



Cunningham Township

Danielle Chynoweth, Supervisor

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Town Bills

- Town fund = \$69,745.27 in expenditures
- General Assistance Fund = \$45,933.61 in expenditures
- TOTAL: \$115,678.88

Assistance Statistics as of Dec 9, 2019

- **General Assistance**
 - Current Participants: 91 (90 last month)
 - 28 are homeless (29 last month)
 - 44 males / 45 females / 0 transgender, gender non-conforming
 - Average age: 47.4
 - TOTAL served by GA July 1, 2019 to present = 189
- **Rental Assistance**
 - 2 (down from 14 last month)
 - 2 eviction prevention cases
 - We had several General Assistance participants move into subsidized housing with support from RPC, which has agreed to support our GA participants who can not receive two kinds of assistance simultaneously.
 - Total Urbana households served July to present = 87 (average of 17 per month)
- **Angel Donor Fund**

Late last year, Cunningham Township launched an “angel donor” fund in response to requests from local residents for a way to direct their contributions to Urbana residents in need. An overview of the program can be found [here](#).

Last Fall, H2O Salon approached us with the desire to run a campaign amongst their customers for the angel donor fund. We also ran a modest social media campaign. The response has been overwhelming. We have raised **\$8106.37** so far and individuals are still [giving online here](#).

Here are several examples of what we have done with angel donor funds:

- We supported a disabled mother and her three children who were fleeing an abusive situation and found themselves homeless in their car. We were able to provide bridge housing until a stable solution could be found last week.
- Through our General Assistance case management we had supported an Urbana resident with multiple criminal convictions access employment. We helped him access RPC’s Job Club to develop a resume and interview skills. To help him establish a work record, the Assessor’s office interviewed and hired him as a

temporary assistant to deal with a backlog of scanning. Once that two month assignment was over, we helped him access a part time fast food job. We continued to provide case management to help him apply to full time, higher paying jobs. He was hired on at a grocery store, but required to pay for his uniform before starting. With angel donor funds, we purchased his uniform. He reported that knowing the community supported him with the uniform helps him get up and go to work every day.

General Assistance Changes

Starting February 1, 2020, General Assistance will be undergoing some changes. Rules changes will be posted to our www.cunninghamtownship.org website. Changes include:

- An increase in standard assistance amount to \$300 per month in response to IDHS recommendations and to better match City of Champaign assistance levels.
- Employment track participants must do 24 hours of community work per month. 12 hours of work must be completed by the 15th of each month. Anyone who does not complete their community work hours will have their case closed. They will be required to make up their hours, along with re-verification of eligibility, before their case can be reopened.

Housing Cohort

Cunningham Township has launched a housing cohort of formerly homeless women to help inform our policies and tell their stories to a wider audience. This cohort was featured at a December 7th exhibition and storytelling event at the IMC with over 100 people in attendance. Watch the video [here](#) and [here](#). We have been invited to repeat the exhibition at the University YMCA.

**OUR STORIES, OUR PLACES
OUR RESILIENT SELVES**

COLLECTIVE STORY
MAPPING FOR COMMUNITY POWER
IN SEGREGATED CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

**Independent Media Center
202 S Broadway Urbana IL**

**Saturday December 7th
2pm-5pm
(Downtown Urbana post office)**

Join us for an afternoon sharing the concealed stories, social places, dignifying images and inspiring poetry highlighting the lived experiences of local residents who have "been through it."

Help amplify the stories of our neighbors deeply impacted by intersecting systems of oppression that produce homelessness, mass incarceration, and violence but also hope, resilience, and healing in segregated Champaign County.

We will share the fruits and seeds of our semester long dialog with First Followers, Randolph Street Community Garden and Cunningham Township listening and mapping participant experiences.

Free. Soul food provided.
Bring a friend.

Children welcome, but some intense topics will be shared.

Our Stories, Our Places, Our Resilient Selves is an exhibition of story mapping, photographs, and artifacts amplifying the lived experiences of our neighbors who have "been through it." Exhibition on view Thursday, January 30th through Friday, March 13th.

Partners include: University YMCA, Cunningham Township, UI Urban & Regional Planning, the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, First Followers, Randolph Street Community Garden.

Where: University YMCA 1001 S Wright St, Champaign

When: Opening reception January 30th 5-7pm.

Donation of winter outerwear will be accepted throughout the exhibition. All events are free and open to the public.