

Mission and Programs

Founded in 1991, Community Chest, Inc. serves the greater Northwestern Nevada area with a myriad of prevention programs and formerly, two statewide initiatives: K-12 service-learning and homeless youth education. Our mission is “to act as a catalyst for change and a center for resources to help people help themselves, as together we build healthy families and communities.” Community Chest is a United Way Partner agency with a staff of 20 full and part-time employees, 20 youth employees, and 20-plus regular volunteers. Our annual operating budget is \$1,398,363. Community Chest, Inc. was twice a semi-finalist for the Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Award (2001 and 2002). This year Community Chest celebrates its 22nd year of building community at home and abroad.

Our programs serve the entire age span— from early childhood education to nutrition for seniors— but the primary focus of our work is building healthy youth, families, and communities.

Program Accomplishments

Program Accomplishments in 2012

We celebrated our 21st year of building community at home and abroad with the opening of the Community Center. Now that the first phase of the building has been completed, we have started fundraising to build Phase Two. Health Access Washoe County (our medical clinic), the before and after-school programs for 30+ youth, the Comstock Youth Works schools for at-risk youth, and many community groups utilize the building.

We successfully expanded the Comstock Youth Works summer youth employment and year-round education support program with 50 students in Storey and Lyon Counties and the Comstock Out-of-School Youth program with 8 students (the program serves students who have dropped out of school).

We partnered with the District Attorney’s Office to improve victim services (they are now co-located at CCI).

The Nevada Afterschool Network (NAN) sponsored legislation (that was passed) to adopt out-of-school program standards. These standards will be piloted with ten programs across the state this year. NAN is housed at Community Chest.

We completed a comprehensive summer program for 40+ youth ages 5-12 that included recreation, social skills building, and substance abuse prevention.

We partnered with Lyon County School District’s Striving Readers Program to expand the COW Bus program by two buses and one more teacher. The 5 buses serve 6 sites in

Storey and Lyon Counties. The COW Buses are mobile classrooms that come to each community on a weekly basis and serve a total of 140 students.

We led four community-based initiatives to end poverty and hunger/homelessness in Humboldt, Nye, Mineral and Pershing Counties.

We served over 300 youth and seniors with our community health clinic partner, Health Access Washoe County. We are delighted that Health Access Washoe County operates the health clinic in the new Community Center.

We promoted economic development with the monthly VC Business Tips newsletter—and four computers, a printer, and Xerox machine that are available to all community members free of charge.

We served 20 individuals per week in our Food Closet, over 30 families during Christmas and 30 during families during Thanksgiving, and provided free nutritious snacks to 30+ K-6 youth per month in the elementary program.

We provided counseling services to approximately 70 clients over the past year in many areas: personal, family, drug and alcohol prevention, domestic violence, and youth development. We expanded the counseling/domestic violence program to Silver Springs.

We moved nine tons of books into storage when the Storey County Public Library closed. Fifteen volunteer librarians thinned the collection and about one-half of it was returned to the high school (its former location). We will try to get the library re-opened in 2013 on a limited basis and turn it over to a non-profit board to run.

We will lead a Global Voice service-learning trip to Costa Rica in early January 2013. Eight young people will work in an orphanage in La Fortuna for two weeks.

We assisted with six Get Real and Teen Screen Days in Lyon County High Schools—prevention activities designed to give young people the coping skills they need.

We assisted with the Medical Outreach Event that provided medical and dental services to 500 people in Lyon County.

We expanded employment case management services to two full-time people who work at four sites in Storey and Lyon County. We expect to employ 50 people this year.

Revenue Streams

The majority of our funds come from grants, contracts, and fees for services. The grants and contracts are federal, state, and local. Foundation support accounts for about 10% of our annual revenue. There were no audit findings in the 2011 audit; the 2012 audit will be completed shortly (as will the 2012, 990-tax return).