

Community Circle

January/February 2020

Keeping the Lodi
Community in the Loop

Quote of the Month

"The three secrets to happiness are:
Be kind, be kind,
be kind."
—Mr. Rogers



Community Center and Community Store

601 Clark Street
Lodi, WI 53555
Mailing address: P.O. Box 316
Lodi, WI 53555
reachoutlodi@gmail.com
ReachOutLodi.org
608-592-4592

Find us on 

Community Store Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8:30am-3:30pm
Saturday 8:30am-11am

Community Center Hours:

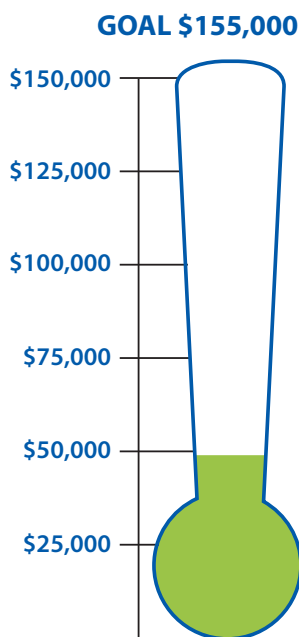
Monday - Friday
8:30am-3:30pm
Saturday 8:30am-11am

Reach Out Lodi Community Store is a 501(c) (3) non-profit agency supported by donations and some grants. We charge no fees for our customers.

Building a Stronger Community



Help us reach
our goal!

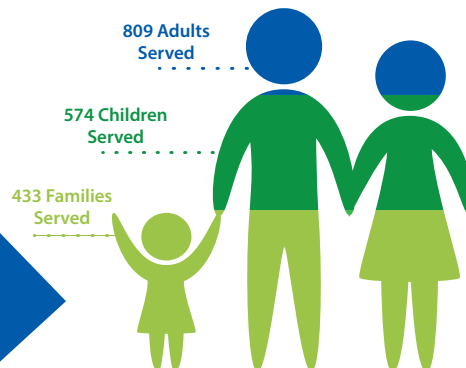


Reach Out Lodi, Inc. provides services focused on the needs of the community. We help stamp out hunger, prevent homelessness, redirect struggling people to support services, and provide a myriad of wholesome activities for children and adults. We do this with the encouragement and support of the community.

After five years the number of families we have served in the Lodi School District, 433, sadly continues to grow at a rapid rate, making it necessary to expand the Community Store and storage area.

Recently our Board of Directors approved a plan to build a 54'X28' (1512 sq ft) addition to the Community Store. The cost of the addition is \$155,000. To date \$48,000 has been committed to our 2020 Capital Fundraising Campaign. The General Engineering Co. of Portage prepared blueprints which have been approved by the WI Department of Safety and Professional Services. The project will be managed by Jim

(Story continued on page 4.)



From 2013 to November 2019 ROL has served a total of 1,383 people, 42% of which are children.

What's Happening at Reach Out Lodi

Winter 2019 Calendar of Events

Super Supper

January 14th & 28th,
February 11th & 25th

Serving from 5-7 pm.

A Community meal for everyone, served twice a month beginning in January. Come for supper, stay to meet your neighbors, play cards or just relax. Free-will offering accepted.



**Saturday,
Jan 18,
Feb 1 & 15
5-7PM**

Come for dinner, games and socializing designed for our special needs young people, high school through age 25.

Wellness on Wednesday (WOW)

Challenges of Cooking for 1-2 People

January 22nd

1:00-2:00 pm

Isaac Hoffmaster, Dietitian SP Health Care, will offer ideas on how to prepare healthy meals for 1-2 people.



Lunch With...

Tom Waselchuk

January 8th

11:30 am

Tom presents a program of comedy numbers and his favorite songs. He is the leader of an award winning country and Americana band called, *The Dang-Its*, and is the producer and co-star of a classic country music revue titled, *Sweet Dreams & Honky Tonks*.



