

From: Michael Perkins - ARC rifraft12@hotmail.com

Greetings Everyone,

The following is some information concerning the history and purpose of ARC. At our last board meeting we discussed asking our church sponsors to put some or all of the information in their church bulletins. We would very much appreciate if you would consider doing this.

Assistance & Resource Center, Inc.

History

ARC, Assistance & Resource Center, Inc., was formed in 2008 in response to a request made by the Pastors in the community of River Falls. The consensus of the Pastors was that CVIC, an organization established in 1990 to assist the individuals and families in need in River Falls, was having difficulty handling the increased volume of requests, and needed to be updated and revamped. CVIC, Christian Volunteers in Christ, had been staffed and funded by Pastors and volunteers from a number of River Falls churches for eighteen years. However, in 2008, the time and funding necessary to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of available dollars was quickly becoming an almost insurmountable obstacle. As the economy took a downward turn, the requests for financial assistance soared. After many meetings, months of preparation, and countless volunteer hours, CVIC evolved in ARC. ARC was blessed to be able to build upon the foundation laid by CVIC and use the knowledge of the Pastors who had facilitated that process to create an organization for people needing assistance in the River Falls Community. Instead of going from church to church, families and individuals were directed to contact ARC. ARC received its 501(c) 3 status in July 2009. In January 2013, ARC expanded its service territory to include Ellsworth School District.

Our Clients

Families and individuals who call ARC requesting services live in River Falls, Ellsworth and the surrounding communities. They are often referred to ARC by churches, friends, landlords, and utility providers. A typical scenario may be the following: A family where the income just pays the bills. The brakes on the car are a safety issue and are replaced, resulting in the inability to pay the electric and gas bills. The next week, one of the children is ill and mom misses three days of work (unpaid) to care for the child. The electric bill goes unpaid yet again. ARC receives a call from the family that they are facing shut-off notice and need assistance. ARC will work with the client and utility provider to meet the need.

Services

The heart of ARC is the services we provide. In addition to rent, utilities, food, gas, laundry, auto repair, and transportation, we continue to find ways to meet new requests made by our clients. Whether it is the cost of the uniform for a new job, license plate tabs, dental bills, minutes for a tract phone, tires, or any one of an unending number of requests, ARC is committed to doing what we can to serve the community, over \$2000,000 in services to date.

Community Support

The generosity of the River Falls and Ellsworth area churches is a true testament of caring for one another. ARC is exceedingly appreciative for the continued spiritual support, financial support, use of the their facilities, and willingness of staff to assist in whatever way possible. Community organizations and individual donors have also made generous contributions to ARC providing the much needed funds to help individuals and families meet their basic needs. ARC applies for grants and has fundraising events. "Thank you" to the landlords, utility providers, auto repair shops, and other providers whose willingness to help ARC help others is amazing. ARC wants our donors and supporters to know that **96 cents out of each and every dollar donated goes to serve those in need.** We have found that by encouraging our clients to make pay arrangements, do matching payments, and access other available resources, we are able to help stretch the 96 cents even further. **ARC is 100% volunteer. ARC has no paid staff.**

Thank you for considering passing this on to your parishioners and thank you so much for your support. Please keep us in your prayers for our continued journey in helping others.

God Bless
Judy Perkins
ARC Board Member