

Community Connections

Winter 2024
Issue 4, Volume 1

*An update on what we
do because of you!*

Together we can....

Encourage success

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting *Ashley. The introduction came from a dear friend who thought we should connect. When I went to lunch with her, Ashley and I talked a little business and shared some personal information, quickly finding common ground with a passion for helping people reach their best selves. Ashley, in her mid-twenties, is engaged, owns her own home and has strong positive relationships with her sister and her fiancée's family. She currently works in the medical field although her degree is web design. She has an entrepreneurial spirit and would love to use her education and talent to help local non-profits. She understands first-hand the impact community services make for people.

Ashley and her siblings beat the odds. Her birth parents are drug addicts. The oldest of three, she has vivid memories of her five-year old self changing diapers and bottle-feeding her siblings. When most children are learning children's songs, the letters and sounds of the alphabet and how to share, Ashley was already in a "mom" role. She did her best to ensure her brother and sister had food, but she was reliant on her parents to get food from local pantries. When she was in third grade, a counselor at school introduced her to personal hygiene, including bathing routines, deodorant and brushing her teeth. She quickly implemented her new-found knowledge into her care for her two and three year old siblings. There were a few "normal" family times when her parents stopped using, but the glimmer of what could be just made day-to-day reality that much worse. They moved from one state to another five times in the space of twelve years, often in the middle of the night to avoid the consequences of drug addiction. By the time she was twelve, her parents were arrested and the three children were placed in state custody.

The best thing about their new foster home was that they could stay together. The bad things were verbal abuse, clothing that did not fit and food that was locked away outside of meal times. For six years, Ashley did what she could to protect her siblings and poured herself into school. Her teachers connected them to community resources, but life was a hard road. Toward the end of her senior year, she was awarded a full-ride scholarship and a solid path to her dreams of a different life. The dream was quickly knocked out of reach when her parents were released from jail and awarded custody of her brother and sister, conditional on Ashley, now eighteen, moving with them. She gave up her scholarship, got a full-time job, and continued to care for her siblings. Food security was a little better because she did not have to rely on another adult to visit Jamieson Community Center and Helping Hands pantries. She used our Jingle Bills for the water bills and Liheap to cover the energy bills. She made sure her brother and sister had clothing that fit and were able to join school activities. She credits desire to succeed, community support and caring teachers for getting them through, as well as help from her grandfather that she reconnected with when she was 21. She considered her job as parent mostly finished when her sister graduated from college and got married and her brother secured a managerial position. Ashley was excited when her sister announced she was pregnant. She relishes her new role as aunt and smiles when she talks about the baby's bright future. She and her fiancée have future plans to adopt an older child.

*Name changed for privacy

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Our mission: The mission of Jamieson Community Center is to coordinate programs addressing the needs of all ages, provide services which extend widely into the community and surrounding area and work in cooperation with social service agencies in the region.

Our vision: Jamieson Community Center leads a collaborative effort to unify people through compassion, kindness and service.

Together we can...

Lift local families

SMART-TD local 0445, a union containing railroad conductors and engineers, have been working with areas spanning from Joliet, IL to Fort Madison, IA, to do more for the communities they serve. Their journey began with organizing food drives, a simple yet impactful way to address the pressing needs of those facing food insecurity.

For the past few years, Wes Ekstedt, Philanthropy Chair and Secretary of the LCA at SMART TD (Transportation Division) and 0445 members teamed with WMOI/WRAM's Freezing for Food initiative. Last year, they saw an opportunity to make an even greater difference. Partnering with the radio station, they organized the first annual SMART-TD Golf Outing to support Jamieson Community Center food pantry. The event was a tremendous success, uniting community members in support of a common cause. They purchased food for people in need, further extending the reach of their collective generosity.



In December 2023, SMART-TD 01445, along with SMART-TD 0195 and BLET 644, joined forces with Fareway of Monmouth for the "Yuletide Drive." This collaborative effort, representing many railroad engineers and conductors, resulted in the collection of 308 lbs. of food and \$236 in donations for the Jamieson Community Center food pantry. Wes shared that many of their members reside in Monmouth, making the initiative even more meaningful as they were able to directly support local families in need.

Together we can...

Give area children essentials

Bob Makiney, a Monmouth College alum who has spent over five decades in the local business community, credits his part-time job during college as the reason he stayed in the area after graduation. His career, marked by early challenges and eventual success, has instilled in him a deep appreciation for the community's support throughout the years. Now, he believes it's his turn to give back.

As a member of the Rotary Club of Monmouth, Bob was introduced to the idea of a sock and underwear drive for JCC Community Christmas Store by Gilbert Hennenfent, Chair of the Service Committee. Over time, the club's efforts expanded, reaching a pinnacle in 2023 when Bob and his wife, Jenny, learned that JCC anticipated serving



twice as many children as the previous year. Bob pledged to match club member donations up to \$1,000. In the space of ten minutes, his challenge to Rotarians raised sufficient funds to provide 420 children with three pairs of underwear and two pairs of socks each. Additionally, they provided volunteer assistance for parents/guardians during the shopping experience, ensuring a supportive and dignified process for all involved.



