

Local Service Opportunities for the Holiday Season



This time of year brings unique opportunities for the body of Christ to care for those in our community, and the Local Mission Ministry has identified several ways for you to participate. EVERYONE – whether it be families with children, couples, individuals, or groups of friends – is invited to serve with us this holiday season!

For the past several years, our Thanksgiving Box Drive has been one of the largest in Knoxville, allowing us to provide 1,250 local families with a delicious Thanksgiving meal. Due to the incredible generosity of our church family year after year, both financially and by giving sacrificially of their time, we feel confident in committing to provide for this need again. We can't wait to serve alongside you during our 2025 Thanksgiving Box Drive!

Also in the months of November and December, we will participate in multiple Angel Tree type giftings, host several Thanksgiving and Christmas parties for families being served by our Local Mission ministry partners, and volunteer with various outreaches throughout our city. "Come Serve with Us" this holiday season!

















To make life easier, we've included icons to indicate each event's minimum age requirement and which events provide a free meal. Also be on the lookout for the "family friendly" icon if you're looking for opportunities that children and adults alike will enjoy!

REGISTRATION Unless otherwise stated, registration for these opportunities can be found online by scanning the QR code to the right.



If you have questions, please contact Kathryn Ann Laux (<u>kathrynann@cspc.net</u> or 865-360-5040) or Susie Isaac (<u>susieisaac@cspc.net</u> or 865-291-5235) in the Local Mission Ministry.

Movember 3

Generations Ministry: Thanksgiving Box Prep & Lunch

CSPC Watershed (Midnight Hole), 9132 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923

SERVICE TIME: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (lunch served afterward)

AGE RANGE: 60 & up

▶ Every year, our Generations Ministry helps us prepare for our annual Thanksgiving Box Drive by putting together the printed pieces that each Thanksgiving box recipient will receive and stuffing them in ziplocks for safe keeping. There are also plenty of Thanksgiving cards to color if that's something you enjoy.

If you're a part of the Generations crew, we encourage you to join us for this fun service project! We will enjoy a box lunch together after we've finished "stuffing" the bags. To register for this event, please visit our website, cspc.net/news and search for the Generations events, or simply contact Kathy Smith at (865-291-5213).

ABOUT: Generations Ministry is a place where people 60 and older will be loved, accepted, and cared for no matter where they are in life's journey. To find out how to get involved, contact Kathy Smith (865-291-5213 or kathysmith@cspc.net).





Movember 8

CSPC Buddy Blast

Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, 9132 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923

PARTICIPANTS: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

AGE RANGE: 12 & up





▶ Buddy Blast is a family respite event for children/young adults (ages 6 mo. through 21 yrs) with special needs, along with their siblings. During this respite, parents get to pull away and have some much-needed time to themselves. Volunteers will be paired with one child with special needs or 2-3 siblings. No special needs experience is required!

Do you know a family who could benefit from this opportunity? Or do you have a heart to serve families affected by disability? We need volunteers to act as "Buddies" for each child that participates (buddies need to be age 12+, dependent on maturity level, although children 8 years or older can serve with a parent). This is also a great way for families to serve together!









Thanksgiving

BOX DRIVE

Now through Nov. 10, 2025

BOX OUTREACH

Many families in Knoxville experience food insecurities. The boxes you help us purchase, fill, and distribute both provide the ingredients for a delicious Thanksgiving meal and also help deepen relationships that show the love of Christ to those in need. Recipients are identified by ministries we support, inner city schools, social service agencies, and church members.

► ADOPT-A-BOX

We will be filling 1,250 boxes with food that we've preordered in bulk. Our goal is to raise \$75,000 (= \$60 per box) in order to cover this cost. Would you please consider donating to the Holiday Compassion Fund?

▶ COLOR-A-CARD

Color a card or write a note of encouragement that will be included in each box. Cards can be picked up and dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings in the Welcome Hall, or you can leave them at the reception desk during business hours anytime between now and November 3.

