



FCS Fiftieth Anniversary Newsletter

October 2019

Message from the Executive Director:

Do you remember where you were on July 20, 1969? (If you are old enough, like me, to remember!) It was a Sunday and some time around 11 p.m., Eastern time, Neil Armstrong stepped onto the surface of the moon!

I was with my family in our living room, watching on TV.

About a month earlier, in June of 1969, Pastor Bill Nies and a church member from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, called a meeting of area congregations, with a vision of providing assistance to Falls Church area residents who were facing financial need. At that first meeting, 50 years ago, about 25 people, representing 11 congregations, were in attendance and FCS was born!

By the fall of 1970, FCS had no formal budget, but had established a \$50 weekly "kitty" to assist people.

From this very small and humble beginning, FCS today has a budget of nearly \$180,000 and we work to assist thousands of residents each year with emergency assistance. However, the mission of our community ministry remains the same as it did in 1969; we offer many forms of assistance (rent, utilities, food, furniture, medical, etc.) to area residents who are struggling.

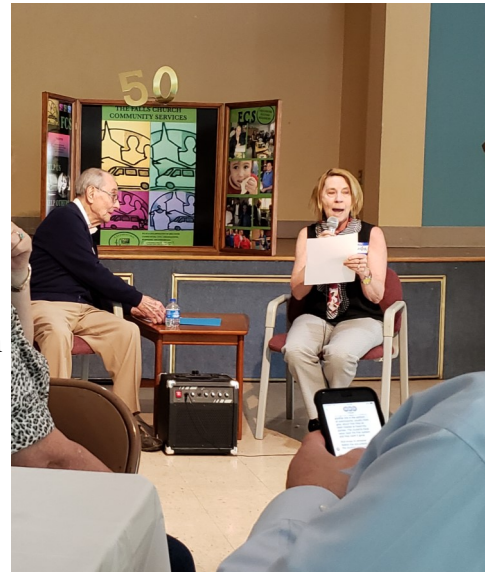
The foundation of FCS remains the same as well. We continue to rely upon the support of nearly 20 faith communities and many individuals who have a heart to help those in need.

We are thrilled to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this incredible community ministry. We are also glad to present you this special, 50th anniversary newsletter and I hope you will take the time to read it over!

Most of all, a huge and sincere "thank you" to the countless number of people, who have supported FCS over the past 50 years; we could not have done it without you!

Gratefully yours,

—Bill Hale



**At the April FCS Luncheon—
An interview with Mel Cotner, about his years of faithful service with FCS.**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Paper goods—
toilet tissue
paper towels
Peanut butter and Jelly
Small bags white rice
Canned fruit
Cereal
Spaghetti sauce
Cleaning supplies
Toiletries
Pantry items may be delivered to Knox Presbyterian at 7416 Arlington Blvd. during the church office hours,

9:30-1 weekdays. Please call before you come, at 703 560-5288.

FURNITURE NEEDS

Dressers/chests, dining tables and chairs; bedframes. **Volunteers are greatly needed to pick up and deliver furniture. We continue to need a Furniture Coordinator to schedule deliveries and pick ups. Please contact us if you can help.**



**Designate your donations to:
United Way #8908 or
CFC #56071**



Mission Statement

The mission of the Falls Church Community Service Council (FCS) is to provide essential human services for those in need in the greater Falls Church area regardless of faith, race or ethnicity.

Falls Church Community Service Council Statement of Activities For Fiscal year Ending June 30, 2019

Income

Fairfax County	\$ 99,261
City of Falls Church	17,321
Faith Communities/General Public	47,084
Other income	<u>11,611</u>
Total support	175,277

Expenses

Program Expenses

Emergency Assistance	91,373
Food Pantry	38,048
Furniture, Clothing, Transportation	<u>17,500</u>
Total Program Expenses	146,921

Administrative Expenses 26,000

Operating Expenses (Audit, Insurance, Office) 7,413

Total Expenses 180,334

FCS Provided Emergency Assistance to Over 2300 People

From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, FCS provided emergency rental assistance to 533 individuals (233 households). FCS provided utility payments to 146 individuals (49 households). Prescription costs were paid by FCS for 7 individuals. Furniture was delivered to 200 individuals (80 households).

Miscellaneous assistance (such as gasoline, clothing vouchers, medical/dental expenses, etc.) was provided to 57 individuals (26 households). Emergency food was delivered to 1200 individuals (475 households), and Thanksgiving deliveries were made to 98 households.

We're on Facebook!

Please go to our Facebook page and like us.



Donate by Credit Card

If you prefer to donate by credit card on-line please go to our website: fcswe care.org and click on the donate button.



**CROP Walk to End Hunger—Sunday, Nov. 3, 1:00 p.m.
Registration at 12:30 p.m. at Lee-Graham Pool park-
ing lot, 7319 Lee Highway, Falls Church, VA 22042**



**How to participate in the Falls
Church CROP Walk to End Hunger**

Go to the CROP website [http://
www.crophungerwalk.org/fallschurchva](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/fallschurchva)

You may find more information, sign up to participate, and make online donations.

Contact Falls Church Community Service Council, Rev. William Hale—703 560-5288 for more information.

**Join us for the 7th Annual CROP
Walk to End Hunger to be held
Sunday, Nov. 3. Registration
12:30 p.m. Walk begins 1:00
p.m.**

CROP walks are neighbors walking together to raise money to take a stand against hunger in our world. Some 2,000 communities across the country take part each year. One quarter of the money raised by the walk goes to our FCS emergency food program, serving families in the Falls Church area (www.fcswecare.org). The other three quarters goes to Church World Service (www.cwsglobal.org) for their food programs in the U.S. and all around the world.



