swanson
James WenskeEXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Pam Ohradzansky

December 2023

Dear Friends,

Community Resource Services (CRS) is proud to be celebrating 35 years of providing much needed services to our neighbors in Avon and Avon Lake. We are honored to have reached this remarkable milestone, and we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our journey and express our gratitude to all those who have supported us along the way.

CRS was founded in 1988 by a group of citizens concerned about their neighbors who were facing financial hardship. Thirty-five years later, our commitment to providing vital services, support, and resources to those in need has remained unwavering. The generosity, dedication, and belief in our mission by so many supporters have allowed us to make a real difference in the lives of those we serve, enabling them to keep their lives on track during difficult times.

Our biggest program continues to be our on-site food pantry, distributing 120,000 pounds of food in 2022 to ensure that no one in our community goes to bed hungry. We also provided emergency financial assistance for essential expenses and other unforeseen financial burdens. Here is a recap of some ways CRS has served the community in the last 12 months:

- Families accessed our on-site food pantry over 3,000 times.
- We pledged \$58,852 to prevent 290 utility disconnections.
- We paid \$88,809 in housing assistance to prevent 180 evictions.
- 239 kids went back-to-school with backpacks, school supplies, shoes and clothing.
- 292 clients participated in development programs supporting their life goals.
- We provided 453 grocery gift cards to help ease the strain of inflation.
- We paid \$52,482 for auto-related expenses including car repairs and fuel cards.
- 318 children received toys, coats and pajamas from our Santa's Workshop.

We have assisted 433 households in Avon and Avon Lake made up of 1,082 individuals (166 seniors, 434 adults and 482 children).

As we look ahead to the future, we are more committed than ever to our vision of a community where poverty does not exist, and all individuals have the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their economic circumstances. Together, with your support, we can work towards a brighter tomorrow for all.

On behalf of the Board, staff, volunteers and especially the clients that we serve, thank you for being part of our journey and for helping us reach this significant milestone.

Sincerely,

Katie Virtue
President, CRS Board of DirectorsPam Ohradzansky
Executive Director