

Community Chest 2021 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 regular volunteers. Our annual operating budget for calendar year 2020 was \$2,527,247. Community Chest, Inc. was twice a semi-finalist for the Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Award (2001 and 2002).

In 2021, Community Chest celebrated its 31st 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 2021

As with many, we had hoped that 2021 would be the transition to a post-COVID world. Unfortunately, that did not come to pass, which meant that the agency faced the usual organizational challenges for a mid-size and growing nonprofit, overlaid with the stressors and uncertainty of knowing how COVID might impact agency operations. As an illustration of this point, we had two known COVID exposures in Fall of 2021 that resulted in the brief closure of our before and after school elementary and middle school aged children, our Early Childhood Education classroom, and some of our counseling programs. On the plus side, there seems to be more grant funds available with the release of stimulus funds which has helped to ease things a bit.

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 to more than 300, and the number of sessions doubled from 1,000 to 2,000. Both of these numbers are at all-time highs.

One of the highlights of 2021 was reopening our Fernley building to face-to-face contact which has greatly helped the GAME Program for out-of-school youth. The staff continues to be creative at finding ways to engage an already-difficult-to-engage population. We served a total of 25 youth in 2021.

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 and was shut down for 18+ months, has begun reopening with one bus serving 12 kiddos in Mark Twain. Our plan is to get all buses back on the road just as soon as resources allow.

Our office space in Mineral County continues to offer more and more services 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, community health worker support for those needing connection to available resources, and community health worker support to kiddos in the middle and high schools who need a little bit of extra help.

Our before-and-after school and summer programs were once again able to operate at 100% capacity and provided a much needed safe space for students from grades 1 – 8 to receive vital social connection and support. With the ongoing struggle of COVID leading to more social isolation, we were able to provide one-on-one assistance with classes, homework, and mentoring.

We hosted a celebration in June celebrating of our 30th anniversary with nearly 100 people present at our Community Center sharing cake and being serenaded by dozens of little ones singing “Happy Birthday.” As well, we dedicated the “Giving Tree” in honor of the legacy of founding and former executive director, Shaun Griffin.

The County Library space also opened back up to face-to-face services. The number of library card holders increased again this year to 194 (from 177 the year prior), driven in large part due to the various e-platforms available. As well, we were able to hold a dedication to honor the legacy of longtime Storey County librarian, Lucy Bouldin. A beautiful sign renaming the library as “Lucy’s Library” was formally installed.

We have continued to see a high need for food during the pandemic and saw our a large number of individuals served in November and 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 continued high need in 2021 with 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 at least 45 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 2021 Community Chest's operations continued to be affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent social-distancing and capacity restrictions. However, the agency and staff continued to flourish by being resilient and 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 2021 Annual Report Posted online at
www.communitychestnevada.net/about-us/annual-report/

Additional Financial Information

(From most Form 990 for 2020)

<input type="checkbox"/> Total Income for 2020:	\$2,527,247
<input type="checkbox"/> Total Expenses for 2020:	\$2,700,945
<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising Costs for 2020:	\$5,630
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Costs for 2020:	\$500,169
<input type="checkbox"/> Ending Net Assets for 2020:	\$212,316

Board Roster for 2021

Stacy York, President, term expires December, 2023

Shannon Parsons, Vice President, term expires December 2023

Lucy Pitto, Secretary/Treasurer, term expires December 2023

Michelle Gamble, Director, term expires December 2022

Harriet Cummings, Director, term expires December 2023

Ben Albers, Director, term expires December 2022

Suzanne Valdez, Director, term expires December 2022