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Contact: Denise Kesanen, Executive Director
RiverWorks Community Development

Phone: 763-607-9308

Email: dkesanen@riverworksonline.org

RiverWorks Awarded Two Grants to Increase Programming

Funds will be used to purchase a food truck to expand services to older adults.

ROCKFORD, MN, July 9, 2020 — RiverWorks is a recipient of a grant to purchase a food truck. These funds were made possible by the U.S. Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Transportation Grant whose funding is made available through the U.S. Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed into law by the U.S. Government on Friday, March 27, 2020. This emergency grant was developed to help support food transport and distribution services during the COVID-19 situation we are all facing.

Denise Kesanen, Executive Director of RiverWorks, said, “Currently RiverWorks does not have a way to be mobile with food; this grant will take our services to the doorsteps of our older adult population.”

How will this truck be used? Jenny Kneeland of Rockford has been hired as the Mobile Food Manager and reported, “The truck will have many uses even beyond our current service area. The areas of expansion will be in our programming, community building, and fundraising.” Denise also stated that “RiverWorks values collaboration with other community organizations, churches and businesses. We look forward to how this truck can be used not just by RiverWorks, but how we can work together to complete the vision of Community Helping Community.”

In the area of Programming, we are planning for an expansion of Lunch Box Express, a program that prepares and delivers meals during summer, Christmas and spring break to the students of the Rockford School District who participate in the Free or Reduced Priced Meal Program. As we deliver meals to student neighborhoods, we will also invite parents (especially single parent families) and older adults to come pick up a lunch at no cost.

RiverWorks desires to do more for our older adult population by delivering free meals. In addition to a meal, we also envision volunteers spending time with the older adult to see if they have any other needs we can address. The expansion of this new program has also been supported by a grant that RiverWorks received from the Minnesota Disaster Recovery Fund Grant through The Central MN Council on Aging.

RiverWorks became an official 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in 2009 and in 2010 opened the RiverWorks Food Shelf; soon came the addition of the RiverWorks Thrift Store, Lunch Box Express, Thousand Hearts Crow River Serve Day, Thousand Hearts 365 and Crow River Christmas. With a decade of serving the community, we are looking forward to seeing what the next ten years will bring with this exciting new opportunity, expansion of current programming and the creation of new ways to serve our community. Thank you to all who have helped RiverWorks continue to serve!

RiverWorks Community Development
www.riverworksonline.org

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If you would like more information about this topic, or want to volunteer or donate please call Denise at 763-607-9308, go to our website, or email dkesanen@riverworksonline.org