



Members of the CCSC Garden Team with vegetables harvested on January 11.

Garden Team Fights Freeze

CCSC's Garden is proving as resilient as our hardworking Garden Team.

"Our team worked diligently to cover our trees and as many of our crops as possible with protective cloth in advance of the freeze," Garden Lead Ron Smith said. "When we uncovered, a week later, we found we had managed to save most or all of our cilantro, lettuce, cabbage, carrots, onions and herbs. Within another week we were starting to harvest again."

The Garden's trees were hardest hit. "Unfortunately, since the trees in our orchard are quite young, the freeze hit them much harder than it would more mature citrus and avocado trees," Smith said. "We see a few bits of evidence that not all have failed, but we are still waiting to see signs of life in most. It will be a while yet before we know for sure how many have survived."

Smith added that more vegetables are coming back from stems or roots and the volunteers have re-seeded some into a few failed beds and set out greenhouse seedlings as well. Thanks to our volunteer Garden Team's efforts, 23 of our 26 garden beds are green and growing again!

Emergency Services Supports Grieving Family

There is likely nothing more difficult for parents than the death of a child. That pain is compounded with worry and financial strain when the family experiences unexpected hospital and funeral expenses on a limited budget.



CCSC's Emergency Services team is honored and humbled to support families facing this crisis as we did with "Kay and Eddie" in December.

Kay and Eddie, parents of 2-, 5- and 10-year-old children, were gladly expecting their fourth child late last year. The family lives in southwest Houston, where Kay is a stay-at-home mother and Eddie works at a local nonprofit organization. In November, pregnancy complications required Kay to be hospitalized. While she was receiving medical care, Eddie lost wages as he assumed all the care responsibilities of their children. Sadly, the couple's baby was stillborn.

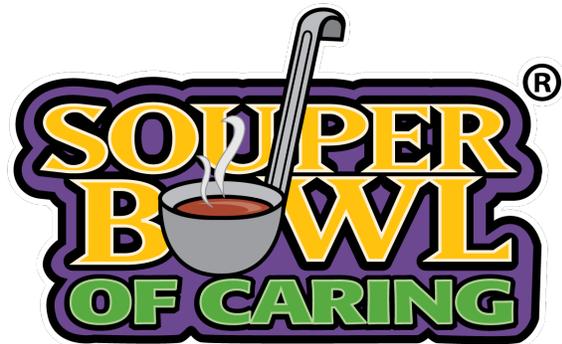
The grieving family was then hit with hefty hospital and funeral bills. Behind by one month's rent, they gratefully found CCSC in December. We quickly offered financial assistance to stabilize their housing situation, groceries to help them stretch their food budget, and a compassionate ear.

"Every day, we are visited by many families in need," Emergency Services-Southwest Manager Pat Weatherspoon-Hall said. "They all touch your heart, but some situations are so raw. We did all we could to ease this family's burden."

Because of donors and volunteers like you, CCSC is able to serve hurting families in their time of need. We thank the Emergency Services volunteers who compassionately hear clients' stories, pack food kits, or help in the Clothing Room, and we thank the donors whose gifts make it possible for our team to serve men and women facing hardship like Kay and Eddie.

Kick Off 2023 with Souper Bowl of Caring

Souper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide grassroots movement utilizing Super Bowl weekend to mobilize youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities through food drives.



If your church, youth group or school participates in the Souper Bowl of Caring, we invite you to choose Christian Community Service Center as your beneficiary organization. You will help replenish our food pantries after the holidays so we can continue to feed hungry families in our community.

To arrange a Souper Bowl of Caring donation drop at CCSC, contact Emergency Services-Central Manager Lydia Bias at emergency_1@ccschouston.org.

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For more information about CCSC job opportunities visit [Job Opportunities | Christian Community Service Center \(ccschouston.org\)](#)

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