

Picture Caption: Bryan Hickman finishes his performance artwork on stage at the 2022 United In Love Banquet.

## Persevering With Hope *By Steve Schwartz, Director of Development* How One Man Worked Through Trials and Roadblocks to Finally Get His Own Housing

Imagine fighting kidney disease and needing dialysis weekly. Then losing a foot and part of your leg to infection. Then becoming homeless.

This is Max's story. He was dealing with his many medical issues when the family member he was staying with lost their housing. After a few days literally on the street he called HELP Ministries. This is where he met Lisa last April.

Lisa's immediate concern was that no area shelters were really equipped to handle Max's disability and on-going medical issues. These included an open wound that had yet to heal from his amputation surgery three years ago. Lisa felt for Max and said "I won't let you fall through the cracks. We will figure this out together." That day a journey and a partnership began.

First, Lisa helped Max get into a hotel room provided by HELP Ministries. After 5 months, funding was no longer available and he had to leave the hotel. Lisa felt like she had failed Max. But Max kept his head up. He was so appreciative for all she had done.

Lisa was upset that he had to leave the hotel and become homeless again. Thankfully, due to some kind friends, Max was able to crash on a couch here and there while he and Lisa continued to look for housing.

Lisa and Max worked together to navigate bureaucracy and overcome hurdles. So much red tape. So much paper work. Lisa would call and say "I need this document" and Max would find a way to get it to her as soon as possible.

By working through the Coordinated Entry\* process for homeless individuals, Max was approved for an 811 housing voucher based on his disability. Now, they had to find a landlord willing to accept this type of housing voucher and work with a tenant with a criminal record. The apartment also had to be accessible for someone with Max's disability. Lisa worked hard to get him approved for an apartment in Dauphin County outside the city of Harrisburg, but it fell through. Then an opening came up in the city, but the city housing authority wouldn't... *(Continued page 2)*

\*HELP Ministries is the central hub for the Coordinated Entry System for Dauphin County. We coordinate with agencies county-wide to rapidly assess a homeless person's vulnerability and connect them to any available housing options.

*Accept* what is,  
let go of what was,  
and have *Faith*  
in what will be.

*We are protecting Max's privacy by not using his real name or a picture of him in this article. But he let us snap a photo of this artwork on his living room wall.*

## Persevering with Hope... *(continued from page 1)*

...consider Max due to his criminal record. So Lisa and Max switched their focus back to the county.

“People work hard to turn their life around, but so many public housing options rule out people with a criminal record. Where are they supposed to live?” Lisa asked. “Many people get so frustrated hitting roadblocks while trying to do the right thing, they give up and return to past behaviors. But not Max. He was determined. Sometimes it feels like the system is designed to make you give up.”

Max added “I told Lisa at one point, I’ll take anything. If I have to navigate a third floor apartment, I’ll take it. How about a fancy ditch? I’ll take anything.”

About nine months after Max came to HELP Ministries, they finally had a breakthrough. Lisa found an apartment in Steelton. The rent was doable with the housing voucher and the landlord was willing to work with him.

The apartment is lovely. A spacious one bedroom with kitchen, bathroom, and living room. When I visited, Max’s aunt from out of town was visiting. He’s so glad to have his own place so he can visit with friends and family again.

“I think I am one of the lucky ones,” Max says, exuding gratitude. “People say ‘oh you’ve got kidney disease, you have it so hard.’ With everything you go through, there is no use complaining. You ask God to give you patience and guess what? They make you wait. And you learn patience. You gotta learn from past mistakes. And you have to be thankful for your blessings no matter how they come.”

Max continued, “This whole experience was eye opening to me. No one wants to be homeless. When you are on the street all you can think about is the next 24 hours: what will I eat, where will I sleep, how will I handle the weather. I want some water, do I even have a cup? You get so used to living in crisis mode, there is little energy to make a plan. I’m so thankful for all the help to get my own place.”

Max is currently scheduling a follow-up surgery to his amputation, hoping it will resolve the wound issue. When he recovers, he hopes to get on the list for a kidney transplant. He also hopes to get his driver’s license so he can visit his aunt in Delaware. Watching Max and Lisa interact, it is clear that they formed a bond, a team working together to overcome Max’s dire situation. He is so grateful for her, and she is so impressed with his determination and gratitude. They both wanted to share this glimpse of what the ministry of HELP and CCU meant to Max this past year.

As we finished our discussion, I asked if there was anything we didn’t cover in his journey? Is there anything missing? “Just my leg,” Max offered with a smirk. Amidst all he has faced, he retains a smile and a sense of humor. I felt blessed to have this time with him and Lisa. †

“When you are on the street all you can think about is the next 24 hours: what will I eat, where will I sleep, how will I handle the weather... You get so used to living in crisis mode, there is little energy to make a plan.”

