

DIXON AREA CARING CENTER

Thrift Store • Food Pantry • Community Room

by Susan E. Hohman

The adage, “See a need, fill a need” describes the efforts behind the Dixon Area Caring Center (DACC), located at 206 South Elm Street in Dixon, MO. Conceived in the minds of two caring, industrious individuals thirteen years ago, the establishment now stands as a testament of their perseverance. Seeing the need to expand the food pantry offered by their church, the two submitted a written presentation to the pastor and board at Dixon Assembly of God. They proposed being able to stock the pantry with proceeds from a thrift store. The late Pastor Larry Albertson then shared this proposal with the Dixon Ministerial Alliance.



Cost is \$20/month for the first person in a family, and all other household members can access the fitness center and equipment for \$10/month. Members receive individual passcodes for entry to the facility.

A Christian, not-for-profit, 501-C-3 corporation, DACC depends on its board (currently 12-members strong), and the generosity of community

benefactors to see that the doors stay open and the lights remain on. The food pantry is also stocked with donations from various community members. The recycling program has expanded a few times since opening in 2014 to incorporate other accepted items. And, they have teamed with a recycling company that accepts clothing in any shape, for which they receive funds to pour back into the operation of the Caring Center.

Each year, the DACC hosts its annual Back to School fair in August. In 2017, more than 300 local Dixon school students benefitted from this volunteer, organized effort. Students move throughout the booth area on that evening and receive every single supply that teachers have requested the pupils need to begin the new school year—from backpacks to pencils, and many things in-between!

Dixon Area Caring Center is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm, and Saturday, 9:00 am-1:00 pm. For more information about DACC, call 573-759-3023, or check out their FaceBook page: Dixon Area Caring-Center.



distribution in Dixon, thus saving clients a trip across the county to obtain them.

Caring Center Director, Mendy Sinden, and her staff utilize their organization skills to rotate items on a regular basis. Five part-time workers—Sherry Brown, Jamie Jones, and Vickie Stark who help operate the store, and Doug Hughes and Donnie Campbell, who work with the recycling department—are employed at DACC. The Center obtained a grant to fund the hiring of the men who handle all things related to the recycling program on the premises.

In addition to the thrift store and food pantry, a community room is available for classes and learning workshops. In February 2017, the building next door was remodeled to become another DACC-owned and managed entity, The Station, a 24-hour fitness center. Applications to join are located at DACC, and interested individuals sign up and pay the fee at the Center.




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