Cost: \$10. RSVP required. **Call** 592-4592

**Is It a Heart Attack or Stroke:
How to Tell the Difference and
What to Do**

February 26th

1:00-2:00 pm

Julie Esser, RND, Cardiac Rehab Specialist,
Sauk Prairie Health Care

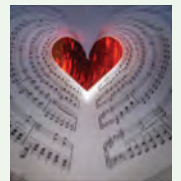


**Shelly Pare, Jason McGrath &
Frank Guzzo**

February 12th

11:30 am

Join us for a light lunch and to celebrate Valentine's Day with music to soothe the heart.



Cost: \$10. RSVP required. **Call** 592-4592

Beginning Tai Chi

Tues. & Thurs. starting January 7-February 27

10:00-10:30 am

Cost: \$40.00 for 8 weeks

Continuing Tai Chi

Tues. & Thurs. starting January 7-February 27

9:00-9:45 am

Cost: \$40.00 for 8 weeks.

Cards — Euchre

Every Thursday throughout the year.

1:00-3:00 pm

Make new friends, have fun and share a snack before you leave.

Senior Yoga

Tuesdays starting Jan. 7-Feb. 25

2:00-2:45 pm

Gentle, restorative yoga.

Cost: \$20 for 8 weeks.

Mah Jongg

Every Friday throughout the year

10:00 am-12:30 pm

This interesting and challenging game is played with small tiles. Don't know how to play? We will teach you!

Men's Group

Every Wednesday throughout the year.

7-8 am

Faith based bible study group. Light breakfast.

Artist of the Month

January-February

Lodi Art Club Members

What's Happening at Reach Out Lodi

Winter 2019 Calendar of Events

Developing the Leader Within You 2.0 *Mastermind — with Jeff Joutras*

SCHEDULE: A 6 week program starting Thursday, January 16th through February 20th

7:30-9:00 am

Enhance your leadership skills as you grow with like minded colleagues during these interactive mastermind sessions. Topics include: priorities, self-discipline, creating positive change, problem solving, among others.



INFO: Contact Jeff: jeff@stepforwardintogrowth.com

Cost: \$167.00 (a \$240 value) for 6 weeks.

Call Jeff to Register: (608)573-1479

BINGO

@ROL!

Saturday, January 25th

6:30-10:00 pm

Calling all Bingo fans! Reach Out Lodi is hosting Bingo in our building. So, grab your friends and come on in to enjoy a fun evening of Bingo @ROL! Concessions will be offered by the Boy Scouts. Come early, seating is limited.

Lodi Community Garden Relocated

The Lodi Community Garden formerly located on Prospect Street has a new home. It



has been relocated to 601 Clark Street on Reach Out Lodi property. Anyone looking for garden space should contact us by phone at 1-608-592-4592 or e-mail reachoutlodi@gmail.org. Space will be available in Spring of 2020.

THANKS-GIVING 2019



Thanksgiving was a very joyous occasion at Reach Out Lodi this year. The joy of meeting and serving over 150 people was met by 61 volunteers who made and donated food, and those who served, delivered or cleaned after the meal. The kitchen crew, led by super chef Thea Jesse, included 2 men up to their elbows in suds and 2 little boys filling the dishwasher. A

special thank you to the lady who made 15 pies and a man who cooked 6 turkeys. We are blessed every day by our wonderful volunteers.

In addition to the meals served at the Center and those delivered to homes the Community Store was also very busy before Thanksgiving. Over 50 families picked up turkeys and all the trimmings to celebrate with their families at home.

Room Rentals

The ROL Community Center has three rooms available for use. These can be reserved for families, special occasions, educational opportunities, celebration of life luncheons, community groups and meetings.

Call 592-4592 and ask for Mary or Jim to learn more.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: Listen for Lodi school closings on inclement weather days. When the Lodi school district is closed, or has a late start, *all* classes at ROL are canceled too. For other activities or questions, just give us a call at (608) 592-4592. Your safety is our main concern. Please be careful out there.

