



Cunningham Township
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July 13, 2020

Town Bills

- Town fund = \$170,371.38 in expenditures
- General Assistance Fund = \$147,695.17 in expenditures
- TOTAL: \$318,581.55 in expenditures

Assistance Statistics

- **General Assistance**
 - 157 Current Participants (up from 155 last month)
 - 71 are homeless (63 last month)
 - 26 Participants are in temporary housing for COVID19 Shelter-In Place since order went into effect.
 - 95 males / 61 females / 0 transgender or gender non-conforming
 - 44.4 is the average age
 - NOTE: Community Work Program remains closed in July 2020
- **Rental Assistance**
 - 11 Rental Assistance (up from 7 last month) - 7 move in and 4 eviction prevention.
 - 6 COVID Rental Assistance Program disbursements by CTSO (23 to date)
 - Total households served July to present = 131
- **Bucket Brigade - Stay at Home Provisions for Very Low Income residents**
 - People served: 862 (Since March 25)
 - Including 294 children
 - Households served: 413 (Since March 25)

Urbana Amble

The Urbana Amble was a community-led event July 3-4th that allowed for residents to walk or drive-by multiple gardens and art display. Cunningham Township participated as the headquarters for the event, which included a call for donations for our Solidarity Gardens CU collaborative project. We called through hundreds of participants, doing wellness and housing checks while inviting them to the event. Residents were invited to walk through our garden, pick up a mask, get seeds and seedlings for gardens of their own, and see our new beautiful mural! We provided free wraps and cold drinks to residents to those who “ambled” by and encouraged people to grab a bucket of tomato plant to nurture in their own home.



Murals On Glass

The Cunningham Township Supervisors Office and the City of Urbana's Arts and Culture Program is partnered to unveil the 2020 Murals on Glass selection, In the Sunshine by artist duo, BLACKMAU, Kamau Grantham and Stacey Robinson. The mural was unveiled during the Urbana Amble Garden and Art Tour and can be viewed on the Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office front windows. Township staff participated in the juried selection process.

Both jurors and Township staff were particularly drawn to how In the Sunshine expresses both an exuberance and a sense of safety, values underpinning the Cunningham Township's work in empowerment-focused wrap-around care for those facing housing instability and other symptoms of poverty. In the Sunshine is a mixed media piece that, in the artist's words, "invites you to imagine Black kids swimming in the golden infinity of uninterrupted time."



Photo by Rachel Storm

#SolidarityGardensCU



Solidarity Garden Stats

- **89 Solidarity Gardens volunteers**
- **Approx. 400 plants and packets of seeds distributed to the community**
- **4 gardens at public locations -- totaling almost 10,000 sqft gardened! -- and countless other individual gardens in people's homes**
- **\$909 raised**

Since we launched the [Solidarity Gardens project](#) with our collaborators in early June, we've seen a great response from the community! With the money that we've raised through the project so far we were able to

erect an 8x10 shed at Cunningham Township to house tools and supplies for the project and purchase a tiller for loan. We've distributed seedlings and seeds to many members of the community through our website and through giveaways at Sola Gratia Farm's Mobile Market, the Carle Mobile Clinic, and food deliveries to the Ivanhoe and Woodland Acres communities. We also participated in the Urbana Amble, helping to connect community gardeners and yard artists with each other and with our resources.

COVID

This past month we closed out this [fund](#), launched on March 20th to provide rental assistance to households out of work because of COVID who do not qualify for unemployment, including undocumented families. \$27,000 was dedicated to it, including \$7,000 from CTSO. This is a partnership between Cunningham Township, City of Champaign Township, Regional Planning Commission County-wide Rental Assistance Partners, United Way and Community Foundation.

- Calls to the COVID Relief Rental Assistance hotline = over 700 (data from RPC)
- Households served to date = 43.
- Households served by CTSO = 23.
- Remaining balance in ALL funds: \$3,920
- Remaining balance in CTSO fund: \$0

RPC is now handling all COVID related rental arrears through referrals from [HelpIllinoisFamilies.com](#). We expected this fund to be a bridge fund for both unemployment processing and state and federal funds and it has served its purpose as that.

Angel Donor Fund

We raised another \$9001 this past month bringing the totals to \$46,049 to date, \$39K of that since COVID. We continue to use the angel donor fund for the weekly bucket brigade, very temporary hotel stays for homeless residents in area shelters who have symptoms but have not tested positive, and bridge hotel stays for homeless families to give them 1-3 days to be assessed for Emergency Family Shelter, and other material needs. We are grateful to our donors and continue to use those funds.

Permanent Housing for Homeless Residents

The Housing Advocacy Team conducted 392 calls to participants who may have qualified for Bristol Place. For Bristol Place, we helped 23 people apply for the waitlist. We have conducted 123 calls so far to participants who may qualify for Haven at Marketplace. We have helped 12 people apply for the waitlist so far. Jen and I checked up on 10 housing advocacy folks who we filled out C-19 forms for to check in on their status. Our intern Sophie Davenport has helped 6 people with housing advocacy needs (checking in on status of C-19 form, applying for Steer Place through HACCC, helping fill out reauthorization form, apply for subsidized housing) other than the Bristol Place or Haven at Marketplace waitlists.