

The Red Kettle is Heavy

When the people from CCRI are done ringing the bell.

Helping others has always been a big part of our corporate philosophy and we like to provide opportunities for our employees and the individuals we serve to give back to others in need. However, until I received a phone call from the Salvation Army late this fall, I had no idea the magnitude of our impact on their success.

For many years, Maury Nissen, a CCRI Professional Caregiver, has been the sole coordinator for CCRI to ring the bell during the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign every Tuesday at the Moorhead Sunmart. We like to call it "Tuesdays with Maury" CCRI-style! Throughout the day, all day, every Tuesday many people come and go and help with this fun activity. In the early evening, there are usually a lot of people there surrounding the red kettle. A lot of times we sing familiar and fun holiday carols and a few times another CCRI employee, John Peterson, brings his band to play and we all sing carols together. Not only are we helping the Salvation Army with their mission, but everyone participating and giving is having a wonderful time.

In mid November, the Salvation Army called CCRI. They were having a press conference to kick off their annual Red Kettle Campaign bell ringing season. It was an invitation to CCRI and other companies that donate a significant amount of time



David & Jenn with big smiles while bell ringing.



ringing the bell to attend the press conference. We assumed there would be lots of companies in attendance. However, when our group arrived at the press conference, we were shocked to find out that CCRI was one of only 17 other groups invited. All of us were very proud of the contribution CCRI is making as an organization to help the Salvation Army reach their goal. A very special thank you to Maury Nissen for being so dedicated, committed, and enthusiastic ~ leading others by example to make this all possible.

The Grugel Family takes a turn ringing the bell.

Live Auction Proceeds Will be Given to CCRI

The FM Crusaders Motorcycle Club is currently soliciting donations for items to go towards a Live Auction during their 35th Annual Bike Show. All funds raised during this auction will go directly to CCRI, Inc.



The money raised at the FM Crusader's first ever live auction will go toward CCRI's Camp H.E.R.O. (Helping Each other Remove Obstacles) program, which is an annual three-day summer camp which caters to people with disabilities and fits their needs with paved trails to enjoy the outdoors, water front fishing, pontoon rides, campfires and time to just relax.

In addition, they are supported by their familiar CCRI caregivers and a CCRI RN.

Every kid should have the camp experience!



***The CCRI Live Auction is at 3:00 pm
on Saturday, March 20, 2010.***

Check out the Crusader's web site at www.fmcrusadersmc.com for updates on items that will be available during the auction - there will be many packages and other great items to bid on.

The Bike Show and Live Auction will be held at the
Ramada Plaza Suites ~ Fargo, ND
Saturday, March 20th 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
& Sunday, March 21st 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

The FM Crusaders Motorcycle Club was founded in 1967, making it the oldest motorcycle club in North Dakota. The club members are dedicated to helping others through charitable events and fun runs.

FM Crusaders Motorcycle Club
PO Box 9752
Fargo, ND 58106

E-mail:
fmcrusaders@gmail.com

We felt there were few who shared similar hopes and dreams for our child, but now we have you.

*~ Kathy O., parent of a person
receiving CCRI services*

CCRI's 3rd Annual Client Appreciation Holiday Meal Event was a Huge Success



CCRI's 3rd annual client appreciation was a huge success. Over 400 people were served and we still had leftovers to donate to the shelter. The success of this event was due to the team work of many of our staff, donations from many of our supporters and 19 volunteers from outside of CCRI who gave of their time. Paula Short and Kayla Aanenson, Options Schedulers have been the driving force behind this event for 3 years. These two plan the menu, shop, cook, get the team organized and ensure even though they are cooking for 400 everything is very tasty!

The duo started cooking on Sunday at 6 a.m. till 8 p.m. Sunday night. They were joined by volunteers who came throughout the day to help. St. Francis de Sales Church was generous enough to allow us to rent their huge kitchen and dining room. Paula and Kayla were back at it again bright and early on Monday morning until we served the meal at 5 p.m. all the way through clean-up.

How much food was prepared?

- 400 pounds of turkey
- 400 pounds of potatoes
- 12 gallons of broth for gravy
- 75 pounds of beans
- 75 pounds of corn
- 5 roasters full of stuffing
- 15 pounds of onions
- 16 pounds of butter was used in the preparation
- 18 pans of homemade pumpkin bars



Paula & Kayla, our fabulous cooks!

A special thanks to all who donated towards the meal and all the volunteers and staff who helped. For many, this was their Thanksgiving meal. Also, special thanks to Terry Short who picked up the donation of 21 live turkeys and delivered them for processing.

