



# HEARTS IN ACTION

SUMMER 2025 ISSUE

The Heart of Our Mission: *Honoring Our Volunteers*

At Compassionate Connections Center, our mission to support individuals and families in need would not be possible without the dedication, time, and compassion of our incredible volunteers. They are the heartbeat of our organization—working quietly and tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every program runs smoothly and every visitor is treated with dignity and care.

From packing food backpacks and stocking the hygiene pantry, to sorting clothing, assisting at community events, and offering a listening ear, our volunteers show up with open hands and full hearts. Their kindness is felt in every packed bag, every warm greeting, and every act of service that makes someone's day a little brighter.

*This year alone, volunteers have:*

- *Helped feed over 300 children weekly through our weekend food backpack program: The Nutrition Mission*
- *Supported dozens of families with clothing and hygiene essentials*
- *Played a key role in community events, including our back-to-school and mental health initiatives*
- *Logged hundreds of hours to ensure no need goes unmet*

Their impact is immeasurable, and their spirit inspires us all. To our volunteers: Thank you. You are not just helping meet needs—you are building hope, one person at a time.

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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@THECOMPASSIONATECONNECTCENTER





# WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS EVENT PROMOTES WELLNESS AND AWARENESS

Our recent mental health awareness event, “Wellness Wednesday,” brought the community together for a powerful day of education, support, and connection centered around mental health and emotional well-being.



Held on May 21, 2025, this event featured local mental health resources and wellness activities designed to reduce stigma and encourage open conversations about mental health. Attendees explored topics such as stress management, self-care strategies, and how to support friends and family facing mental health challenges.



The overwhelming turnout and positive feedback confirmed what we already know: mental health matters—and so does community. Participants left feeling empowered, informed, and reminded that they are not alone.

Thank you to all who attended, volunteered, and supported this important initiative. If you missed the event but would like access to materials or mental health resources, please visit our website at <https://www.compassionateconnect.com>.

Together, we can keep the conversation going.





# SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

## BACK TO SCHOOL HEAD TO TOE

Thanks to our partnership with The Community Clothes Closet and the incredible support from our community, our recent Back-to-School Clothing Event on July 16, 2025 was a tremendous success!

This event provided new school outfits, undergarments, school supplies, and shoe vouchers to B&H Footwear for local children just in time for the start of a new school year.

Families were welcomed into a friendly, shop-like atmosphere where they could choose items that best fit their children's needs. Our two organizations were able to serve over 200 children, ensuring each one felt confident and ready for the classroom!

As summer quickly passes, many families in our community are preparing for a new school year. However, not all students have the supplies they need to start strong. That's why we are excited to once again host our Annual School Supply Drive, which kicked off at our Back to School Event co-hosted by The Community Clothes Closet with over 200 students receiving both new clothes and school supplies!

We are collecting notebooks, pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks, scissors, and other essential classroom items to distribute to local students in need. Every donation, big or small, makes a meaningful difference in a child's learning and confidence. Distribution will continue through the first month of the 2025-2026 school year.



## HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED:

- Drop off supplies at our main office Monday through Thursday, 10 AM – 4 PM.
- Amazon Wishlist: <https://a.co/2HpYVRC>
- Share the drive with friends, neighbors, and coworkers to spread the word.

Last year, thanks to your generosity, we supported over 300 students with full backpacks and supplies. Let's come together again to ensure that every child begins the year ready to learn.







# COMMUNITY MAKES IT POSSIBLE

Beyond clothing and supplies, we made the most of this event by inviting our community partners to create a community resource fair. Resources included booths from FoodWise, The Clintonville Area Food Pantry, The Clintonville Library, Head Start, and Waupaca County Public Health. We received tremendous feedback from the resource fair, with attendees praising the helpful information, friendly atmosphere, and valuable connections made throughout the event.



This event wouldn't have been possible without incredible partnership with The Community Clothes Closet, our dedicated volunteers who helped sort, organize, and assist during the event, as well as generous donors.



*We are so grateful to everyone who helped make this event a joyful and meaningful experience for the families we serve. Together, we made sure that going back to school started with dignity and excitement!!*





# THE NUTRITION MISSION EXPANDS REACH

## GROWING WITH GOODNESS

The Compassionate Connections Center is proud to announce a meaningful expansion of our Nutrition Mission Program now serving 300 children each week—a 20% increase from last year's total of 250.

This program provides nutritious, easy-to-prepare food for children who may not have consistent access to meals over the weekend when school meals are not available. Each backpack is filled with two breakfast items, two lunch items, snacks and vouchers for bread and milk to help ensure students return to school on Monday nourished and ready to learn.



The rising need reflects both the economic challenges families are facing and the importance of programs that fill critical gaps. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, volunteers, and community partners, we've been able to meet the growing demand and reach more children than ever before.

Every backpack is more than just a meal—it's a message of care and stability for a child in need. With your continued support, we can ensure that no child in our community goes hungry over the weekend.

## VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS

"It is an uplifting experience in a positive environment!"

"My helping hands keeps my mind active and heart warmer."

"It feels good to do my part to help others. CCC is a blessing."

"I started backpacking when I learned that the CCC helps the community of Clintonville, so I wanted to help."

"It is my pleasure and satisfaction to volunteer with these genuine and caring ladies. I always leave with my heart overflowing."

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Donate to support the continued growth of the program
- Volunteer to help pack and distribute backpacks
- Spread the word to families who may benefit, or supporters who may want to get involved



# IMPROVING OUR SPACE AND COMMUNITY

We are thrilled to share that Compassionate Connections Center has been selected as a recipient of the City of Clintonville's Main Street Building Improvement Grant! This grant will help enhance the appearance and functionality of our facility—strengthening both our services and our presence in the community.

The grant will fund much-needed exterior improvements to our building, creating a more welcoming and vibrant space for the individuals and families we serve each day. Planned updates include fresh paint, updated signage, and landscaping upgrades, all designed to reflect the care and dignity we strive to offer inside our walls.

We are deeply grateful to the City of Clintonville for investing in our mission and the broader downtown area. As we continue to grow and serve, this grant marks an exciting step forward in making Compassionate Connections Center not just a place of help—but a place of hope and beauty.

Stay tuned for progress updates, photos, and a celebration once the improvements are complete!

## SUPPORTING THE COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS CENTER

At Compassionate Connections Center, we believe that every individual—no matter their age, background, or circumstance—deserves compassion, dignity, and support. With the help of generous donors like you, we're able to turn that belief into action every day.

### ***Your Donation Makes a Direct Impact***

Whether large or small, every contribution goes directly toward programs that uplift individuals and families in our community:

- **Weekend Food Backpack Program:** Provides meals for over 300 children each week, ensuring they don't go hungry when school is out.
- **Emergency Assistance:** Offers help with unexpected hardships by providing funding to pay bills like rent, utilities, prescriptions, and more.
- **Clothing and School Supplies:** Helps children and families feel confident and prepared with free access to seasonal clothing, backpacks, and school materials.
- **Personal hygiene pantry** that provides essential items that support cleanliness, health, and dignity.

## GIVE TODAY!

We are deeply grateful to our community of donors, volunteers, and supporters. With rising needs and growing participation in our programs, continued support is critical.

To donate or learn more about how your tax deductible gift can change lives, scan the QR code or visit: <https://www.compassionateconnect.com>.



*Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive community—one connection at a time.*



"They are an amazing asset to this community and I love being a part of what they do." - CCC Volunteer