## CAN YOU PROVIDE A NEW APARTMENT WELCOME HOME KIT?

At CCU, when we help an individual or family obtain an apartment after being homeless, they typically start from scratch. You can help them have a fresh start with a new apartment Welcome Home Kit. **Full instructions here: [www.ccuahbg.org/welcomehome](http://www.ccuahbg.org/welcomehome)**

| Part 1: Kitchen   | Part 2: Bath/Cleaning   | Part 3: First Aid and Toiletries  |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen trash can (approx. 11-13 gallon)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One plastic dish pan</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One box of kitchen trash bags (13 gallon bags, 20 bags or more)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One bottle of dishwashing liquid</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen paper towels (2 rolls or more)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two kitchen handtowels/two kitchen dishcloths</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Broom, dustpan and brush</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One household mop</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One laundry basket</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One cleaning bucket</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One spray bottle all purpose cleaner</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One spray bottle bathroom cleaner</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two cleaning cloths/rags</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Toilet Bowl Brush</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Two bottles liquid hand soap</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One box or bottle of Laundry Detergent</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One reusable shopping bag</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Toilet Tissue (6 regular rolls or 4 double rolls or more)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One box of Band-Aids (100 or more count, variety pack) OR first aid kit with Band-Aids</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One tube of first aid antibiotic ointment (like Neosporin or generic)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One tube of toothpaste</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Four toothbrushes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> One bottle of general purpose shampoo</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bath soap (two bars or more)</li> </ul> |
| <p>Contact Steve Schwartz for more info or to arrange delivery, (717) 230-9550 or <a href="mailto:sschwartz@ccuahbg.org">sschwartz@ccuahbg.org</a></p>  |   |   |

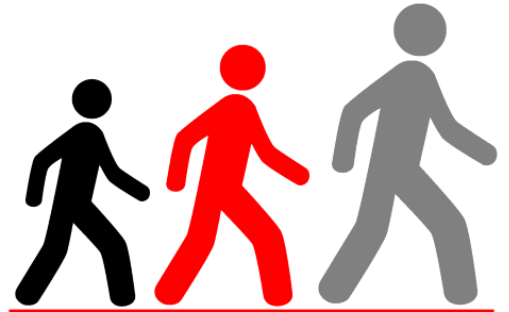


*Share your heart...*  
 ...through the programs of Christian Churches United



The CCU Highmark Walk supports:

- ⇒ **HELP Ministries:** Crisis and housing assistance for our neighbors facing homelessness and other challenges
- ⇒ **Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven:** Long-term housing for chronically homeless men
- ⇒ **Street Outreach/Compassion Action Network:** Including Winter Overnight Shelters and finding long-term housing
- ⇒ **Prison Action:** Supporting prisoners and ex-offenders
- ⇒ **Project A.S.K.:** Helping kids in need in West Shore School District



**CCU Highmark Walk**  
 Christian Churches United  
 of the Tri-County Area

**Saturday, May 20, 2023\***  
 at HACC, One HACC Drive, Harrisburg  
 7:45am Registration; 9am Walk Begins

**A fun way to show love for your neighbor!  
 Raise \$30, get a walk t-shirt!**

*\* Can't make that day? You can pick your own walk date/location this spring.*

**Three Ways to Support the 2023 CCU Highmark Walk...**

**1. WALK**

Join the walk and get your friends and family to sponsor you.

**2. FORM A TEAM**

Form a team of walkers and you can raise funds together.

**3. DONATE**

Can't walk? Sponsor a walker or team, or make a donation.

*HINT: Include your kids and dog...people love sponsoring kids and dogs!*

**To WALK, FORM A TEAM, or DONATE:  
[www.ccuhb.org/walk](http://www.ccuhb.org/walk)**

**For Questions/Info Contact Co-Chairs**  
 Beth Bard: [bcbard@gmail.com](mailto:bcbard@gmail.com) or  
 Steve Schwartz: (717) 230-9550 or [sschwartz@ccuhbg.org](mailto:sschwartz@ccuhbg.org)



## United In Love...

### Highlights from CCU's Annual Celebration Event

The 2022 United In Love Banquet—our annual celebration event—was held on November 3, 2022 in the Wesley Center at Camp Hill United Methodist Church. It was a powerful evening with 230 people in attendance.

We were challenged by special guest speaker Dr. Harold Dean Trulear, National Director of the Healing Communities USA Prison and Prisoner Reentry Ministry. We were inspired by testimonies from Carla and Sonia about how the ministry of CCU helped them overcome various challenges in their lives. Several staff were also honored for their service and dedication.

