

Community Chest 2020 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 for calendar year 2020 was \$2,509,933. Community Chest, Inc. was twice a semi-finalist for the Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Award (2001 and 2002).

In 2020, Community Chest celebrated its 30th 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 Highlights in 2020

One of the biggest accomplishments was that Community Chest was able to retain ALL of its employees throughout the trials and tribulations of COVID-19. This was not due to any one strategy, but to multiple: our Deputy Director was trained on all things COVID-safety related; we minimized risk through cross-training and then ensuring those who were cross-trained maintained as much social distance from one another as possible to mitigate any possible transmission; we pulled staff from programs unable to function (COW Bus) into those that were (onsite early childhood education center and youth programs); we ensured that all of our staff had access to at least two weeks of COVID-related time off; we quickly trained-up many of our staff to provide services via telehealth and virtual platforms; we instituted regular check-in opportunities for staff members to receive ongoing emotional and social support from coworkers and agency leaders; and, more.

And through it all, many of our programs served as many, if not more clients than they'd ever served previously.

We continued to provide counseling services via telehealth to more than 200 clients over the past year in many areas: personal, family, drug and alcohol prevention, domestic violence, and youth development. While this is more clients than we've ever previously served, what is perhaps more telling is that the number of counseling sessions more than doubled from 1,000 the year prior to more than 2,000 this year. As well, we are now not only substantially providing counseling services to both Storey and Lyon counties, but Mineral County as well.

Along those same lines, our DV Advocacy program serving victims of domestic violence across ALL of Storey and Lyon counties saw the number of victims it served increase by 72% compared to the year prior with more than 60 victims served in September, 2020 alone.

Unfortunately, due to the need keep both the public and staff safe, the Fernley building was largely shutdown to face-to-face contact which has severely impacted the GAME Program for out-of-school youth. The staff has had to become doubly creative at finding ways to engage an already-difficult-to-engage population.

Likewise, our COW Bus program which pre-COVID had upwards of 4 buses on the road providing early childhood education services to 100+ children and their family members in isolated rural areas also had to shut down as their interior spaces were not amenable to conducting classes in a way that would keep both staff and students safe. These buses have continued to be maintained, and we are hopeful that we'll soon be able to get at least one rolling early in 2021.

On the positive side, we rented our first official office space in Mineral County. With room enough for three staffers to have their own offices, a reception area, and a group room, there is more than enough room to grow the multitude of expanding services currently offered including in-home case management for families of little ones under 5, employment case management for those looking for work and training, community facilitation and leadership for developing capacity to address the opioid crisis, and community health worker support for those needing connection to available resources.

Even though we had to cap enrollment at 50%, our before-and-after school and summer programs provided a much needed safe space for students from grades 1 – 8 to receive vital social connection and support. With the struggle of virtual learning on our youth, we were able to provide one-on-one assistance with classes, homework, and mentoring.

We hosted a celebration kicking off our 30th anniversary with nearly 300 people from around the world joining us on a Zoom concert by a very talented and soulful band, Birds of Chicago.

Even with COVID, the County Library space continued to be utilized. It had functioned as additional classroom space during the summer so that we could serve more children; and, it has served as a “pop up” clothing store when we received a truckload of clothing donations from Zulily. And even though the physical space was closed to patrons, the number of library card holders increased nearly 30% from 139 last year to 177 this year, driven in large part due to the various e-platforms available.

We have seen the need for food skyrocket during the pandemic and saw our single largest number of individuals served in December with more than 200 being provided with some type of food assistance. As well, we have continued to support the schools in providing snacks and meals to 40+ students across all four Storey County schools.

Our Angel Tree program also saw need increase dramatically in 2020. Compared to 2019, the number of people served increased by 25% to 150 people who were provided a warm clothing item. This year was nothing short of a miracle to coordinate all of the presents/gifts with distributing them to those in need, with the social-distancing guidelines, but our staff found a way.

Thanks to a second exam room, our partners in our new Community Center’s primary health care clinic – Nevada Health Centers – provided services to more than 400 patients, our highest annual total ever. Telehealth services accounted for 8% of all such visits.

Our case management programs received more funding than prior years as we continued to offer expanded employment case management services with three full-time people who work at four sites in Storey and Lyon County. Our case

management programs were also able to grow into both Mineral and Churchill counties. In 2020, we were able to provide direct employment training and other assistance to more than 50 people. Case management staff found themselves assisting many more clients by helping people enroll in pandemic unemployment assistance, and helping seniors sign up for their COVID-19 vaccinations.

Our licensed early childhood education center in Storey County has been at max capacity (at the reduced COVID limit) since it reopened in the Spring of 2019. This means that we are serving 18 little ones daily.

We continued the Nevada Family First programs in Storey, Lyon, Carson, and Hawthorne by moving to virtual services from the traditional in-home visit. This early childhood outreach program for families with kiddos under five has continued to operate at max enrollment through COVID and social distancing. Virtual connections have even increased participation in group connection attendance by over 50%.

Throughout 2020 Community Chest's operations were deeply impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent social-distancing and capacity restrictions. However, the agency and staff flourished by adapting to new service platforms, being flexible with their delivery of programs, and continuing to meet the needs of our ever-changing community, through all spans of life, and by holding true to the mission and values of Community Chest, Inc.

Community Chest 2020 Annual Report Posted online at
www.communitychestnevada.net/about-us/annual-report/

Additional Financial Information

(From most Form 990 for 2019)

☐ Total Income for 2019:	\$2,509,933
☐ Total Expenses for 2019:	\$2,479,191
☐ Fund Raising Costs for 2019:	\$118,360
☐ Administrative Costs for 2019:	\$183,751
☐ Ending Net Assets for 2019:	\$386,014

Board Roster for 2020

Stacy York, President, term expires December, 2021

Shannon Parsons, Vice President, term expires December 2021

Lucy Pitto, Secretary/Treasurer, term expires December 2021

Michelle Gamble, Director, term expires December 2022

Harriet Cummings, Director, term expires December 2021

Ben Albers, Director, term expires December 2022

Suzanne Valdez, Director, term expires December 2022

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