

Charitable Christian Fellowship (CCF) Agency History



Early History

To bring healing, health and wholeness to individuals, families and communities who are dealing with conflict and disease, through the power of Jesus Christ and the servanthood of compassionate care givers.(Mission Statement)

Founded in 1905, Charitable Christian Fellowship's original goal was to serve the wave of German immigrants who were settling in the Coastal City area. The nature and scale of their services has changed significantly in the intervening century, but those active in the CCF itself feel that they are serving the same mission despite the changes in demography and outreach.

The history of the organization can be generally divided into three eras:

1. The first era begins with the organization's founding in 1905 and ends shortly after the conclusion of the First World War in 1920. During this time the organizational focus was on assisting new immigrants to Coastal City.
2. The second era, 1921 to the mid 1960s, was an era of institutional chaplaincy.
3. The third era, beginning in the mid-60s, is where the organization's current manifestation originated, in the form of multiple outreach centers beginning in the Coastal City area and expanding outside the city and even the state.

Although all three eras are significant, the current state of the organization is largely the product of the past four decades. For this reason and for the purposes of brevity this history will largely be focused on the events of the third era.

First era 1905-1920:

In its first manifestation, the Charitable Christian Fellowship was called the “*Mission Board of the Coastal City Congregations belonging to the Evangelical Missionite Conference of North America of Coastal City.*”

Initially the organization was intended to serve new German immigrants to Coastal City. The organization was conceived as a not-for-profit religious charitable and educational ministry, and volunteer support was an integral part of its functioning process from the beginning. The focus on German immigrants can be seen in the meeting minutes from the first decades, which were written in both English and German. Services to immigrants included assistance with housing and employment, as well as providing community networks to assist them in their integration into American society. These services were generally provided by participating clergy with the support of local volunteers from the various Missionite churches.

The organization also helped to establish several churches in the Coastal City area, sometimes holding the titles to church property. Seven churches were founded during the first era, and the work done by the organization expanded rapidly with the growing Missionite population. Initially under the Missionite Group, the organization was strongly evangelism oriented, as evidenced by their use of the term "missionaries" to describe their staff members for many decades.

Second era 1921-1965

As the flow immigrants from Europe dwindled, the Christian Fellowship transformed its goals to focus on chaplaincy. This chaplaincy involved collaboration between both clergy and laity, and it led to the acquisition of the organization's first full-time instructional chaplain in 1928.

In their work performing institutional chaplaincy, the Christian Fellowship served a number of city hospitals, elderly homes, children's hospitals, sanatoriums, VA hospitals, state hospitals, mental institutions, prisons, and even offered chaplaincy services to prisoners of war during World War II. In addition to the spiritual outreach and evangelism that they performed, they also worked to secure blood donors for tuberculosis patients, as well as donating furniture and food to needy members of the community.

The second era also saw the beginning of the Charitable Christian Fellowship Women's Auxiliary, which became a fundamental part of the organization's day-to-day operation.

Although the leadership and administrative tasks in the organization were largely directed by the clergymen, the Women's Auxiliary were heavily active in fundraising and they did the greater part of the organization's volunteer work.

In addition to raising funds to pay the salary for the organization's first full time chaplain, they also helped organize Mission festivals, collected food for orphans, baked cookies for WWII servicemen, and contributed teachers and volunteers to the CCF Sunday schools for mentally retarded children. Most significant, however, was their development of the "Economy Center" (later called the Kindness Center), which became a cornerstone of the Charitable Christian Fellowship's outreach in the third era.

The changing nature of institutional service significantly affected the nature of the work the Christian Fellowship was able to do. Polio and Tuberculosis wards began to close, and the practice of "mainstreaming" drastically reduced the populations of the asylums and institutions. This, along with a reduced need for chaplain services diminished the avenues of service open to the CCF, despite an enormous pool of volunteers that numbered over 1000 at one point in the sixties.

Third era: 1966 to the Present

As chaplaincy became secondary to the outreach of the Charitable Christian Fellowship they changed their focus accordingly. This began with the establishment of what they called economy centers - thrift stores that were intended to assist those in need, while also generating operating funds for the Christian Fellowship. This era was also marked by the appointment of Dr. Jones as executive director in 1967. Although the new direction of the Charitable Christian Fellowship began before the appointment of Dr. Jones as executive director, his service at the helm of the organization for almost 40 years was crucial in making it what it is today, and his leadership transformed the focus of the organization dramatically.

At the time of Dr. Jones' entry there were between 30 and 40 member churches involved in the CCF. "I had realized early on that it either had to expand and grow and develop in the community as more of a community organization or it was going to die." As part of this vision multiple Economy Centers were opened through southern, central, and eastern Coastal State over the next four decades. Although the Economy Center was initially conceived as a way for

their service to also generate operating funds for the Christian Fellowship, Dr. Jones augmented the basic idea, turning them into Kindness Centers where spiritual outreach supplemented the economic assistance to the communities surrounding the Centers.

The Christian Fellowship's Kindness Centers bring comfort to those in need, thanks to the good will of volunteers and donations from the community. Clothing, food, furniture, house wares and prescription eyeglass vouchers are among the items available there. There are eight Kindness Centers in the Coastal State area.

In addition to providing help with tangible needs, there are shoulders for crying on, ears for listening, and chapels for praying. Our volunteers and Jesus are often the answer to someone's prayers.

In 1988 the Christian Fellowship introduced the Kindness and Care program, a project geared towards providing housing, rehabilitation, parenting and job skills for single mothers, supplemented with Bible study and instruction in Christian living.