Then, the entertainment! We were dazzled by the performance artwork of Bryan Hickman (see photo the front page of this newsletter). Dandy and Peter Rogan, two artists on the Joy to the Burg 2022 album, joined and shared their musical gifts as the event served as the kickoff of the 2022 edition of this Christmas album being available to the public. The silent auction was filled with many wonderful items and helped raise funds for our programs.

Special thanks to our committee of Linda Armstrong, Beth Bard, Jamar Thrasher, Melissa Malesic, Kate Harrigan, Brad Gebhart, Leah Payne, Aisha Mobley, Laura Dalton, Darrel Reinford and Steve Schwartz who worked collaboratively and creatively to ensure a meaningful event. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all of our sponsors, volunteers and donors! Your support makes all of this possible! ✚



*Peter Rogan shares his song "A Home for the Holidays," written specifically for Joy to the Burg 2022 by our very own Steve Schwartz and Phil Madeira (of Emmylou Harris' band).*



### HARRISBURG GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION DAY - May 7, 2023

An interfaith event...We come together as one community to honor those lost to gun violence and to demand stronger and more effective gun laws and regulations.



- 3:00pm:** Gather at Capital Presbyterian Church, 1401 Cumberland St., Harrisburg. Interfaith worship and educational forum.
- 4:00pm:** Witness Walk from Capital Presbyterian to Harris AME Zion Church, 915 North 17th St., Hbg.
- 4:30pm:** Interfaith Remembrance Service and Call to Action at Harris AME Zion.

~ The Memorial to the Lost will be installed in the yard of Harris AME Zion Church from April 29-May 13, with shirts representing the people who have lost their lives to gun violence in the Harrisburg area during the last five years. ~

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL HBG

# FREEDOM SEDER

SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH  
6:30 P.M. AT BETH EL TEMPLE



Join the HBG interfaith community as we "break matzah" together & discuss what it means to stand united against systemic racism and antisemitism. How do we both soften our hearts and strengthen our resolve? Let's find out together.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT PATTY@BETHELHBG.ORG

## When We All Work Together *By Darrel Reinford, Executive Director*

### Encampment Closure Rallies CCU and Partners

In late January, the City of Harrisburg announced they were requiring everyone living in an encampment of unhoused people under the Mulberry St. bridge to move. The rationale was two-fold: a rat infestation due to a trash build-up and a rise in criminal activity. CCU leadership and our Street Outreach Team mobilized to support folks in finding a place to relocate, as well as engage broader community members who were interested in helping. Here's a summary of what we were able to accomplish together and some thoughts for continued ministry going forward.

We worked actively with the following partners:

- Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness, the City of Harrisburg, Downtown Daily Bread, UPMC Central PA Street Medicine Team, Dauphin County Crisis Intervention, Young Professionals of Color, The Eclipse Project, Starfish Ministries, The Belong Collective, Fox's Wash and Go, AMiracle4Sure, and the Foundation For Enhancing Communities
- We physically helped around 10 people to relocate pallets, tents, and their possessions in order to establish themselves at a new location with the resources that could allow them to be safe in the winter weather. We provided hotel space for another 7 individuals who were in the process of securing apartments or had significant medical issues that needed attention.
- We helped nine people do laundry before relocating so they could have a fresh start at their new location.

The timing of this effort came as we were set to hold our first in-person Compassion Action Network meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. The Compassion Action Network (CAN) rallies churches and volunteers to work collaboratively with our staff as well as other human service and government agencies to avoid duplication of services and strategically support our neighbors on the street. On Friday, Jan. 27, we had over 20 people join us to continue the conversation about how we can support those on the streets moving forward. We especially want to engage the community in better organizing outreach to the encampments and understanding that some ways of donating cause more harm than good (i.e. dropping off food and clothing without being sure it is wanted or needed at that particular time contributed to the trash build up and rat infestation under the bridge).

**If you want to be a part of our efforts to effectively support unhoused people on the streets, we invite you to join our Compassion Action Facebook group ([www.ccuahbg.org/canFB](http://www.ccuahbg.org/canFB)), or if you aren't on Facebook, to get on our e-mail list for updates. Contact Aisha Mobley at [amobley@ccuahbg.org](mailto:amobley@ccuahbg.org) or 717-963-5985 to get connected. †**



### JOIN THE COMPASSION ACTION NETWORK!

*Want to help folks living on the street, get involved with CAN!*

**Join the CAN Leadership Team:** We need to fill the following volunteer roles...

- Outreach Calendar Coordinator
- Facebook Group Manager
- Encampment Cleanup Team Leaders



**Laundry Angels Sponsors:** Wanted!

Churches, Businesses or Individuals to sponsor a day at a local laundromat for people on the street to wash their clothes and blankets. Provide laundry pods, quarters for machines, or volunteers. \$200 sponsors one day.