Bob firmly believes in the significance of giving back, especially to support those facing hardships within the community. His dedication and leadership have made a significant impact, ensuring that local children receive essential items and families feel supported during the holiday season.

In essence, Bob's journey from college student to community leader exemplifies the power of giving back and the profound difference he can make for people in need.

In 2023 YOU provided HOPE and HELP

Food Pantries plus more



*JCC Food Pantry

At least **2,066 people** received **101,486 lbs.** of food in our Community Marketplace.



*Recharge Food Pantry

There were **120 visits per month** by **74 teens** to nutritious food and classes at Eagle View Community Health System Recharge Teen Center.



*Weekend Meals

80 children ate **19,140** shelf-stable Weekend Meals.



Diapers, Incontinence, & Period Supplies

225 children received **40,150** diapers, **19 people** received **1,460** incontinence products, and **58 families** received **161** period kits in partnership with Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank.

Prepared Meals



Senior Nutrition

393 people, aged 60 and older, in Henderson, Mercer, and Warren Counties ate **49,864 meals**, with menus specifically designed to meet the nutritional needs of older adults.



*Summer Meals

36 children ate **897 meals** from June and July

Personal Growth



Pattee Learning Center

46 children grew academically and personally with **4,353 hours** of reading, writing and math tutoring.



Community Connections

41 families connected with a caring staff person and area resources specific to their situations..

Daily Living



*Thrift Store

41 people/day shopped for unique finds, clothing and household items priced for every budget.



Bill Pay Assistance

\$15,784.85 ensured **433 people** had shelter, utilities, prescription drugs and other basic household needs.



Community Christmas Store/Baskets

420 children opened gifts Christmas morning. **122 people** enjoyed Christmas dinner.



S.T.A.R.S.

169 children started school with a new backpack filled with all teacher required supplies.

*To help reduce barriers to access, JCC does not require data to track the total number of visits by any individual. Stats represent the highest number served in any given month.

Together we can...

Serve our community



gifts up to
\$250



gifts between
\$251—\$500



gifts between
\$501—\$1,000



gifts over
\$1,000

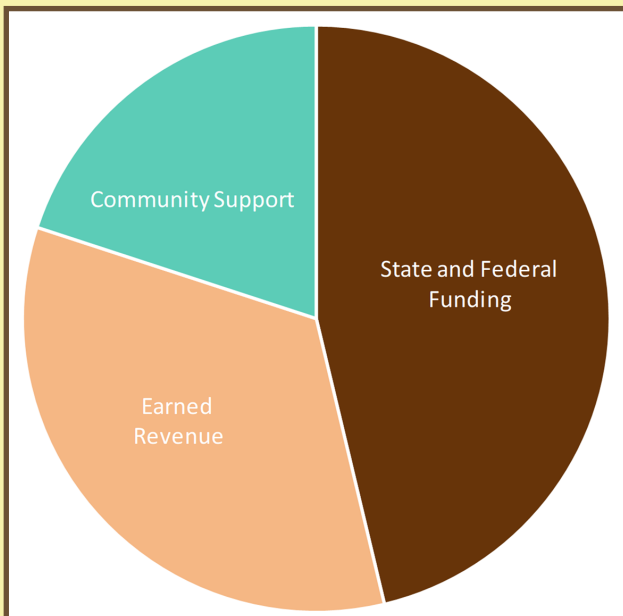


Volunteers who gave
1,471 hours

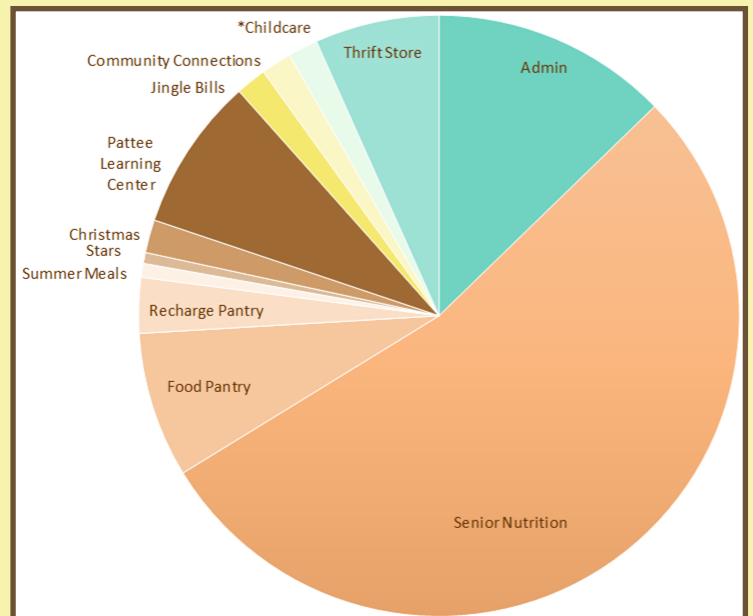
In-Kind Donations

We are thankful for all Individuals, organizations, churches and groups who donated items to the thrift store, food pantry, Community Christmas Store, and S.T.A.R.S. program.

