

Annual Report 2020

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

2020 Statistics At A Glance

Rent Assistance	\$52,700	140 Households
Utilities Assistance	\$23,660	125 Households
Transportation Assistance	\$16,400	207 Households
Other	\$ 5,700	65 Households

Over \$98,000 of financial assistance for ARC clients

Assistance & Resource Center has been helping clients since 2009

98 cents of every dollar received by ARC goes to financial assistance for clients

ARC is the primary resource in our communities providing financial assistance in a timely manner. Now in our 12th year, the results show that utility disconnections and evictions have diminished significantly. An increased number of clients have obtained and are maintaining employment as ARC continues to provide dollars for gas and vehicle repair, work boots and uniforms, childcare, and required licensing and certifications. The goal is to keep the client as an active participant in the solution while relieving the immediate stress of the situation. Working with the provider/vendor, a plan is formulated to provide financial assistance within 24-48 hours of documentation of need on how best to support the client with a "hand-up", rather than a "hand-out".

ARC's Services

The heart of ARC is the ability to address each request individually. Whatever the need, we encourage people to reach out for help. ARC fills the requests that other organizations are unable to: license tabs, titling and registration of vehicles, birth certificate replacement, duplicate driver's license, an air conditioner, food and personal hygiene items, phone & minutes, and more.

A single parent with 4 children was notified that she was at the top of the list for income-based housing and if she could get the funds together, her move in date could be as soon as 2 weeks. She needed the first month's rent, security deposit, and moving costs. ARC was there to pay the first month's rent and pay the cost of renting a trailer to move the family's belongings.

ARC received a call from a school counselor asking for help providing mattresses for 4 children who were sleeping on the floor. Working with Mattress Galaxy, ARC paid for 4 new mattresses and pads. The delivery and linens were generously donated by the vendor.

Community means all of us working together. Together we can do much!

Thank You 2020 Donors!

Abundant Life Church
 Alice Lindquist Family Trust
 Amazon Smile
 American Family Insurance
 Amy Foster
 AnnMarie Foundation
 ARC Board of Directors
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 Beverly Hoppe
 Bob & Jane Jeffrey
 Brian & Valerie Manion
 Carolyn Johnson
 Cathy Cliffe
 Charlie Wilelius & Ann Bellows
 Christine Bestul (Scentsy)
 Crossroad Community Church (C3)
 Dale & Kathy Sears
 Doug & Nancy Weiss
 Eidsvold Lutheran Church
 Ellsworth Birthday Club
 English Lutheran Church
 Ezekiel Lutheran Church
 Family Fresh/Spartan Nash
 First Congregational Church

First Covenant Church
 First National Bank River Falls
 Green Bay Packers Foundation
 Henkel Foundation
 Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
 Janet Hansen
 JoAnn Lentz
 Journey Church of River Falls
 Judy & Doug Fahrendorff
 Judy Erickson
 Julie Gornson
 Knights of Columbus, 4902
 Kwik Trip
 Luther Memorial Church
 Lynn & Dennis Linder
 Mattress Galaxy
 Melissa Miller
 Mei Mei's Cookies & Creamery
 Nancy Foley
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church
 Patrick Murphy
 Pierce Pepin Cooperative
 Red Wing Shoes Foundation
 River Falls Community Fund

River Falls Garden Club
 River Falls Municipal Utility
 River Falls State Bank
 River Falls Sunshine Fund
 Rush River Lutheran Church
 St. Bridget Catholic Church
 St. Bridget CCGW
 St. Croix Electric Cooperative
 St. Croix Valley Foundation
 St. Francis Catholic Church
 St. Francis Friendship Fund
 St. Paul's UCC
 Steven Rosaaen & Dana-Lynn Terry
 Susan Carroll
 The River Church
 Traveler's Insurance
 Turnkey Corrections
 United Methodist Church
 United Methodist Women
 Valley Pools & Spa of Hudson
 Vanguard Charitable
 Viola E. Lundeborg Trust

United Way
 St. Croix Valley



1st National Bank River Falls



St. Croix Valley Foundation &
 River Falls Community
 Foundation



Mei Mei's Cookies &
 Creamery



St. Croix Valley United Way



Turnkey Corrections



Pierce Pepin Cooperative

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 Kjos, Data Entry
Charity Purfeerst, Facebook Manager

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

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." Desmond Tutu

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 at **www.arcriverfalls.org** and donate through PayPal.

Thank you for your support!

Angels on Earth Giving Tree Christmas Gift Program



Our 2020 Season
173 families served
397 happy children

32% of the families were new to the program

Grocery Cards
gifted totaled
over \$19,870

Fuel cards
gifted totaled
over \$3,200

Did you know?

An average of \$125 is spent on each child for gifts and clothing. These items are purchased and donated by community members.

This year these donations were estimated to be around \$49,625!

The Angels on Earth Giving Tree Program provides holiday help for families in need in the River Falls community. To qualify for this program the family must reside in River Falls and/or have children enrolled in the school district. Almost every application stated how Covid-19 has affected their family. Jobs were lost, or job hours were cut adding stress and financial strain during the season. Thank you to the generous donors who make this program possible.

Local Economic Impact of COVID-19

Combining the generosity of our donors with the flexibility of ARC volunteers, services continue without disruption. ARC formulated a plan in March 2020 to respond to the changing needs during the pandemic and we were able to implement that plan without adding any stress or confusion for our clients. ARC never decreased hours of service, rather, hours and services increased. Additional financial support earmarked for COVID-19 relief, allowed ARC to increase the frequency and the dollar amount to clients.

The ARC Board of Directors discussed adding services that historically, we have not provided. For example, ARC is receiving an increased number of calls from folks experiencing homelessness for the first time. As households in River Falls and Ellsworth strain to get through each day faced with the challenge of children at home, hours cut, jobs eliminated and illness, they are no longer able to have that friend or family member(s) sleep on the couch or the floor. ARC has made exceptions to our guidelines by providing motel stays, gas cards and vehicle repair, uniforms/work boots and food cards to these folks without a permanent address.

Clients facing food insecurity are referred to the River Falls and Pierce County Food Pantries, both doing their best to meet the increasing demands. ARC is able to purchase food or to provide a grocery gift card for those in immediate need. Callers who reside outside the ARC service area are directed to United Way St. Croix Valley 211, an excellent source for area resources.

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