**Join the Email List and/or Facebook Group:** Your church, agency, or group can learn of opportunities to help those on the street, and network with other groups who are making a difference. (Facebook group: [www.ccuahbg.org/canFB](http://www.ccuahbg.org/canFB))

**Contact Aisha Mobley, CCU's Community Mobilization and Outreach Coordinator, at [amobley@ccuahbg.org](mailto:amobley@ccuahbg.org) or 717-963-5985 to get connected or learn more.**

### URGENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Handyman/Facility Committee:** We're looking for volunteers to help us maintain and improve our program facilities. Contact Steve Schwartz at (717) 230-9550 or [sschwartz@ccuahbg.org](mailto:sschwartz@ccuahbg.org) to learn more.

**Community Connection Breakfast Hosts:** Locations needed to host monthly Saturday morning breakfast for individuals exiting the prison system who are seeking to maintain contact with a support system. Includes providing breakfast for 15-25 people. To learn more contact, Diane Hetes at [dlhetes@yahoo.com](mailto:dlhetes@yahoo.com) or (717) 343-6210.

*For more opportunities, visit: [www.ccuahbg.org/volunteer](http://www.ccuahbg.org/volunteer)*



## Impact of Joy to the Burg Grows

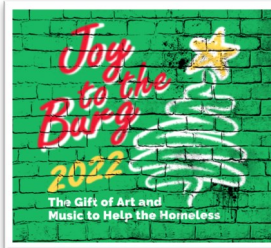
In 2019, Sheldon Jones pitched the idea of creating and selling a Christmas album of local artists to fund our homelessness programs. At that time we couldn't imagine the tremendous impact of this project in just four years. In 2022:

- ⇒ We released our 4th album featuring 33 songs.
- ⇒ The *Central Pennsylvania Music Hall of Fame* joined as our music curation partner, raising our profile in the local music community.
- ⇒ *Susquehanna Art Museum* added the visual arts to the project, curating a selection of greeting cards by local artists.
- ⇒ We held our 3rd hour-long TV special on ABC27, and hosted a full day of live music at *The Englewood* in Hershey.

Since 2019, over 50 artists have contributed 84 songs, generating a wonderful library of Christmas music benefiting the homelessness community and the local music scene.

Since 2019, Joy to the Burg has provided over **450 people** on the street with over **14,000 nights of sleeping** in a warm bed with staff support, while **90 people** have been assisted to obtain and maintain long-term housing through the following programs:

- 1) Women's and men's *Winter Overnight Shelters*
- 2) *Street Outreach Team* helping people on the street to obtain long-term housing
- 3) Long-term housing for men who were chronically homeless at *Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven*



**Above:** Glenn Hamilton of the River 97.3 and his daughter Emmalee join The Jellybricks on stage at the Englewood on December 11, 2022 for their rendition of "Christmas All Over Again," the lead track on Joy to the Burg 2022

**Below:** Sheldon Jones of Loco Lobo (left) and Peter Rogan (right) perform



### Funds Raised for Programs

- ⇒ 2019: \$24,000
- ⇒ 2020: \$29,000
- ⇒ 2021: \$40,000
- ⇒ 2022: \$52,000 and counting!



**Above:** Doug Wilburne and No Last Call bring the house down at The Englewood!

All photos on this page courtesy of **Chris Rider Photography**

### Thank You 2022 Leadership

Doug Wilburne, *JTTB 2022 Overall Chair/Events Chair*  
 Brandon Valentine, *Music Chair*     Alice Anne Schwab, *Artwork Chair*  
 Bob Geiger, *Sponsorship Chair*     Tania Srouji, *Promotions Chair*  
 Deborah Donahue, *Retail Chair* ... and so many other volunteers!

### Thank You 2022 Sponsors

#### RUDOLPH SPONSORS

Joy to the Burg 2022 is Presented by

**UPMC** LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE     **UPMC HEALTH PLAN**

In Partnership With



#### DASHER SPONSORS



#### DANCER SPONSORS



Doug and Rebecca Wilburne

#### DONNER SPONSORS

Messiah University     Hershey Rotary Club     Sutliff Volkswagen  
 Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.     Alcove Counseling Services     Members 1st

### Let's Celebrate!

Joy to the Burg 2022 was named **Best Holiday Album** at the 2023 CPMA's (Central Pennsylvania Music Awards), as some category winners are announced ahead of the March 30 ceremony.