The Community Circle is published by Reach Out Lodi ©2020, 601 Clark Street, Lodi WI 53555, 608-592-4592, reachoutlodi@gmail.com
Managing Editor, Maribeth Fleischmann. Contributing writers; Penny Schmiedlin, Events Coordinator, Jim Schmiedlin, President, and Mary Wilkes, Managing Director.

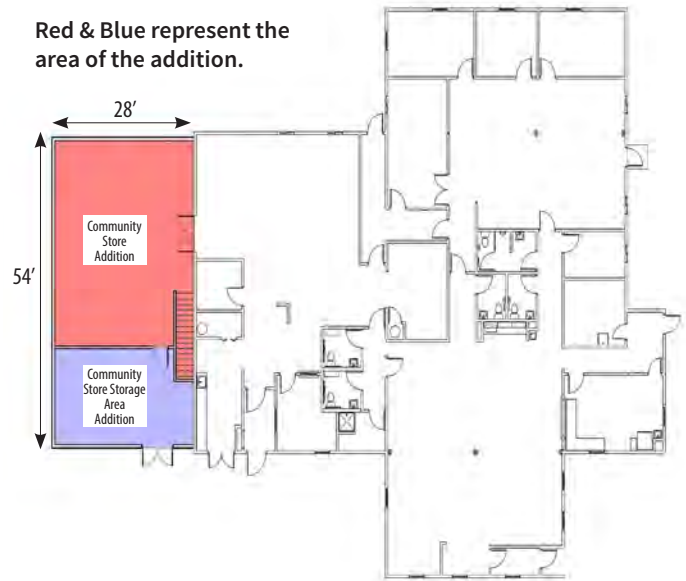
(Building a Stronger Community, continued from front page)

Krinke, retired general contractor, and built by skilled volunteers. The construction start date is scheduled for April 2020.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

1. Increased storage space for the Community Store and Community Center.
2. Expansion of the refrigeration area to reduce congestion and keep perishable foods fresh.
3. Increasing square footage will allow us to organize and manage inventory more efficiently.
4. Replacement and relocation of old, inefficient, ceiling furnaces and cooling systems that will reduce energy costs and be more easily maintained.
5. Wider aisles throughout the Community Store will improve safety and reduce congestion.
6. More space to display and store the clothing section of the operation.
7. Storage for outdoor furniture, charcoal grill, snow removal and lawn care equipment, general maintenance and cleaning supplies, and gardening supplies.

Red & Blue represent the area of the addition.



If you have questions please contact us. We welcome volunteers. By financially giving to Reach Out Lodi you can help sustain this important community project. Your support will help Build a Stronger Community.

—Jim Schmiedlin, ROL

Customer Comments

It's easy to drop a couple bucks into the red bucket and move on with your day. You don't have to deal with the faces of those you might have helped. You did something! You did your part. Now it's time to deal with that text from your husband about grabbing a gallon of milk on the way home.

Then you find yourself on the receiving end of charity. You think about what led to that moment. The nights you lay awake staring at the ceiling, fighting back the nausea and stress, knowing any day now there will be an eviction notice on your door. You wonder when the heat will be turned off. You wonder how you will get a couple dollars worth of gas into the tank, just enough to get you to work and back.

"How did we end up here?" you wonder, "my husband and I don't drink, we don't take drugs,

we work hard." Somehow, it just isn't enough. You force your smile socially and you put on a good face for your children. You shake off that tear and get down on the floor to play with the kids, pretending that they don't know something is worrying you.

My tired husband stepped into the living room, still smelling of work. He was holding our utility bill. A silent conversation happened between us, "It's time. We need help."

Not all angels have wings. Sometimes they are wearing a plaid shirt and a fleece vest. They are soft-spoken and gentle and have practical and modest mannerisms. They wear a smile that is both understanding and a little sad and they answer to the name "Jim."

Jim met us and could feel our desperation. He could feel the years being shaved off our lives by stress

and could detect the tears just under the surface. He's a busy man, but he had time to listen to us and he listened without judgment. He took the time to find a way to help us.

It took nearly a week of effort and he apologized for taking so long. He apologized to us. Unbelievable.

