

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

Thank you for your positive response to our previous letter requesting your church's participation in a more centralized way of helping the needy in Franklin. The purpose of this letter is to present to you our proposed guidelines for distributing help to people in need and to ask you to inform Community Services of your intended contribution. You may give a one-time gift for the year, or monthly, or whatever works best for your situation. Ten churches in Franklin have agreed to participate in this endeavor.

Guidelines:

1. The help center will be limited to the residents of Franklin.
2. Help with utilities will be limited to \$100 with a maximum of 3 times per year for each family.
3. Help with rent or mortgage payments will be limited to \$200 per family with a maximum of 3 times per year for each family.
4. The above amounts may be increased if determined to be necessary by a meeting of no less than 3 area pastors who will assess any extraordinary circumstances.
5. Help with food will be given by direct distribution of food by Community Services.
6. Help with clothing will be by means of contributions by Community Services.
7. Gasoline cards valued at \$30 each will be given with a limit of 3 times per year per family.
8. Churches may designate a percentage of their contribution they would like to be used for stocking the food shelves at Community Services, and contribution of food supplies directly would be helpful.

Community Services has agreed to not merely offer, but to recommend pastoral care for anyone to whom they distribute monetary help from our account. They will also keep all the records of income and expenses and send us a quarterly report. The report will also include stories of particular people's situations and how we have helped them.

Thank you again for your participation in showing the love of God in Christ to those who need to see the Gospel in practical ways. May this be for the glory of God!

Rev. Samuel T. Gibb

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am grateful for your willingness to work together as the body of Christ in our efforts to help the people of our community in time of need. Your church agreed about a year ago to participate in a central help center that would be managed by Community Services of Venango County. They agreed to keep a separate set of books for the funds the Franklin churches contribute for these purposes.

Not all the churches that agreed to participate have contributed to the fund. I take responsibility for this since I have not communicated as often or as clearly as I should have, and some of you may not know how to contribute. The intent of this letter is to tell you how to make your contributions, and how to access all the available help when someone approaches you for assistance.

You may send your checks at whatever intervals are comfortable for your church to Community Services of Venango County, 203 Center Street, Oil City, PA 16301. Please include a note indicating that your check is a contribution to the Franklin Churches Central Help Fund.

Any of the participating churches may, after interviewing someone in need, contact Mary Jean Gavin 676-5011 ext. 105. She is authorized to write a check to utility companies, landlords, and for other emergency needs. Checks will not be written for individuals, only to the company or person to whom they owe money.

There is a \$100 limit on help with utilities, and \$200 for rent. These limits may be exceeded if three Franklin pastors agree that there is a special need.

We are providing gasoline cards in the amount of \$30 that are available at the Community Services Parker Avenue location in Rocky Grove. Also at that location they will provide food and clothing at the referral of any Franklin Church.

As we are the body of Christ, we are concerned for more than the physical care of individuals and families. To that end we would like to offer pastoral care for those who are willing to accept it. If each of the pastors of the participating churches would be responsible for providing pastoral care for one month we would each only be "on call" one month per year. Please call my office at 432-4318 or email me at [samgibb@verizon.net](mailto:samgibb@verizon.net) if you are willing to help in this way, and I will set up an annual schedule.

Thank you for your cooperation in showing the love of Christ in action and truth to those among us who need our help.

Your fellow servant,

Sam Gibb

(For utilities, rent or other emergencies)  
Community Services of Venango County  
203 Center Street  
Oil City, PA 16301  
Mary Jeanne Gavin  
814-676-5011

(For food, clothing gasoline)  
Community Services of Venango County  
39 Parker Avenue  
Franklin, PA 16323  
814-432-5749  
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.