

World Hunger-

We often think of it as something foreign, faraway from home. But it is not. We are the world. And we have hungry people.

For twenty-seven years we have been responding to the needs of people in the Rapid City area with emergency assistance for food, housing, utilities and counseling with compassion and caring.

Church Response was founded in 1972, after the Rapid City flood, to provide emergency assistance to people in need. Since then it has served many thousands of people in the Rapid City area.

Our primary support has been from local churches. Their contributions and those of other organizations and individuals supply a financial base for operations.

Church Response is committed to dealing with its clients as individuals. People generally come to us after seeing social services agencies, and for one reason or another, have been denied assistance or received inadequate aid. It is these people who fall through the cracks in the system that desperately need an organization such as ours.

The need for Church Response is especially acute now that welfare changes are underway in compliance with legislation passed in 1996. The changes are here, in place, affecting people now. Those we help are in transition. Need for our assistance has shot up by 25-30% each year since 1996!

- CHURCH RESPONSE IS A LOCAL CHARITY IN RAPID CITY.
- CHURCH RESPONSE PRIMARILY ASSISTS THE WORKING POOR.
- 75% OF ASSISTANCE GOES TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, MOST OF WHOM HAVE SINGLE MOTHERS AS HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.
- CHURCH RESPONSE DOES NOT DUPLICATE ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES IN RAPID CITY, BUT SERVES ITS OWN NICHE, CO-OPERATES WITH THE OTHER AGENCIES, AND ALL COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER'S EFFORTS. ALL ARE NECESSARY, WE ARE PART OF THE WHOLE PICTURE, AND IN NEED OF SEPARATE SUPPORT FROM THE RAPID CITY COMMUNITY.
- CHURCH RESPONSE IS NOT SUPPORTED BY UNITED WAY.

The mission of Church Response is to administer the call of churches to provide temporary assistance to those in need and to help churches understand those needs in our community. Church Response stands as a witness and advocate for the churches with love and understanding—as Christ's helping hand.

Church Response

*Extending
our hand...
because we care*



*Responsible
temporary
assistance
to those in need*

30 Main Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
Phone: 342-5360

***"...for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."
Matthew 25:35***

***"Truly, as you did unto
the least one of these,
so did you do unto me..."
Matthew 25:40***

Who do we help?

The working poor who have been denied assistance from other agencies. Rigid rules govern giving from most agencies—our staff may make individual judgements as to need and eligibility

Families with children who are about 75% of those we help, most of whom have *single women* as head of household. 28,000 times in 1998 a child was helped in Rapid City by Church Response.

Persons starting a new job who can't make it to the first paycheck. They are desperately trying to be productive citizens, but need a hand so they don't fall by the wayside when they are so close to making it.

Unemployed or laid off are about 10% of those we help.

Individuals or families who are ordinarily self-sufficient, but have a temporary emergency due to unexpected expenses or illness.

How do we help?

Counseling – Provided for those unfamiliar with available resources. Caseworkers also serve as mediator and/or client advocate in making arrangements with utility companies or landlords.

Food – A food pantry and bags of commodities are available to those who meet federal low income guidelines, or who demonstrate a need due to temporary financial crisis. This assistance is also available to those who are traveling through Rapid City.

Utilities – Emergency help can be provided to avoid utility disconnect. A caseworker will work with a client and the utility company to make arrangements and/or provide a voucher for the amount required to maintain service. Eligibility is determined by income, proof of impending disconnect, and referral.

Other areas of assistance – Toiletries and necessity items, baby food and formula, are available; and assistance is given to those who need help in obtaining birth certificates and picture ID's for use in getting employment.

How can you help?

Donations – Food and necessity items are always needed.

Contribute financially – Money is needed to pay rent, utilities, staff salaries, insurance premiums and other operational costs – food from the Food Bank must be purchased. Over 86% of revenues go to meet client needs.

Food Certificate Program participation – This offers a way of providing assistance to both participating church and Church Response. Certificates may be purchased at your church or at the Church Response office.

Get your church involved – We are presently supported by approximately 50% of Rapid City area churches. Our goal is to involve each church in our area.

Volunteers – Help is needed for food collection, sorting and moving food from storage areas to the food pantry, for handing out food, and for office work.

***Call us or stop by to find out how
you can help.***