This past year has brought to light the true depths of need and striking inequality that exist across the globe. Since 1966, we have fought for equity and brought food, clothing, and basic essentials to our community members most in need. Each of our three locations have undergone transformations in staffing, services, and hours this year. We are more available than ever!

Luisa E. Lema Emergency Food Pantry

This year, our downtown pantry welcomed a new Food Pantry Director and Food Pantry Assistant. Our new Pantry Director, Matt Minkevitch, comes to us with many years of serving people experiencing homelessness. Erika Gee, Pantry Assistant, brings her expertise as a social worker as well as her Crossroads knowledge from being a volunteer and intern prior to joining our staff. Matt and Erika have implemented new programming in an effort to continue meeting the needs of our community. In response to the specific needs of the nearly 60% of our clients who are homeless, we have changed programming to increase access to food, diapers, and transit passes. Crossroads has also furthered our focus on distributing fresh produce by hosting a weekly “farmers market” of grocery rescue product. Finally, Bill Germundson has rejoined our downtown pantry to help support extra programming. We’re excited for his return!

No appointment required to receive services. Donations welcome anytime during business hours.

Crossroads Westside Food Pantry

We are excited to announce that our Westside Food Pantry has extended its hours. The pantry, now open Monday-Friday (closed Wednesday), provides food, diapers, formula, hygiene kits, and vouchers to our thrift store. Our Westside pantry also welcomed a new staff member! Whether she’s hard at work lifting boxes, sorting inventory, or discussing needs with clients, Lilia Flores’ cheerfulness warms the pantry. We are grateful she has joined our team!

Crossroads Thrift Store

Have you visited the Crossroads Thrift Store lately? The store is now open longer hours than it has ever been! Come by and check out some fun, funky items. While our store sells clothing and household items at a low cost, its primary mission is to make sure that those in need in our community have access to them for free - 85% of items are given away at no cost. Vouchers are available at either of our food pantries and can be exchanged for clothing and basic items every month. Our store is also full of new faces! This year, Tess Otero rejoined our staff as the new Thrift Store Manager alongside Danielle Hess, Thrift Store Aide. Tess and Danielle are an amazing team! Donations accepted during business hours.

For hours and contact information of each site, see the back page.
Our Community Cares

In order to serve the many thousands of clients we help each year, Crossroads relies heavily on our amazing community! From donating food, items, and finances to volunteering time to sort, stock, and hand out food, our supporters help us help those in need!

Golden Celery Competition

Each year, Crossroads challenges Utah's faith communities to help keep our pantry stocked during the summer. Faith communities engage in friendly competition with one another to see who can donate the most pounds of food per attendee in the month of July to vie for the coveted Golden Celery trophy! This year, despite the ongoing pandemic, 12 faith communities came together to donate 19,670 pounds of food! Our basement is now stocked from floor to ceiling, ensuring we can feed hundreds of people. A big thank you to everyone who participated!

We are excited to announce the winners!

Small Congregation Champs: St. Paul United Methodist Church
Large Congregation Champs: First/Centenary United Methodist Church
Top overall donors: Christ United Methodist Church
Most improved: Mountain Vista United Methodist Church

Interested in volunteering?

Volunteering is now easier than ever!

1. Visit www.crossroadsurbancenter.org/volunteer
2. Join us for a 30-minute online orientation.
3. Sign up for a shift of any length that fits with your schedule!

Are you part of a group that's interested in volunteering? Contact Community Outreach Director, Jess Roadman at jessica@crossroadsurbancenter.org or (801) 364-7765 x.110.

A Word from the Chair

It feels like we are living and experiencing a time of increasing change. In almost every aspect of our lives, each of us are making decisions required by our changing environment. It is hard and we are not certain when we can return to "normal." Crossroads Urban Center is not immune to change. There are several areas where you will be able to recognize how we have had to change to continue to carry out our mission.

For example, some of our key staff has changed. Crossroads has been able to be so effective at helping others because of the great people that work here. We will miss those who have paved the way for us to follow and are excited for new possibilities. Additionally, there is an increased need for volunteers due to demand for services. Change often brings new opportunities and Crossroads sees a unique opportunity to help the disadvantaged and homeless people with the one-time American Rescue Plan Act funds that are available to our state. We are advocating for the legislature and local governments to set aside a percentage of these funds to address the low-income housing crisis and support our homeless population. We are also calling for the extension of the expanded child tax credit at the federal level.