A large portion of the meal was made possible because of donations from the following:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - Terry & Paula Short | - Northland Truss Systems |
| - Financial Business Systems | - Bruce Bakkegard & Deborah Pierce |
| - Border States Paving | - Chad Lelm Turkey Farm |
| - Sonnenberg Farms | - Great Harvest Bread Co. |
| - Pan-O-Gold / Master Bakery | - Breadsmith |
| - Richard Muscha | - Greenleaf Nursery & Produce |
| - Lori & Mike Ibach | |

Impact of Minnesota's Budget Shortfall

Unfortunately, we don't have a crystal ball, so the only thing we can do is present the facts and draw some logical conclusions about how the future is likely to look.

The facts as we know them today look like this.

- In 2009, our services received compounding cuts totaling 3%. All services reimbursement rates were cut by 2.58%. In addition, 19 people's rates were cut an additional 5% on top of the 2.58%. Further compounding rate cuts were significant increases in licensing fees. In total, we lost nearly \$400,000 in revenue.
- CCRI has been preparing for further budget cuts during the next biennium (2011-2112). However, recent information about Minnesota's current budget gives reason for concern that additional cuts are likely in 2010 in addition to the next biennium. It was recently announced that Minnesota is still \$1.2 billion short of balancing the current budget which goes through 2010. Paul Marquart, MN State Representative, is expecting an additional \$5-\$7 billion dollar deficit in the next biennium. Further supporting this prediction is data from Tom Gillaspay and Tom Stinson (MN State Demographer and MN State Economist). According to their research, Minnesota had its highest employment rate in 2007. Therefore, they predict that it will be late 2011 before similar rates of employment are reached. This means tax collections, which our services are dependent on, will not reach needed funding levels until 2013 (after 2012 taxes are collected) at the earliest.
- One piece of good news is that Minnesota spending for waiver services (supported living services, independent living services and community alternatives for disabled individuals) is on target with the cuts that were implemented. Thus, when legislators

are asked to resolve the current budget problem we won't stick out like a sore thumb "so to speak."

- Further compounding our budget cuts is a moratorium on new clients. The moratorium means no growth which is very frightening! For the past 10 years, we have realized annual growth of 10-15%. We count on this growth to cover much needed annual employee wage and health care premium increases.

All of this could drastically change the future of disability services over the course of the next few years. Again, we don't know what will actually happen. We can only speculate and do our best to try to prevent further cuts.

On behalf of people with disabilities, the only way we can impact the severity of the cuts is to work with our legislators. We are asking for help from every parent, family member, client, employee, teacher, county case manger, etc., to please make an effort to visit with Legislators when you see them in the community or contact them directly to impress upon them what services mean to your children, family member, and/or the people we serve. It is best to talk in terms of value statements, as they demonstrate what taxpayer dollars are buying.

An example of a value statement: One year ago Suzy didn't know her address, phone number or what to do in an emergency. One year later after receiving CCRI services, Suzy can recite her address, phone number and she now knows a great deal of information about what to do in many types of emergencies and how to dial 911. CCRI has definitely made an impact in her life.

CCRI Participates in the F-M Holiday Lights Parade



CCRI's first parade float!

This was our very first parade and as usual the CCRI team started out by setting the bar high. Thanks to Liz Rowinski, Sheri Olerud and a bunch of elves (a.k.a. their coworkers) our float was awesome. It was a festive holiday carriage. We had about 30 people participate in the parade. Some rode on the float while others walked the whole distance handing out candy and greeting the parade on lookers. The parade route started in Moorhead and crossed into Fargo.

CCRI was one of the first businesses we passed since the parade started just outside our front door. We were serving hot chocolate and hot apple cider to a large group of people and the parking lot was packed with family and friends watching the parade enjoying each other's company. We are hoping to make it an annual tradition as it was a wonderful way to kickoff the holiday season.

Everybody Needs a Plan

According to the National Organization on Disability (NOD), "To be better prepared as a nation, we all must do our part to plan for disasters. Individuals with or without disabilities can decrease the impact of a disaster by taking steps to prepare BEFORE an event occurs."

"You are in the best position to know your abilities and needs before, during, and after a disaster."

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Emergency Evaluation and Planning Guide for People with Disabilities advocates that "All people regardless of circumstances, have some obligation to be prepared to take action during an emergency and to assume responsibility for their own safety." Talking about what to do with others in your life is the first step to being safe in a crisis. For the full article, tips on how to create a home plan, a safety checklist and other resources, please go to the Minnesota State Council on Disability web site listed below:

www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=MSCOD

Volunteers at Work

In 2009, volunteers provided thousands of dollars of manpower sharing their "time & talents" with CCRI and those we serve. Our mission is enhanced tremendously by their generosity. Because of volunteers, the people we serve are enjoying opportunities they might not have access to on their own.