Reach Out Lodi saved us that spring, saved our family. We are forever in their debt. It took us being poor to understand what poverty actually is and how easily it can happen. We're acutely aware that we were not an isolated case. Reach Out Lodi's work, tragically, will never be finished. They need your help, all of our help.

Someone is putting on a brave face. Someone you know is hiding their shame. Help them. Please help us help them. —Anonymous



COMMUNITY STORE TOP 10 WISH LISTS

Top 10 Food

1. Cooking Oil
2. Baking Supplies
3. Cereal
4. Canned Meats
5. Canned Fruits
6. Eggs
7. Butter/Margarine
8. Peanut Butter/Jelly
9. Condiments (ketchup, mustard)
10. Cooking Spices

Top 10 Personal Essentials

1. Dish Soap
2. Bleach
3. Laundry Detergent
4. Dryer Sheets
5. Feminine Hygiene Products
6. Kleenex
7. Shampoo/Conditioner
8. Household Cleaning Products
9. Dental Supplies
10. Baby Products

A standing request from the Community Store Clothing Department: New underwear all sizes, for boys and girls.

Our email address has changed.

Please contact us at:
reachoutlodi@gmail.com

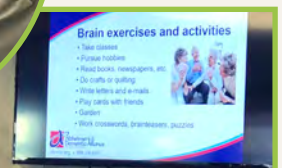
www.reachoutlodi.org



REACH OUT LODI COMMUNITY CENTER


When I was asked to list all the activities at the ROL Community Center I thought it would take only a few minutes. After categorizing more than 60 events I decided to share just a few with you.

- ✿ Lunch with Entertainment
- ✿ Wellness on Wednesday
- ✿ Tuesday & Thursday Tai Chi
- ✿ Tuesday Senior Yoga
- ✿ Rotary Club
- ✿ Optimists
- ✿ Tuesday Super Supper
- ✿ Game Night
- ✿ Thursday Afternoon Cards
- ✿ Evening BINGO
- ✿ Care giving & dementia education
- ✿ Painting for Pleasure
- ✿ High School Art Display & Awards Night
- ✿ Lunches for summer school
- ✿ Thanksgiving Community Meal
- ✿ Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts & 4H
- ✿ Personal rentals, birthdays, graduation, Christmas, celebrations of life, etc.



For more information on room rentals and other possible uses call ROL at 592-4592

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					Mah Jongg 10:00 am-12:30 pm	
5	6	7 <i>NEW SESSIONS</i> Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am Senior Yoga 2:00-2:45 pm	Men's Group 7-8 am Lunch With... Tom Waselchuk 11:30 am	Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am CARDS 1-3 pm	10	11
					Mah Jongg 10:00 am-12:30 pm	
12	13	14 Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am Senior Yoga 2:00-2:45 pm Super Supper 5-7 pm	Men's Group 7-8 am	Leadership Class 16 Jeff Joutras 7:30-9:00 am Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am CARDS 1-3:00 pm	17	18
					Mah Jongg 10:00 am-12:30 pm	Game Night 5:00-7:00 pm
19	20	21 Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am Senior Yoga 2:00-2:45 pm	Men's Group 7-8 am WOW Cooking for 2 1:00-2:00pm	Leadership Class 23 Jeff Joutras 7:30-9:00 am Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am CARDS 1-3 pm	24	25
						 at Reach Out Lodi 6:30-10 pm
26	27	28 Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am Senior Yoga 2:00-2:45 pm Super Supper 5-7 pm	Men's Group 7-8 am	Leadership Class 30 Jeff Joutras 7:30-9:00 am Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am CARDS 1-3 pm	31	
					Mah Jongg 10:00 am-12:30 pm	