Kindness and Care Goals:

- *To bring participants into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.*
- *To give new life, hope, love and direction to women and women with children.*
- *To provide education and training for the necessities of life.*
- *To assist women in growing toward a lifestyle based on Biblical teachings*

Another program, Kindness House, was started in 2002 with the opening of the CCF Guest House. This facility provides short-term residence to out-of town families of patients using medical services in the Coastal City area.

One of the most important recent changes within the Charitable Christian Fellowship over the past few years is the change in leadership that took place in 2003, when Dr. Jones retired from his position and Reverend Smith took his place as the Executive Director of the organization.

Reverend Smith, who comes from a background of chaplain service in the US military, brought with him a different perspective on operational priorities and practices. Although his work has not diverged dramatically from the established practice put in place by Dr. Jones, some changes

in style are becoming evident, including a degree of increased independence on the part of the Kindness Centers, and a closer relationship with the Missionite Conference.

Another major recent change that took place was the movement from the organization's location in central Coastal City to one that is just south of Coastal City. One of the Charitable Christian Fellowship's member churches was faced with an aging and dwindling membership but was gifted with extensive facilities and grounds. They turned their properties over to the Charitable Christian Fellowship for use as a central office. In exchange, the CCF committed to maintaining the church building and its surrounding properties and provided the church with a part-time minister who spends the remainder of his time serving at the various Kindness Centers. This new location allowed the Charitable Christian Fellowship to sell their central Coastal City property for a considerable sum of money, and invest that in several ongoing projects.

Of those projects, the most recent is the establishment of a mobile Kindness Center that serves communities that are unable to reach the various Kindness Centers, and it also serves as a mobile disaster relief center that has already seen service in Coastal State, as well as in several other nearby states on the eastern seaboard.

In 2005, the Charitable Christian Fellowship also began participating in the establishment of another Missionite service organization in the Coastal City area known as MUN (Missionite Urban Network). Although this organization is not directly affiliated with the Charitable Christian Fellowship there is considerable overlap between the two organizations in both staffing and oversight, and the executive director is deeply involved. In many ways MUN is reminiscent of the early days of the Charitable Christian Fellowship, and its goals are as follows:

- Plant and develop new missions across the city among a variety of ethnic groups and communities.
- Build up communities and individuals through needs based programs that minister to the whole person and create a connection with the local mission congregation.
- Raise up and equip leaders to plant new missions, evangelize new people groups and minister to the needs of new communities.

The organization is still in its early stages and the connections between MUN and CCF may attenuate over time, but for the time being the two are closely linked.

Timeline

- 1905 Establishment of the Charitable Christian Fellowship as a not-for-profit, religious, charitable and educational ministry.
- 1906 Volunteer participation began.
- 1909 Assisted in the establishment of nine congregations.
- 1921 Missionite Women's Mission Auxiliary formed.
- 1921 Institutional chaplaincy services started.
- 1928 Rev. H called as first full-time institutional chaplain.
- 1940 Dr. F called as Executive Director of the Charitable Christian Fellowship of Coastal State
- 1950 Religious education services to the mentally retarded began.
- 1963 Counseling services started.
- 1965 Rev. C called as Executive Director.
- 1966 First Kindness Center established in downtown Coastal City.
- 1967 Dr. Jones called as Executive Director.
- 1972 CCF Kindness Center opens in downtown Coastal City.
- 1973 Main office relocated to downtown Coastal City.
- 1976 CCF Kindness Center opens.
- 1977 CCF Kindness Center opens.
- 1979 CCF Kindness Center opens.
- 1984 CCF Kindness Center opens.
- 1988 CCF Kindness and Care program for single women and their children established in Coastal Capital and Coastal City.
- 2001 CCF Kindness Center opens in Coastal State #2.
- 2002 CCF Kindness and Care program for single women and their children established in South City, Coastal State #2.
- 2004 CCF Guest House established.
- 2006 Rev. Smith becomes 10th CCF Executive Director.
Main offices moved to new location south of Coastal City

Finances

The Charitable Christian Fellowship is generally not known for accepting government funds, although they have taken money from the Department of Social Services, and from the federal government through HUD programs. These instances were rare, however, and very project-

specific. For the most part funding for the Charitable Christian Fellowship has come almost entirely from churches, seminaries, estate donations, businesses, and foundations. Despite this, Doctor Jones maintained a very close relationship with the Coastal City mayors and Coastal State governors throughout his service as executive director.

Monetary donations from churches, although a consistent part of the Charitable Christian Foundation funding, are secondary to the providing of volunteers. Rough estimates place the percentage of the Christian Fellowship funding from within the denomination at about 40%, with the remainder coming from outside of the Missionite church, or from the various centers.

	2006	2008
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Unrestricted revenue, gains and other support:		
Investment income	0.6%	1.7%
Contributions	52.6%	78.5%
Fundraising	0.4%	0.6%
Contributed services	41.5%	11.6%
Contributed food/other items	1.8%	2.3%
Program service fees	1.5%	3.9%
Other income	1.4%	-0-
Unrealized gains	-\$5901	-\$5312
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Total Gains	\$2,157,095	\$1,766,995
Expenses - program services		
Kindness Centers	1,451,805	1,195,430
Educational	371,514	128,157
Volunteer Ministry	78,685	67,015
Pastoral care	46,212	18,370
Community support	266,667	146,514
Expenses -- supporting services		
Management in general	72,656	36,656
Fundraising	18,405	26,189
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Total expenses	2,305,944	1,618,331
Decrease in unrestricted net assets	148,849	147,864
Net assets, beginning of year	1,050,282	1,972,402
Other changes and fund balance	-169	-0-
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Net assets, end of year	901,264	2,120,266



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