

Family Outreach Community Center

News Letter

144 Friends Of FOCC!

We have envelopes numbered from 1-144.

(That's the easy part!) Now, here's where you come in!

We are looking for 144 friends of FOCC to adopt an envelope. When you choose an envelope, it means that you are volunteering to be responsible for coming up with the dollar amount on the numbered envelope.

So, if you have envelope #1 you would commit to \$1. If you have #2 you would be committing to \$2, and so on. The highest numbered envelope is 144, so the most anyone would commit to is \$144.

All donations are tax-deductible, and checks may be made out to "FOCC." Also, you do not have to come up with the money on your own. Ask your friends, family, club or group members to join you.

Like surprises?

We can pick an envelope for you! You wouldn't know the amount you are committing to, but the minimum it could be is a \$1 and the maximum it could be is \$144.

Also, did I mention 5 lucky envelopes have a gift card from one of our amazing Henderson County restaurants enclosed?

Just give us a call at **309.924.1872** or message us on Facebook and we can send you your envelope with the number you have requested.

It will be stamped & self addressed to make it easy for you.

Thank you so much for assisting us in this fundraiser!

We are so fortunate to be part of such a caring and generous community.

Current & Upcoming Events:

144 Neighbors Who Care Fundraiser

The planting of our community garden the beginning of May

Lunch Pals will be starting up the second week of June.

Please look for the sign up slip that will be sent home with WC students.



Birthday Blessings

A couple weeks ago our board member Hannah shared an idea for a birthday kit with us. Junior Miss West Central Islia named it 'Birthday Blessings.' It contains an aluminum cake pan holding cake mix, frosting and birthday candles. One of our volunteers,



Sharon, had also seen the idea and brought us everything we would need for it. Then another volunteer Mary put them together for our clients to pick up. Islia took it a step further and started asking for donations for these items that can be delivered to Fishers, Family Outreach Community Center or Islia's home.. It is very nice to be able to have the whole birthday cake kits because sometimes we get cake mixes and sometimes we get frosting. However, by having everything in one kit for our clients it allows us to be able to bless families who can't always afford to buy a cake.

Meet Our New VISTAS

For those of you who have been with us for a while know that Jennifer Salyers has retired after 3 successful terms as an Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs AmeriCorps VISTA. She's been an amazing addition to our organization and will be missed!

In August Trisha Forquer started her term as a AmeriCorps VISTA and does an amazing job helping run FOCC. She is the program and event coordinator and food manager.

In February Megan Buster started her term as an Americorps VISTA and is a great addition. Megan is the clothing manager and also helps out in the food pantry.

Both girls walk clients through our pantry and are always available to help with anything our clients need. They also will both be working in the garden this summer to help provide our clients with healthier eating options.



Pictured are Trisha Forquer (right) and Megan Buster (Left)

FOCC'S 2020 Year in Review

In January, Jennifer attended the Midwest Food Bank Annual meeting. We went to Midwest on the 14th and River Bend on the 28th. Jennifer and Cheyenne went to West Central Elementary School and did a Martin Luther King Jr. project with the 1st grade class.

In February, we went to Midwest on the 11th and River Bend on the 21st. We hosted a successful Trivia Night on the 22nd.

In March we went to Midwest on the 10th and River Bend on the 13th and the 27th. On the 16th we filled backpacks for two weeks, not knowing what was ahead. After we had several questionably sick clients come in, we locked our door on March 23 and started pre-packing boxes for our clients. When they called in we added their choice of cereal and meat, and brought their food upstairs to them. Also in March we advertised for Summer VISTAs.

In April we went to Midwest on the 14th and River Bend on the 17th. We started the Spring fundraiser 144 Neighbors Who Care. We also started interviewing for the summer VISTAs. Julie did a diaper distribution in Biggsville for Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank. We were notified by River Bend Food Bank that after receiving a grant, they would credit our April statement whatever we spent in March.

In May, we went to Midwest on the 12th. Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau started delivering 30 half gallons of milk to us every

other week. River Bend received a portion of the over a million dollars that was raised in the telethon 'Sing for Their Supper' and gave us a credit of \$1000. Raritan State Bank celebrated 100 years and donated a portion of the proceeds they received through their 'Raritan State Bank - 100 Years, 100 Dollars' to us. Security Savings also gave us a very generous donation.

In June we went to Midwest on the 9th and River Bend on the 26th. We unlocked our door on June 1, but asked that all clients wear masks. We marked the floor for distancing and we disinfected the grocery carts after every use. We started Lunch Pals in June, taking 4 days worth of meals to Oquawka on Tuesdays and having Stronghurst pick up here on Thursdays. We fed 18 families each week through July. At the end of June, the infamous Bruno the Bear cut through our back yard on his journey to Missouri.

In July we went to Midwest on the 14th and River Bend the 31st. We had 3 strong candidates for our summer VISTA's but because of covid they were unable to start. Jennifer and Julie survived the pandemic and the summer together, with only our garden suffering. We are thankful for all the experienced gardeners that shared their produce with us. We received a generous grant from the Twomey Foundation.

In August we went to Midwest on the 11th and River Bend on the 14th. Trisha Forquer started as a VISTA. We were nominated for 'What's Good in the Neighborhood' tour sponsored by Menke & Company and the 101.7 The Bull. We had a nice crowd of people

coming and going through the broadcast. We filled 47 backpacks with school supplies for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

In September we went to Midwest on the 15th and River Bend on the 3rd. Trisha and Julie set up our cotton candy booth at The Belted Cows Fall Festival.

In October we went to Midwest on the 13th and River Bend on the 9th. We were the recipients of several gifts for Alicia's Act of Kindness Day. The Boy Scouts Trick or Treated for food and donated over 500 pounds of food, diapers, paper products and money.

In November we went to Midwest on the 10th and River Bend on the 23rd. The Stronghurst UP Church donated blankets along with FS gift cards to give out with the holiday food baskets. We received a generous grant from the Moline Foundation. A 1995 Mercury Mystique with only 39000 miles on it was donated to us. We also received a donation of a very nice toddlers kitchen set and a climb & crawl block set, which we raffled off virtually. The Illinois State Police District 14 held a Fill the Trailer food drive. Officers Brendan Schaley and Brian Backstrom brought over 300 pounds of food to us.

In December we went to Midwest on the 8th and River Bend on the 11th. Jenni & DL decorated their flatbed truck for the Stronghurst Lighted Christmas parade. We filled 47 holiday baskets for our clients and West Central's Angel Tree program. West Central had a food drive with teachers getting the most food in their box receiving a

pie in their face, and FOCC received 100+ pounds of food.

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