

## Edgerton Community Outreach, Inc. 2019 Annual Report

Mission: To provide programs and services that help those in need by breaking down barriers that inhibit one's ability to achieve self-sufficiency.

Core Values and Beliefs:

- We value our clients, volunteers, and employees by treating them with respect and equality.
- We value access to the basics of food, clothing, and shelter by providing programs and services for the members of the communities we serve.
- We value being a community resource by serving as a connection with other local programs and services.

Vision: Our vision is a community where all are welcome, fed, clothed, and have a warm place to call home.

ECO currently provides the following programs:

- Food Pantry and Food Share assistance
- Lunch in the Park Summer Feeding Program
- Snack Baggie Program at the Community Elementary School and Yahara Elementary School
- Weekend Grub Club
- Emergency Housing Assistance (motel vouchers, rent assistance, 5 units of Transitional Living)
- Case Management Services ~ Creative Connections Program
- Protective Payee Services
- Utility Payment Assistance
- Seasonal Programs (Easter baskets, school supplies, and Giving Tree gifts for students 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades)
- Strong Hearts Middle School Empowerment group
- ECO Opportunities

The main service area for the Edgerton Outreach Food Pantry is the Edgerton School District but families in Milton are able to visit the pantry if they are not able to access the pantry in Milton during its regular business hours. The Food Pantry served 985 people from 367 households in 2018. Each month approximately 150-175 families visit the pantry. In 2017,

110,630 pounds of food was donated. In 2018 160,938 pounds of food was donated for the pantry! This was accomplished through increased donations from community members, local food drives, local churches, groups and local businesses (Piggly Wiggly, Kwik Trip, and Save A Lot Foods).

The Lunch in the Park Program provides a nutritious lunch four days per week during summer break. 2018 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for the program. Two hundred seventy unduplicated children visited Lunch in the Park last summer and 1796 lunches were served!

ECO is partnered with Emmaus Community Church, Gifts for Kids and community members to start the Weekend Grub Club. This program provides extra food to kiddos on the weekends during the school year. For the first 5 months of 2018; 32 kids representing all local schools were enrolled in the Weekend Grub Club. Through June 2018 1216 meals were provided. Currently 47 children are enrolled in the Weekend Grub Club.

ECO's housing programs, utility assistance program and case management program services families in the North Rock County area through a partnership with Evansville Aware and the Salvation Army. Eight hundred seventy seven people from 304 households received assistance through ECO's Client Services Program (gas voucher, housing service, case management, seasonal programs etc.). In addition over 900 meals were served through our 2 community meals; the Thanksgiving Day Community Meal and Christmas Eve Lunch Community Meal.

The Creative Connections approach to case management was introduced in September 2017. The Creative Connections Program is designed to let us get to know the families we are serving and really be able to meet them where they are at. People that request housing assistance, utility assistance or multiple requests for assistance for personal care items, gas vouchers, and thrift store vouchers are asked if they would like to participate in the program. If they take the opportunity to benefit from this program they are able to meet with staff, address household issues and become eligible for assistance when funding allows. They are also able to enroll into Corner of Cares. This allows people in our Creative Connections program to volunteer and earn credits to "purchase" household items, gift cards, and other donated items. People in Corner of Cares are not able to count volunteer hours toward W2, school or work volunteer requirements or any other program that is requiring them to get volunteer hours at Edgerton Outreach.

Through the Breakfast Program, ECO is providing snack bags of cereal for the students who are not able to purchase breakfast from the school meal service or have forgot their snack for break time. Each week 600-700 baggies of cereal are provided for students at Edgerton Community Elementary School and Yahara Elementary School.

In 2018 ECO was able to add to our Thrift Store staff by hiring a young adult with disabilities. This has been such a blessing to ECO! As ECO moves into 2019 we are expanding our reach

through the creation of the ECO Opportunities Program. The purpose of the program is to provide gainful employment for people with disabilities with the goal of helping them increase independence and to be a productive member of our community. ECO has secured funding to hire a Job Coach to work with our new program participants and ECO has accepted 2 additional young adults into the program.

July 13, 2018 was a very interesting night for Edgerton Outreach. High winds brought down a large section of brick from the front of the building destroying the ramp and front steps. ECO was only closed for 3 days for clean-up and the construction of the temporary front landing. As of January 2019 the construction work is 90% complete! This setback impacted the parking lot project. ECO is working with Batterman Engineering to ensure that the parking lot plan is correct. Goal is to complete this project in 2019!

ECO is continuously grateful for all our volunteers and donors. We are very cognoscente of fact that ECO's success is a direct result of the dedication of our volunteers, community, Board of Directors, and staff.

**United Way Blackhawk Region  
Program Partner**