We invite you to join us in prayer as we seek to serve our city this holiday season.

VOLUNTEER

Nov 7-10 (Fri. - Mon.)

WE NEED YOU!

We have over 200 volunteer slots to fill in order to make our Thanksgiving Box Drive a success!

Find details about all of the service opportunities on the following page.

SIGN-UP ONLINE

cspc.net/news & click on "Thanksgiving Box Drive" or scan QR



SIGN-UP BY PHONE OR EMAIL

Kathryn Ann Laux (865) 360-5040 kathrynann@cspc.net

\$ DONATE

You can give online at cspc.net/give by selecting "Holiday Compassion," or write a check to CSPC and put "Thanksgiving Boxes" in the memo line.



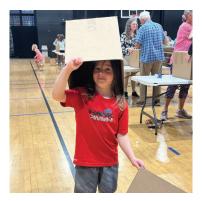
Anytime - Postcard Coloring - Welcome Hall: We have heard from past box recipients, especially our elderly and shut-in families, that the personalized touch of a colored card, as simple as it is, has truly made them feel seen by and connected to our church. Our desire is that every box would include a hand-colored postcard, but we can't do it without you! Would you please help us? 1,250 is a lot to color!

Friday, November 7, 5:30-6:30 p.m. - Box Construction - CSPC Gym: Assemble Thanksgiving boxes in the gym. Note: We will have Thanksgiving cards available for children to color while adults are assembling boxes, but no childcare will be provided, so please help us by supervising any children you choose to bring.

Sunday, November 9, 1:00-3:00 or 3:30-5:30 p.m. - Box Fillers - CSPC Gym: Pack boxes with 22 food items each! We need cart pushers, box openers/stuffers, as well as some strong backs to take filled boxes off carts and gently place them in rows on the gym floor. Note: All of these roles require either a lot of walking (pushing a cart through the food maze while the boxes on the cart get filled) or a lot of movement (grabbing food items from pallets and placing them in boxes on the carts). **Ages 10+**

Monday, November 10, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - Car Loaders - CSPC Gym: Load boxes into vehicles. We have 1,250 boxes to get out the gym doors that morning, so our partners will be staggering their arrivals throughout the morning. Note: Although we'll be utilizing carts, the boxes are heavy and will require strong backs to load.









Movember 13

Compassion Coalition: Frontline 1 Training - "Responding to Requests for Assistance"

The Regas Building, 318 N. Gay St., Knoxville, TN 37917

SERVICE TIME: 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

AGE RANGE: 16 & Up



▶ Have you ever been approached and asked, "Hey, can you help me?" Did the experience leave you unsettled, questioning, and wondering if you handled it well? Helping people can be tough, it can cause stress, burnout, and turnover in your church or organization. Benevolence work can also be the most rewarding thing you will ever do. The Compassion Coalition wants to help alleviate your stress and burnout and provide you with the tools necessary to help you confidently answer those requests for assistance. Come learn more in this incredibly helpful training about Verification, 10 Best Practices, When 'No' is Appropriate, and How to Help without Hurting.



Note: This is a fantastic training for anyone interested in serving with the Cedar Springs Local Mission Team, Good Samaritan Ministry, Stephen Ministry, or for those desiring to volunteer more deeply with our local ministry partners in the future.

ABOUT: Compassion Coalition is a network of compassionate churches, organizations, and businesses who are committed to moving beyond the walls of our buildings to be the compassionate presence of Jesus in the midst of poverty, pain, and brokenness in our community. They focus on connecting needs in our city with the resources of the whole church in Knoxville.

FOCUS Ministries: Graduation Celebration

CSPC Watershed, 9132 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923

GRADUATION 2:00-4:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS 1:30-4:30 p.m.