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Look for us on Facebook! Each week we take inventory of our food, personal essentials and clothing items. When we are running short on something we will post it on our facebook page. Our followers respond, bringing in much needed items for our customers. Can you do us a favor and look for our posts? Then, help out when you can. Thank you so much! —<i>The ROL Staff</i></p>					1 Game Night 5:00-7:00 pm
2	3	4 Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am Senior Yoga 2:00-2:45 pm	5 Men's Group 7-8 am	6 Leadership Class Jeff Joutras 7:30-9:00 am Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am CARDS 1-3 pm	7 Mah Jongg 10:00 am-12:30 pm	8
9	10	11 Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am Senior Yoga 2:00-2:45 pm Super Supper 5-7 pm	12 Men's Group 7-8 am Lunch With... Shelly Pare, Jason McGrath & Frank Guzzo 11:30 am	13 Leadership Class Jeff Joutras 7:30-9:00 am Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am CARDS 1-3 pm	14 Mah Jongg 10:00 am-12:30 pm	15 Game Night 5:00-7:00 pm
16	17	18 Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am Senior Yoga 2:00-2:45 pm	19 Men's Group 7-8 am	20 Leadership Class Jeff Joutras 7:30-9:00 am Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am CARDS 1-3 pm	21 Mah Jongg 10:00 am-12:30 pm	22
23	24	25 Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am Senior Yoga 2:00-2:45 pm Super Supper 5-7 pm	26 Men's Group 7-8 am WOW Heart Attack or Stroke? 1:00-2:00pm	27 Cont. Tai Chi 9-9:45 Beginning Tai Chi 10-10:45 am CARDS 1-3 pm	28 Mah Jongg 10:00 am-12:30 pm	29

Volunteer Corner

Working as a volunteer at ROL is one of the top highlights in my life. After retiring from a fulfilling career in education my husband, who had also retired, and I enjoyed the opportunity to slow down and travel. Soon I found myself searching for more in my life. I volunteered in various areas around Lodi before a friend shared her plan to volunteer at ROL. In the summer of 2016 I walked into ROL & began another rewarding time in my life. Right away it became clear that ROL practices respect & confidentiality to all who enter the Community Center & Community Store. My role includes serving in the store & center two afternoons each week. As a volunteer I have made new friends & appreciate the chance to give back to those who live in my community. At ROL I feel energized by co-workers who share the same desire to work toward promoting a positive & respectable environment. Volunteering at ROL is truly a highlight in my life.



—Linda Maier

We are so blessed with our very committed, long standing volunteers and welcome our new volunteers with open arms and hearts. Currently we have some specific requests for future volunteers.

1. Someone to answer phones/greet people and help with miscellaneous tasks on Fridays from 12-3:30pm (this could be 2 people to split up the month.) We could also use backup volunteers for any day of the week in this area.
2. Clean bathrooms, collect garbage, vacuum when needed, take recyclables to transfer site couple times/week,
3. On call for shoveling snow or moving tables & chairs prior to events,
4. Cross train for the Community store, clothing department. and phones, be available as a backup.
5. For building addition beginning 4/2020:
 - a. People with construction skills
 - b. Clean up construction area daily.

If you are interested in joining us in any of these areas, please stop by to fill out a volunteer application, meet with us, tour the facility and see if it's the right fit for you. Reach Out Lodi is a great place to spend part of your week.

We wish you all a Happy & Healthy New Year.
— From the ROL Staff and Volunteers

Supporting Your Community

Reach Out Lodi (ROL) has been blessed with generous support from all corners of our community. Gifts from people like you allow us to provide a safe and welcoming Community Center where youth and adults gather for a variety of special events and activities. The Community Store helps families and individuals who experience difficulties provide for their basic living needs. What we do collectively, as ROL supporters, is very important in sustaining our overall community "quality of life."

There are several ways that you can help sustain programs and services at ROL, they include:

- Consider giving on a consistent ongoing basis, i.e., monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.
- Purchase a (8" x 8") or (4" x 8") engraved tile to be placed on our Wall of Honor with your name, name of a loved one, family or business.
- Include ROL in your estate planning.
- Donating stocks or bonds.
- Apply to become a volunteer.

For more information contact Mary Wilkes, Managing Director, or Jim Schmiedlin, Board President at 592-4592, or stop at the Community Center and discuss how you would like to help support ROL.