The song "A Home for the Holidays" by Peter Rogan is nominated for **Song of the Year** at the 2023 CPMA's, and the music video made by GK Visual is nominated for **Best Music Videography**. (This song was specifically written for the album about a man facing homelessness at Christmas, co-written by our very own Steve Schwartz with Phil Madeira of Emmylou Harris' band.)





**Change the life of a neighbor in need!**  
**HELP Ministries**  
**GOLF** **46th!**  
**Tournament** **Annual**

**Monday, June 5, 2023**  
*(Please register by: May 25, 2023)*



Complete registration form below or register online: [www.ccuhb.org/golf](http://www.ccuhb.org/golf)

**Location:** Sunset Golf Course  
 2601 Sunset Drive, Middletown

**Schedule:**

7:15am: Registration  
 8:00am: Shotgun Start...with Lunch/Awards Ceremony following

**Your Registration Includes:**

- **Support of HELP Ministries Programs:** HELPing your neighbors with emergency shelter, rental assistance, or other crisis aid to prevent homelessness or get back on their feet.
- **Cart Rental and Greens Fees:** 18 hole team scramble format
- **Prizes:** Team, skill and door prizes
- **Mulligans:** Max 8 per team, may be purchased using this form OR at the registration area
- **Silent Auction:** Variety of items and gift certificates...your item donations are welcomed!
- **Food:** Refreshments on course; buffet luncheon



**Sponsorship Opportunities:**

- HOPE & HELP Team/Sponsor: \$3,000**
  - 8 golfers, 2 hole signs, full page ad, sponsor provided banner placement, overall event spotlight
  - **IMPACT:** Providing HOPE and HELP through HELP Ministries
- RAPID REHOUSING Team/Sponsor: \$1,500**
  - 4 golfers, 2 hole signs, full page ad, lunch spotlight
  - **IMPACT:** Help homeless households quickly gain long-term housing
- HOMELESS PREVENTION Team/Sponsor: \$750**
  - 4 golfers, 1 sign, 1/2 page ad, snack stand spotlight
  - **IMPACT:** Help households resolve a crisis and avoid homelessness
- HELPING HAND Sponsor: \$300**
  - 1 hole sign, quarter page ad

**Registration:**

- **Golf Team w/ Hole Sponsor:** \$500 (4 golfers w/ hole sign)
- **Golf Team:** \$400 (4 golfers)
- **Individual Golfers:** \$100

**Additional Options:**

- **Hole Sponsor:** \$150 (1 hole sign; name in program)
- **Patron/Remote\* Golfer:** \$50 (name in program)

*\* Typically about \$50 of your registration fee goes to program support...so this is a way you can support the programs if unable to golf this year.*

**GOLFER REGISTRATION FORM**

**Player Entry Fee:** \$100/player, includes cart, 18 holes of golf, lunch, prizes. Individuals and teams (church, business, etc.) are welcome.

Make checks payable & mail to CCU, 413 S. 19<sup>th</sup> St., Harrisburg, PA 17104 or register online at [www.ccuhb.org/golf](http://www.ccuhb.org/golf)

Sponsorship ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Golf Team w/ Hole Sponsor (4 golfers w/ sign) \$500 ..\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Team of 4 Registration \$400 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Single Golfer Registration @ \$100/Each .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Patron/Remote Golfer @ \$50/Each .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mulligans (1 for \$5; 4 for \$15; Max 8 per team).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Individual Registration or Team Captain:**

**Player #1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP REGISTRATION? Also complete info below:

**GROUP NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Player #2:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Player #3:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Player #4:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_



of the Tri-County Area

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*There are so many ways to  
make a difference this Spring!  
(See inside)*



# Unite with Others to Love Your Neighbors

Join us for

## 2023 SPRING ASSEMBLY

at Silver Spring Presbyterian Church, Mechanicsburg

CCU Annual Spring Assembly

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

5:30pm Registration

6:15pm Dinner followed by Program

Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 2...

◇ Online: [www.ccuhb.org/assembly](http://www.ccuhb.org/assembly)

◇ Or to: Laura Dalton at 717-230-9550 or [ldalton@ccuhbg.org](mailto:ldalton@ccuhbg.org)

**May 2023 is CommunityAid Clothing Drive Month!**

Can you, your church, or your workplace collect clothing donations? If so please...

✓ Bring your donations to Spring Assembly, or...

✓ CHURCHES/GROUPS: Call us and we'll arrange a pick up sometime in May

✓ YEAR ROUND: When at CommunityAid ask to credit to: CCU, Partner #: 10371

