



CommonGround

Community Center

28 W. Main St.
Owego, NY 13827

Annual Report

FY 2015

(Composite report: 2014, 2015)

CommonGround Christian Community Center is owned and operated by The Church Commons, a 501(c)(3) religious not-for-profit corporation .

Programs & Services

With renovations still ongoing, we opened our doors June 30, 2014. Since then we have:

- Served 576 summer meals to school children as part of the Summer Food Service Program
- Offered 20 presentations and events, total attendance 172 children and adults
- Shared Thanksgiving dinner with 10 Owego residents alone for the holiday
- Raised vegetables with 10 children and their parents,

We now also offer:

- Free toys, in cooperation with Beds-4-Kids
- Free children's books, in cooperation with the Family Reading Partnership of Owego-Apalachin

And we host:

- Owego Veterans of Modern Warfare
- Greater Owego Tent Revival committee
- Finger Lakes Family Parent Network (October 2015)

Future

Next year we hope to add day camp services to our summer program; tutoring during the school year; a stand-alone children's gardening program; support groups; young adult life skills classes; seniors wellness exercise classes; spring school break food service; and holiday events for youth.

Resources have been located and planning is in process for implementation when renovations are completed.

Partners

Programming

We collaborate to maximize service to the community. Current program partners include:

- The Owego-Apalachin School District
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrition Program
- Broome County 4-H
- Family Reading Partnership of Owego Apalachin
- The American Red Cross
- Finger Lakes Family Partnership
- Beds-4-Kids
- A New Hope Center
- Lourdes Parish Nursing
- Tioga County 4-H

Coordination & Support

We support and share information with several other Community Service Organizations:

- Tioga County Rural Ministries
- Tioga County Council on Alcohol & Substance Abuse (TCCASA)
- Life Choices Center
- Church World Services (CROP Walk)

Support Received

Churches and Church Organizations

Financial, material and/or volunteer support has been provided by:

- First Baptist Church of Owego
- Zion Lutheran Church
- Zion Lutheran School
- Owego Church of the Nazarene
- First Presbyterian Union Church
- Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
- Abide in the Vine Christian Fellowship
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Gospel Chapel
- Sword and the Spirit Christian Fellowship
- Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church
- United Methodist Church, Binghamton District
- Willet United Methodist Church

Businesses

Contributions have been received from;

- Original Italian
- Hollenbeck Stoves
- Tim Lounsbury, Inc.
- Ahwaga Paint
- Mario's Pizza
- Napa Auto Parts
- Warner's
- Scott Smith & Son
- Valu Home Center
- Early Owego Antiques
- Harris Diner (stove)

Community Service Organizations

CSO's have supported us too:

- Franziska Racker Centers
- Owego Elks
- Beds-4-Kids
- Tioga County Boys & Girls Club
- Owego Girl Scouts (mural & garden)

An Eagle Scout project is planned for next year.

Individuals

- 2,375 volunteer hours recorded
- More than 30 financial or in-kind donations from individuals

Grants Received

- Community Foundation for South Central New York
- Thrivent Financial Action Teams (5)
- Floyd Hooker Foundation
- New York Council of Nonprofits (NYCON) capacity-building mini-grant

Indirect Funding Sources

- AmazonSmile
- Planet Green printer cartridge recycling
- Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars
- GoFundMe

Facility Improvements

Along with flood damage repair, much has been done for flood mitigation and to improve functionality.

Flood Mitigation

- Furnaces moved to first floor, above flood plain.
- Tank water heater replaced with small on-demand, movable natural gas heater.
- All first floor electric moved above flood plain.
- Water-resistant ceiling tiles installed in basement.

Functionality & Efficiency

- Basement furnace area converted to kitchen
- 200-amp electric service upgrade, panel moved out of sanctuary
- Doubled east and west sanctuary walls
- R-26 wall, R-30 ceiling insulation (sanctuary)
- Sanctuary sconce lighting
- Ramp area reinforcement and insulation
- Outside play area
- Raised garden beds
- Utility shed moved to rear of building
- Foosball, ping pong, bumper pool added

Work Remaining

- First floor walls: finish drywall, paint & panel
- Office electric
- Sanctuary and office floor treatments
- Sconce lighting
- Finish ramp area rehab
- Finish kitchen and scullery
- Finish basement classrooms
- Build two more garden beds
- Finish exterior painting
- Close off Main St. driveway, fill and seed to extend play area
- Fence play area