



CONWAY COUNTY
CARE CENTER

INFORMATION PACKET

"NO ONE IN CONWAY COUNTY
GOES HUNGRY"

108 WEST BROADWAY • P.O. BOX 494
MORRILTON, AR 72110
501-354-1454

WWW.CONWAYCOUNTYCARECENTER.COM

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Can you remember the first time a person came to you and asked for help? People from around the county have found themselves in situations that seemed beyond their own means to help. "I didn't know exactly what to say," said one pastor. "We didn't have any money to help them, and I hated to send them to another church."

There is also the problem of "being had." Although rare, there have been cases in our community when people have gone from church to church collecting money and aid, only to be discovered long after they had left town.

Faced with the situation of not being able to help those who asked, in 1989, the Morrilton Ministerial Alliance began to work on a solution that would benefit everyone. The focus of the Care Center is to provide short-term provisions for the often diverse needs of those in crisis.

These needs are found not only in the transient population but also in the needs of families who have lost their homes to fire and residents homeless due to domestic problems or loss of income —members of our churches and community!

The Ministerial Alliance joined together in an unprecedented fashion and formed the Conway County Care Center to respond to the needs of our community. We now invite you to look through this packet to see how we now respond to those needs. We also invite you to look to see how you can now respond *through* the Care Center.

Included in this packet, you will find information about the purpose, operations, and needs of the Care Center, as well as ways you can utilize our services and help in the distribution.

SERVICES AND OPERATIONS

The primary mission of the Conway County Care Center is to ensure that no one in Conway County goes hungry. We also strive to provide emergency services to people in need and to eliminate duplication of services.

Services Regularly Available

- Food
- Clothing
- Household Items
- Limited Utility Assistance (based on availability of funds)
- One-Night Shelter for Emergencies
- One-Time Emergency Prescription Drug Assistance

There are many other ways we have been able to help people, many times when a situation makes the needs of an individual or family unique. The Care Center strives not to turn people away. There have been times, however, that we have recommended postponing services because of the frequency of their requests. This not only ensures us against depletion of our resources, but it can also help encourage the individuals find a more permanent solution.

The Care Center's thrift store is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and on select Saturdays based on volunteer capabilities. Revenue from the thrift store serves two purposes: (1) to provide decent clothing at low cost, and (2) to generate a portion of the income needed for overhead costs. Clothing is provided free of charge twice per year for anyone who lives in Conway County regardless of income, but anyone can purchase items in the store. All items are donated, and the proceeds of their sale is deposited to the general fund to help offset operating costs.

The Care Center's food pantry is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Food is available free of charge to Conway County residents once per month per household regardless of income. Food is also available after hours based on emergency need by calling the phone number posted at the back door of the Care Center.

Board of Directors

The Care Center is incorporated in the State of Arkansas as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and is therefore managed by a Board of Directors. The current board members are listed online at www.conwaycountycarecenter.com. Their responsibilities are outlined as follows:

- To establish and oversee operational policies covering all aspects of the Care Center;
- To maintain statistical reports available to contributors and the community at large;
- To maintain all appropriate financial records of the Care Center;
- To provide general oversight.

Accessing Help

If you have questions that aren't answered in this packet, please feel free to call the Care Center or contact a member of the Board of Directors. In order to obtain assistance for a person in need, get the person's name from identification and find out the type of assistance needed (e.g., food, clothing, shelter). For assistance in ministering to a need, the following phone numbers are important to have handy.

During operating hours, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., call the Care Center at 354-1454. After hours, call the Morrilton Police Department at 354-0131. The police have the name and number of the person on call for the Care Center 24 hours per day to give you assistance and will contact that person for you. Either give the person directions to the appropriate agency or ask for a police escort. Please use caution if you decide to provide transportation yourself.

Volunteer Programs and Donations

There are several opportunities for helping out at the Care Center. From donating items to donating your time, there is something for everyone to do. Donations of food or items for our thrift store are best made during store hours. If this is inconvenient, call Stewart Nelson at 501-208-6391. Monetary donations can also be made by cash, check, or credit card. Our website, www.conwaycountycarecenter.com, is also equipped to accept donations by credit card.

Volunteer at the Care Center. The Care Center depends on volunteers to help us fulfill our mission. Work areas include preparing merchandise for sale, stocking merchandise, operating the cash register, distributing food, and many others. The Care Center is also often in need of help with special projects such as carpentry work, cosmetic improvements, and others.

Organize a donation drive. Set up a collection area at your church for items that members no longer use. Nonperishable food, gently-used clothing, dishes, pots and pans, blankets, sheets, or other household goods are needed. Many churches have begun to organize special collection days (e.g., First Sunday Share, Caring Can Sunday, or other special offerings for the Care Center).

Harvest of Hope Food Drive. Participate in our annual food drive during the fall. We are constantly in need of volunteers of all ages to help with our largest donation and volunteer program of the year. From encouraging your church or organization to collect items to volunteering on the day of the event, we need the help of many individuals to make this drive a success each year.

Put together some helpful kits. Select and begin a particular project such as collection of helpful kits like personal hygiene kits (including shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, feminine supplies, etc.) and baby kits (including baby wipes, diapers, formula, and soap). There is always a need for these items.

NUMBERS OF FAMILIES HELPED

Food Pantry Households Served

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Average
2016	235	177	224	223	231	257	278	304	292	269	310	304	258
2015	200	133	155	184	165	208	206	200	206	187	187	214	187
2014	212	147	171	210	192	183	211	203	203	197	188	197	192

Additional Food Pantry Statistics

	2014	2015	2016
Total Households	2339	2245	3104
Total Individuals	5906	5786	7881
Children 0-17 Years	1837	1771	2455
Adults 18-64 Years	3508	3443	4651
Seniors 65+ Years	561	572	775

Food Pantry Households Served in 2016

	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
City	127	143	148	167	158	143	166	154
County	104	114	130	137	134	126	144	150
Total	231	257	278	304	292	269	310	304

Clothing Closet Statistics

	2014	2015	2016
Total Households	418	366	462
Total Individuals	1038	993	1253
Children 0-17 Years	400	414	492
Adults 18+ Years	638	579	761

