

The year 2020 has been a challenge with the global Covid19 pandemic and all the fallout from it. The Centennial Community Food Shelf has continued its mission of “In the Spirit of Love, Provide Nourishment to People”. This community has been amazingly generous in its efforts to volunteer and donate food and funds.

In response to the pandemic, our staff of volunteers has been able to establish a system to distribute food while complying with state mandated protocols for the safety of our volunteers and clients. We have implemented a delivery model bringing food to our clients vehicles with minimal contact. Thanks to the crews of volunteers working the distribution, rescue pickup, and delivery details. With increased donations and grants during this difficult time, we are able to temporarily offer clients a chance to come twice a month. 2021 will be a continuation of the current operations until we are able to open safely with guidance from our state government and the CDC. Unfortunately, we have been unable to accept new volunteers in our effort to minimize traffic in the CCFS building. We are looking forward to welcoming our volunteers and clients back in the building when we can safely open.

Improvements to our physical space and appliances have helped with food storage and delivery. Through grants received, we were able to upgrade our carts and add a new freezer. The city of Circle Pines gave us access to an additional room expanding our operational space. Our lighting system is currently being upgraded by Connexus with the assistance of the city of Circle Pines.

Our newly elected president, Sheri Hanson, will take over for Ron Koon. He leaves the office after 3 consecutive terms. With his 30+ years of experience, he has generously offered to be an Advisor to the current board. Three board members have decided to move on, they are Dave Kircher (20), Yvonne Guptill (6), and Cindy Hall (8). Their many contributions have made CCFS the organization it is today. May the new and current board continue to have the support and prayers of this community as they fulfill our mission, “In the Spirit of Love, Provide Nourishment to People” (and some pets).

Julia Anderson has been elected Director of the Powerpack team. Social distancing protocols for the COVID-19 pandemic have made the current operating space in the Centennial Middle School near impossible. The school district’s fluctuations of the learning formats between on-line, in-person and hybrid models has reduced the number of students able to participate in this program. The PP team is anxiously anticipating the reopening of the schools in a more normal setting.