2023 Operating revenue



2023 Operating expenses



*Does not include capital expenses

Together we can...

Be part of the rippling effects of generosity



Living in Monmouth, IL was not the future Teresa Prien had envisioned. However, life sometimes throws unexpected curveballs. When Teresa and her husband, Tom, received a call from a realtor in E. Texas asking if they would consider selling their home, which wasn't on the market, they found themselves on a surprising journey. The descendant of the historic home's original owner wanted to purchase it, and so began Teresa's unexpected chapter in Monmouth, where her mother resides.

Teresa quickly became an active member of the community. At First United Methodist Church, she crossed paths with Pastor John Simms, a former JCC Board Member, who in 2020, invited her to join the board. Teresa uses her experience from running a small food pantry in E. Texas to help JCC. Initially unaware of the extent of programs offered by JCC, she now appreciates the diverse initiatives, particularly enjoying her time at the thrift store both as consumer and donor. She is an integral part of the Fundraising Committee.

Her commitment extends to volunteering with JCC's S.T.A.R.S. program, where she discovered the impact of community support. Teresa also proudly belongs to the Maple City Sponsor Circle, a group that sponsored two Ukrainian families, helping them settle into Monmouth. This endeavor reflects the community's warmth and Teresa's dedication to making a positive impact.

Teresa is quick to praise Jamieson Community Center as an amazing organization that meets numerous needs in their community. She encourages others to give to Jamieson as they are able, emphasizing the profound blessings that come with supporting such a vital organization. The ripple effects of generosity, she believes, extend far beyond what one can initially imagine.



Get your
tickets
NOW!

A Night at the Races



All proceeds benefit JCC food pantries

Saturday, March 16, 2024
Doors open 5:00 PM, Post Time 6:15 PM
Warren County History Museum

Seating is
Limited

ADMISSION

Must be 21 or older to attend the event

Includes a seat, heavy hors d'oeuvres, water & tea,
racing guide and fun money for betting
\$25.00 in advance or \$30.00 at door

OR Buy a reserved table of 6 for \$180

MEET & GREET (5 PM - 6PM)

Any age can attend

Meet Dealer Joe "DJ," of Rainbow Riders,
great great grandson of Secretariat, 1973
Triple Crown winner, and take a photo.

\$10/ticket

BEER & WINE

LIVE AUCTION ITEMS

BEST HAT CONTEST

ADDITIONAL FUN MONEY FOR SALE

"BEST BETTOR"

Use your phone
camera to scan the
QR code, then click
on the link to
make purchases.



Name A HORSE today: \$20

You Name the Horse, the Owner and Jockey
If your horse wins the race, you win a trophy!!!



Together we can....

Secure the future of our community

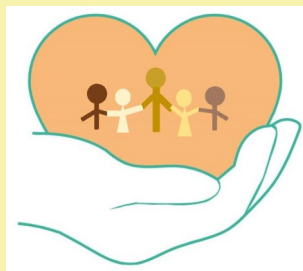
20% of Warren County families are now utilizing Jamieson Community Center programs and services. In 2023, we served 1,403 more people than we did in 2022. The sudden surge was not planned for. We are fortunate to be in a community of caring individuals and to receive some large national grants to help us meet the unprecedented demand. While we have been financially stable for the past ten years, that has not always been the case. Historically, JCC has had financial struggles that resulted in program and staffing cuts. We wonder how many Ashleys did not receive the assistance they needed during that time.

In 2017, Jamieson Community Center established an endowment fund at Galesburg Community Foundation. Over the past several years, Pattee Foundation has also established endowments for our Pattee Learning Center and a new childcare center coming soon. Endowment ensures that Jamieson Community Center will be here for future generations of Ashleys so they have the opportunity to be their best selves. GCF has challenged us to grow our endowment with them by \$500,000 over the next three years. If you would like to play a permanent role through an endowment gift, send an email to thejamiesoncenter@gmail.com.

Brad Ray
Board Chair

Nancy Mowen
Executive Director

To receive a copy of our newsletter please click on the link, <https://www.jamiesoncommunitycenter.org/maillinglist>. You have a choice of receiving it printed (mailed) or digitally (emailed).



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For more information about our programs and services, visit our website at www.jamiesoncommunitycenter.org

Don't miss out on our events, stories and news! Follow us on   @Jamieson Community Center.