Because of **C**hione, eighty-three year-old Clarence is able to continue his relationship with his significant other even though neither of them is able to drive and Clarence lives in a nursing home. Chione frequently transports his significant other to see Clarence. Seeing each other face to face has meant so much to them and has become the highlight of their week.

Angela generously offered to take professional photographs of many of the people we serve for their holiday greeting cards at her professional studio on a Saturday. The sessions were short, but fun! Each person paid a nominal fee of \$5 for a professional sitting and received a CD of their photos. The photos could be taken anywhere to be developed. Angela even had a hair dresser present to help assist with hair and makeup.

Thanks to several **S**cheels **E**mployees, twenty of the people CCRI serves were able to make handmade holiday greeting cards for their family and friends. Heidi, Amy and Monica brought all of the supplies, holiday music and their expertise for a fun Saturday afternoon activity. Everyone was still talking about the great time they had several days later. Thanks to these volunteers, many families and friends enjoyed beautiful cards from their loved ones.

Minnesota **C**ommunity & **T**echnical **C**ollege's **B.P.A.** (Business Professionals of America) Club went to many of our homes so they were in tip top shape for the winter. On a chilly fall morning a group of students went from house to house, cleaning windows, cleaning gutters and moving refrigerators & stoves to clean behind them. This was an awesome gift.

The **L**ittle **D**onny and the **G**roove **T**ones band volunteered to play great music at our annual Walk & Roll-a-thon fundraiser. In addition, several college student volunteers spent that Saturday helping with the games, serving food and clean-up.

Our annual Client Appreciation event had 19 **S**tudent **V**olunteers who helped in many ways from peeling 400 pounds of potatoes, slicing 15 pounds of onions, carving turkey, setting tables, washing dishes, you name it. The event has gotten so large; we couldn't possibly coordinate everything without their help.

CCRI's twelve member **B**oard of **D**irectors volunteer every month for two or more hours. They are all busy professionals who sign on for a three year term to share their expertise to ensure sound governance of the agency.

Thank you to all of our hard working volunteers. You have helped us in our mission to enhance and enrich the lives and learning of people with disabilities. Together, we can achieve greater results...bring excitement to every day...make an impact in the community...help those in need...and make a difference!

If you would like to learn about volunteer opportunities available at CCRI, contact Rhonda King at 218-331-2002.

One day only - Thurs. Feb. 11, 2010

Give your heart to people with disabilities on Giving Hearts Day!



*Give
from the
Heart!*

We support people with disabilities by providing:

Recognition of each persons abilities and talents,

Improved quality of life,

Encouragement to follow their dreams,

Community resource utilization and integration,

Support & stability for those who may be homeless or

Suffer from a mental health issue

to Experience Life's Possibilities

DOUBLE YOUR \$\$ DONATION TO CCRI on GIVING HEARTS DAY!

On **Giving Hearts Day**, Dakota Medical Foundation will match your online contributions of \$10 or more. All donations must be made through the impactgiveback.org web site to qualify for the match. Donations must be received between the hours of 12 midnight to 11:59 pm Thursday.

Donations must be made online and will not qualify if they are not made through the impactgiveback.org web site during the hours stated above.

HERE'S HOW:

Just a few quick clicks with your mouse makes donating easy-

Step 1: On Thursday 2/11/10 visit www.impactgiveback.org

Step 2: Click on the **Giving Hearts Day** donation button

Step 3: From the list, find CCRI & click the donate button next to CCRI



PRST STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Non Profit Org
Permit #556
Moorhead, MN

Return Service Requested

The mission of CCRI is to enhance and enrich the lives and learning of people with disabilities.

The vision of CCRI is to provide an environment where people of all abilities may experience life's possibilities.

CCRI LEADERSHIP TEAM

CCRI Board of Directors

Jim Danielson - *President*
Julie Herman - *Vice President*
Barb Matthees - *Secretary*
Tom Holtgrewe - *Treasurer*

Sharon Grugel Dave Lysne Char Gust
Deb Kukowski Hal Wentzel Catie Herman
Roger Erickson Harriette McCaul

CCRI Sr. Leadership

Rhonda King, Executive Director	21 Years
Lynette Weber, Options Director	18 Years
Shannon Bock, Director of Programs	15 Years
Sue Lopez, SLS Director	13 Years
Jody Hudson, Development Director	10 years
Mark McGuigan, Business Manager	8 years
Carmel Froemke, ARMHS Director	6 years
Andrea Ryan, HR Director	3 years

Mark Your Calendars

*Thursday,
February 11, 2010
is
Giving Hearts Day*

*Please visit www.impactgiveback.org
and click on the Giving Hearts Day
button to make a donation.*

**Dakota Medical Foundation will
match online contributions of
\$10 or more to CCRI.**