

Annual Report 2019

Mission Statement: *To provide short-term financial assistance to residents of River Falls and Ellsworth to help them meet their basic needs.*

2019 Statistics At A Glance

Rent Assistance	\$36,450	124 Households
Utilities Assistance	\$28,000	141 Households
Transportation Assistance	\$20,000	316 Households
Other	\$ 4,400	37 Households
Phone calls received	1,100	

Assistance & Resource Center has been helping clients since 2009

98 cents of every dollar received by ARC goes to service clients

ARC is the primary resource in the community providing financial assistance in a timely manner. Now in our 11th year, the results show that evictions and utility disconnections have diminished significantly. ARC's continuing effort to provide dollars for car repair and gas, work boots and uniforms, childcare, and required licensing and certifications have resulted in an increased number of clients obtaining and maintaining employment. The goal is to keep the client as an active participant in the solution while relieving the immediate stress of the situation. The client service coordinator works directly with the provider/vendor to determine how best to financially support the client with a "hand-up", rather than a "hand-out." Twelve dedicated phone volunteers process hundreds of calls each year.

ARC's Services

The heart of ARC is the ability to address each request individually. If a request is brought to ARC for a service that we don't already provide, the board discusses the feasibility of adding it to our ever-expanding list. A birth certificate, license tabs, U-Haul rental, septic system pumping, firewood, duplicate driver's license, payment on a delinquent lunch account or childcare account, whatever the need, we encourage people to reach out for help.

- Mom misses a week of work because her kids were ill. ARC helped with the cost of laundering bed linens, clothing, and towels, gas cards to get to the follow up doctor appointments, the purchase of OTC meds and Pedialyte, and made a partial payment on the utility bill.
- A single parent fell behind on the Kid's Club payment during the summer months when the child attended the full day program. The balance needed to be current before the child could register for the fall before/after school program. ARC was able to pay the past due summer balance so the child could remain in the program and the parent could continue to go to work.

Tough choices are made everyday by hardworking people, many of whom are living paycheck to paycheck. Does the rent get paid? Can the utility bill be ignored? Can I keep driving on these tires? ARC is the hand-up for households to get back on track and work on a plan going forward.

Thank You For Your Support

2019 Donors – Foundation, Business, Community, and Individual Support

Abundant Life Church
 Alice Lindquist Family Trust
 Allina Foundation
 Amazon Smile
 AnnMarie Foundation
 ARC Board of Directors
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 Bob & Jane Jeffrey
 Carolyn Johnson
 Cathy Cliffe
 Charlie Wilelius & Ann Bellows
 Crossroad Community Church
 Cruisin for a Cause River Falls
 Dale & Kathy Sears
 Doug & Nancy Weiss
 Edina Realty Office of River Falls
 Eidsvold Lutheran Church
 English Lutheran Church
 Ezekiel Lutheran Church
 Family Fresh/Spartan Nash

First Congregational Church
 First Covenant Church
 First National Bank River Falls
 Henkel Foundation
 Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
 JoAnn Lentz
 Judy & Doug Fahrendorff
 Judy Erickson
 Kinni Café
 Knights of Columbus, 4902
 Kwik Trip
 Luther Memorial Church
 Mei Mei's Cookies & Creamery
 Otto Bremer Trust
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church
 Patrick Murphy
 Pierce Pepin Cooperative
 Red Wing Shoes Foundation
 River Falls Community Fund
 River Falls Fighting Fish

River Falls Garden Club
 River Falls Municipal Utility
 River Falls Rotary Club
 Rush River Lutheran Church
 St. Bridget Catholic Church
 St. Bridget CCW
 St. Croix Electric Cooperative
 St. Francis Catholic Church
 St. Paul's UCC
 Susan Carroll
 The River Church
 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 Traveler's Insurance
 Truist
 United Methodist Church
 United Methodist Women
 UWRF Marketing/Comm Dept.
 Viola E. Lundeberg Trust
 WESTconsin Credit Union



Edina Realty



Allina Foundation



River Falls Community Foundation



1st National Bank River Falls

ARC is a 100% Volunteer Organization

ARC Board



Judy Perkins, Leslie Clauss, Tammy Pitzen, Lori Rodewald, Cindy Testa, Ronna Ellis, Sharon Schulze

Phone Volunteers

Leslie Clauss	JoAnn Lentz
Cathy Cliffe	Rosemary Matzek
Diane Crist	Lanette Place
Sue Danielson	Don Richards
Dori Holter	Karen Rickard
Henri Jansa	Julie Swenson

Board Support

Peter Carr, Grant Writer
Jim Ellis, Finance Committee
Kayla Fullington, Webpage Manager
Dianne Hickok, Finance Committee, Tax Preparer
Patricia Kjosa, Data Entry
Charity Purfeerst, Facebook Manager

ARC also has many volunteers “on call” to help with fundraising events.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” Winston Churchill

How You Can Make a Difference

Make a positive change in the lives of those struggling to meet their basic needs with a gift of your time and/or the gift of money. If you know of an individual or family needing assistance, encourage them to call ARC at 715.338.0755.

We realize the value of time and are grateful to those who are willing and able to support ARC. Whether your schedule allows you to commit to specific call shifts, to attend board meetings, or to volunteer from home by applying for grants, we welcome your participation. ARC is a 100% volunteer organization.

Volunteer: If you would like to be a phone volunteer, please call 715.338.0755. If you have an interest in joining the ARC Board of Directors or to provide support as a committee member, please call 715.222.6133.

Donate: To make a monetary donation, mail a check to ARC P.O. Box 223 River Falls, WI 54022 or visit our website and donate through PayPal.

Thank you for your support!

Angels on Earth Giving Tree Christmas Gift Program

Angels on Earth Giving Tree Program for Kids helped to make Christmas special for children in the River Falls school district who might otherwise have gone without presents. ARC, sponsors, churches, elementary schools, businesses, and dozens of volunteers under the coordination of Angels' Chairperson, Tammy Pitzen, provided gifts for 157 families which included 384 children.



Messages and Thanks From ARC Clients

"I was in a situation where I needed my car repaired again for the second time this month. After spending more than I had available I needed to ask for help. ARC provided me with the assistance to get my car fixed. I am so blessed to have this opportunity to be able to get my car repaired. Thank you so much, this is a great organization that is available to many other people who are in need of help!"

"Words cannot express my appreciation and gratitude for all you do."

"I just wanted to express my appreciation. You guys helped me to get certified in Wisconsin from Illinois so I can be able to go back to work after I have my baby so I can provide for my family."

"Thank you so much for helping us out by paying for our bookwork to further our careers. It means so much to all of us."

"You are amazing! I am grateful for ARC and love what you stand for!"

"I want to thank you for helping me out during a great time of need. Being a single mom and in-between jobs, coming up with the money to fix my transmission would have been impossible without your help. I'm proud to live in a community that looks out for one another."

"Thank you so much for helping me with my utility bill. I am so grateful and thankful. I appreciate your assistance more than you know."

"I would like to take the time to thank ARC from the bottom of my heart. I was in need of some assistance in getting my utility bill up to date. While searching and trying to find options and (or) ways to avoid asking for help, I accepted that I was indeed, in need of help so I made the call."