Change is often hard, but this organization has always been willing to adapt to meet the needs of those we serve. Change can also be exciting and help us grow. You may wonder how you will deal with this new environment or what you can do to help. By reading this newsletter, you are educating yourself about the issues and concerns we advocate for at Crossroads Urban Center. Please consider talking with any of our staff, city, county, or state representatives about the need for housing and/or the child tax credit. Or consider volunteering an hour or two to help Crossroads help others by providing food and clothing. Above all, stay safe and thank you for being part of a solution by supporting Crossroads Urban Center.

- Don Rudy, Crossroads Urban Center Board of Directors Chair
Organizing for Change

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was passed by the United States Congress in March 2021 to help offset the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. From this bill, Utah will receive $2.5 billion of discretionary funding over two years. Utah state government will receive $1.5 billion and local governments will receive $1 billion, of which $225 million will be distributed to Salt Lake County. With already disproportionately high rents compared to income, pandemic-related job losses have caused a surge in housing insecurity. ARPA funding provides an unprecedented opportunity for Utah to ensure every community member has access to shelter.

At Crossroads, we recognize that a critical component to ending poverty is addressing root causes. Our grassroots organizing brings together groups of people who have experienced poverty to be part of policy-making and change. With ARPA funding’s ability to make such a significant impact on housing, our advocacy and organizing projects have focused on bringing light to the need for very affordable housing.

Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC)

Over the past several years, CORC has focused its efforts on ending child homelessness. The detrimental effects of homelessness on children are many; and in Utah, we have the capacity to prevent more kids from experiencing that trauma. With ARPA funds, this possibility is even more real than ever. CORC is campaigning for each county and city to dedicate 20% of their ARPA funding to affordable housing. Due to the substantial funds going to Salt Lake County, CORC set up tents and held a press conference outside of the Salt Lake County Government Building with testimony from religious leaders and lay people affected by poverty. Their statements emphasized to our policy makers why increased housing opportunities for very low-income people is key to a healthy community. CORC will continue to educate county officials and the public about the need for housing to end homelessness by organizing a diaper drive for homeless children in October. If you would like to help with the diaper drive, reach out to Bill Tibbitts at bill@crossroadsurbancenter.org

CORC brings people together to learn about the causes of hunger and homelessness and to support policies that would reduce those forms of unnecessary suffering.

Powerful Moms Who Care (PMWC)

After several years of gathering input from families who have experienced homelessness, PMWC designed a model for a Family Supportive Housing unit. Family Supportive Housing provides subsidized living with the wrap-around services that have proven most effective in keeping people housed. PMWC’s model offers a safe, supportive, and trauma-informed environment. Families have specific needs including on-site childcare, domestic violence providers, and extra security measures. With a complete model and report, PMWC has begun approaching those in power to make it a reality. PWMC leaders met with the Salt Lake City Mayor’s Office housing and homelessness staff. Additionally, PMWC has been in regular communication with Salt Lake County through Housing Connect to ensure families remain a focus. We feel that now is a crucial time to dedicate unprecedented funds to this long-term solution and end family homelessness in our community. PMWC recently achieved their goal of receiving their independent 501(c)(3) status.

PMWC is an organization of low-income women working toward safer communities and healthier families, especially for people living in extreme poverty and struggling with homelessness. Thank you to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development for sponsoring PMWC.

For more information about our organizing efforts or to learn how to get involved, visit https://www.crossroadsurbancenter.org/fighting-poverty
THE ADVOCATE is a periodic publication of Crossroads Urban Center

Our Mission
Crossroads is a nonprofit, grassroots organization that assists and organizes Utahns with low incomes, those with disabilities, and people of color to meet basic survival needs and to address essential issues affecting quality of life.

Credits
Board Chair: Don Rudy
Executive Director: Glenn Bailey
Newsletter Editor and Layout: Jess Roadman

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www.crossroadsurbancenter.org

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Pantry
For more ways to get involved at our pantries or Thrift Store, please contact Jess Roadman at Crossroads Urban Center at (801) 364-7765 ext. 110

Needs List

Pantry

Toilet paper, please.

Shampoo, conditioner, and soap.

Blankets, towels, and sheets.

Jeans and work pants.

Underwear (new).

Jackets and coats.

Shoes, work boots, and socks.

Womens clothing (size larger sizes)

Kids clothes.

Travel-size shampoo, soap, lotion, etc.

Non-perishable food items

Individual boxes (cereal, bottles, etc.)

Snacks (granola bars, etc.)

Salads, soups, and other canned items

Toffees and candies

Razors

Personal hygiene products: pads & tampons

The following is a list of things we need most at Crossroads Urban Center. Donations of food,

Clothing: household goods. Time, and money are needed on an ongoing basis.

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