

Community Chest 2015 Annual Report

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 40 full and part-time employees, 20 youth employees, and 20-plus regular volunteers. Our annual operating budget is \$1,848,154. 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 24th 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 in 2015

Now that the first phase of the Community Center building has been completed, we have nearly completed fundraising to build Phase Two. The center houses a health clinic, the before and after-school programs for 60+ elementary and middle school youth, the county library, counseling and case management services, and many community groups who utilize the building for classes, meetings, exercise, etc.

We successfully expanded the G.A.M.E. (Guidance, Academics, Mentoring, and Employment, formerly called Out-of-School Youth) program to Lyon County with 20 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) and successfully completed the Domestic Violence Audit with the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney, and the Justice of the Peace.

We completed a comprehensive summer program for 60+ 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 services to offer pre-K education and literacy curriculum for families in Lyon County who otherwise do not have access to preschool for their children. The COW Buses are mobile classrooms that visit various rural northwestern Nevada communities on a weekly basis and serve a total of 140 students. We also successfully expanded the program into Tonopah and now have a 5th bus serving families in that community, in addition to serving various sites in Storey and Lyon Counties.

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 hosted non-profit leaders from Belarus and Pakistan in conjunction with the Northern Nevada International Center.

Counselors, case managers, and interns moved into the community center to start the Health Hub

Hosted our sixth and most successful "Night to Imagine" fundraiser featuring Suzy Bogguss.

Opened our Fernley office for out-of-school youth (G.A.M.E. program), domestic violence advocacy, and case management.

Goals

- Complete phase two of the community center
- Restore library to full operation
- Expand maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs to serve an additional 20 families
- Provide full service counseling and case management in our Fernley office, including accepting Medicaid clients