Thanksgiving

Helping Our Neighbors in Need.

with the needy in their communities. These are the organizations who refer clients to us for holiday food. Each household will receive a \$30 gift card.

How can you help? You can still help with our Thanksgiving effort, by donating money to sponsor a family. You can still hold a Thanksgiving food drive—We need food year-round for the emergency food program. And you can still pray for those in our community who are often hungry.

Thank you for your help in the past and for your continued support at Thanksgiving and year-round.

Falls Church Community
Service Council
7416 Arlington Blvd.
Falls Church, VA 22042
703 237-2562
email: fcswe care@aol.com
www.fcswe care.org

For many years FCS has conducted a special Thanksgiving food delivery to families in Falls Church. We took typical Thanksgiving foods, such as pumpkin, cranberry sauce, and sweet potatoes. We packed and then delivered the food baskets on the Saturday before Thanksgiving and included a \$15 gift card, which could be used to buy a turkey.

This year, we have decided to change the program. Our clients are not always familiar with typical American Thanksgiving dishes and sometimes do not have the ability to make a Thanksgiving dinner. Also, we have suffered from a lack of volunteers able to deliver groceries at a very busy time of year. Therefore, this year, we will be distributing gift cards to local organizations familiar

I WANT TO HELP

I would like to help purchase _____ Thanksgiving gift cards.

My check for \$30 per family is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please make checks payable to FCS.

A Grateful Remembrance

As FCS enters its 50th year, I would like to share my motivation for becoming involved with this wonderful organization. As a child growing up with 8 siblings in a small Massachusetts town there were many occasions when food at our home was limited. I vividly remember our church bringing groceries and money to help tide us over during difficult times. My parents both worked but at times it just wasn't enough. Nowadays we would be called the working poor. It was the church family that helped us through the hardest of times. That spirit runs deep within FCS. When I was looking for an organization to work with I knew I wanted to be involved with one that offered basic assistance. The idea that, in 1969, churches came together to help improve the lives of people living in the Falls Church area and their motto of helping families and individuals achieve self-sufficiency, an improved quality of life and avoid homelessness, spoke to me. After all, wasn't that what happened in my family. I remember delivering food to grateful families, assembling Thanksgiving baskets, picking up furniture and many a brainstorming session in someone's living room trying to enhance our programs to continue to serve those who needed it the most.

I will forever be humbled by the dedicated volunteers who answer telephones, write checks to utility companies, fill grocery bags, deliver food and furniture and unconditionally offer a loving hand. To all of you, thank you. **Karen Moore**

Note: Karen served as Program Director from 2006-08, and as President of the FCS Board 2008-09.

To all of our member congregations: Thank you very much for your ongoing support. Many of you donate food and non-food items each month which helps us keep our Food Pantry stocked for the 50 or more deliveries per month. We also greatly appreciate any and all monetary donations. Without your support, we could not help so many of our neighbors in need!



First, to those who helped with the **concessions at Providence Players** performances in June. FCS received a \$500 donation for those efforts, coordinated by FCS Board member, **Catherine Dubas**. Secondly, to the members of the **Falls Church Congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** for collecting and delivering food, money and other items to the FCS Food Pantry on Sept. 21 during their Day of Service. FCS Board member, **Elaine Johnsen**, helped to coordinate this event. Thanks also to Board member, Michael Raizen, for the sizeable food donation from **Temple Rodef Shalom**, which was also collected in September.

Please consider having a fundraiser or food drive for your birthday or special event!!

Last year, an FCS supporter asked that donations be made to FCS via Facebook in lieu of birthday gifts. This generous request resulted in FCS receiving a check for \$480, including a matching donation from Facebook.

Others have held food drives for the FCS food pantry. These are seemingly small, yet important ways, to support the mission of FCS. Every donation, large or small, adds up to a lot of support for our community ministry.



Feeding the Community



FCS Appreciation Luncheon and Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, April 30, 2019





Some old food pantry photos

50 Years of Service

1969-2019

“50th Anniversary Fund”

Would you please consider a special donation of \$50 (or \$5 or \$500) to FCS in honor of our community ministry’s 50 years of helping neighbors in need! Thank you for your support!



Some furniture needs



Members of the FCS Board - early 2000s



**Serving our neighbors in need
since 1969.**

FCS Member Faith Communities

Christ Crossman UMC
The Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day
Saints in Falls Church
Dulin UMC
The Falls Church Anglican
The Falls Church Episcopal
Falls Church Presbyterian
First Christian Church
Galloway UMC
Graham Road UMC
Holy Trinity Lutheran
Idylwood Presbyterian
Knox Presbyterian
The Rock Christian Center
St. James Catholic
Iglesia Santa Maria
St. Mary's Orthodox
St. Patrick's Episcopal
St. Paul's Lutheran
St. Philip Catholic
Sleepy Hollow UMC
Temple Rodef Shalom

Mail-in Donation Form

Please accept my gift of:

◇ \$1,000 ◇ \$500 ◇ \$250 ◇ \$100 ◇ \$50 _____ Other

Payment: Please enclose a check payable to FCS.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

I would like my gift to honor or be in memory of:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

FCS is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are fully tax-deductible. Thank you for your support!

How to contact FCS:

FCS Office
7416 Arlington Blvd.
Falls Church, VA 22042

Phone: 703-237-2562
Email: fcswe care@aol.com
Website: www.fcswe care.org

Looking ahead: The 'Stuff the Bus' Food Drive in collaboration with Fastran, will be held again in late January or early February 2020, at the Giant Food store on Broad Street in the City of Falls Church. Volunteers are needed. Please contact us for more details.

Watch for details of our Annual Clergy and Volunteer luncheon in April of 2020!

FCS is partially funded through Fairfax County's Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) and the City of Falls Church.