AGE RANGE: All ages welcome



▶ Cedar Springs will be hosting FOCUS Ministry's upcoming graduation for those who have recently completed their reentry program. Come celebrate and cheer these amazing ladies on as we hear about the incredible, restorative work of God from students, staff, and volunteers alike. We will also help with the setup/cleanup of their reception so that their staff can focus on celebrating with their guests. If you've ever been interested in serving with a women's prison/reentry ministry like FOCUS, attending the celebration is a great way to be introduced to the ministry!



ABOUT: FOCUS Ministries provides hope for incarcerated and newly-released women through strategic programming inside correctional facilities and comprehensive support after incarceration. Their purpose is to empower women to break the generational cycles of addiction and incarceration so they can walk in the true freedom of Christ.



REGISTRATION

To register for these events, please sign up by visiting **cspc.net/news** or by scanning this QR code.



QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact either Kathryn Ann Laux (<u>kathrynann@cspc.net</u> or 865-360-5040) or Susie Isaac (<u>susieisaac@cspc.net</u> or 865-291-5235) in the Local Mission Ministry.









🛗 November 16 - SOLD OUT

KICKO: Bags of Hope

CSPC Welcome Hall, 9132 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923

SERVICE TIME: Drop-Off **AGE RANGE:** All ages



▶ In 2016, a couple on KICKO's staff heard about children traveling through foster care with their belongings in trash bags. That was an astonishing thought and an unforgettable moment. When children are removed from their biological homes, it is often a stressful situation, and at times, the child's most beloved items and clothes are put in a trash bag for their social worker to take.

KICKO (a CSPC Local Mission ministry partner) is changing this narrative in Tennessee by providing each child with a personalized duffle bag filled with age-appropriate comfort items. We invite you to provide hope to kids during their most traumatic moments by providing something personal, that is theirs, and that lovingly communicates that they matter and belong.



We are on a mission to raise enough to cover the cost of a \$25 duffle bag (filled and embroidered) for each child in foster care in our city. Beginning on November 16th, we will be selling Christmas ornaments that each have the name and age of a child currently in the foster care system in East Tennessee. We encourage you to hang these ornaments somewhere in your home or business as a reminder to pray for that child throughout the year! More information about the program will be available at the sign-up table on Sunday mornings in the CSPC Reception Hall.

ABOUT: KICKO (Knoxville Inner City Kids Outreach) is a mobile ministry that builds relationships and develops faith with Knoxville's city kids. Their mission is to transform the inner city by equipping and empowering Knoxville's children to fully realize their potential and discover their God-given destiny.



Movember 19

KARM: "Every Bed, Every Day"

Knox Area Rescue Ministries, 418 N. Broadway Street, Knoxville, TN 37917

SERVICE TIME: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

AGE RANGE: All Ages Welcome



▶ Did you know that every person who spends the night at KARM (Knox Area Rescue Ministries) is prayed for every single day? That's right - Every Bed, Every Day (EBED). While we don't know who will spend the night in these beds, God does, and this incredible ministry wouldn't be possible without faithful volunteers like you! Join us as we pray over each bed that our unhoused neighbors will sleep in that night. Children will have the opportunity to color a card of encouragement to leave on the beds as well.

ABOUT: KARM's mission is to seek to rescue the poor and needy of the Knox area by providing recovery services in Jesus' name. They provide emergency overnight shelter and meals. They also offer innovative training programs which seek to end the cycle of homelessness.



Movember 20

Lakeview Community Thanksgiving Celebration

Lakeview Clubhouse, 9831 Sugar Magnolia Way, Knoxville, N 37922

SERVICE TIME: 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **AGE RANGE:** All ages welcome







▶ Celebrate Thanksgiving with us and connect with families in our community as we host a festive meal and activity day. We'll need help unloading Thanksgiving meal boxes for our neighbors, assisting with crafts, facepainting, and playing games with the kids before sitting down to a community dinner together. Bring your family and join in the fun as we get to know our neighbors!

ABOUT: Lakeview Apartments at Westland is just 10 minutes from Cedar Springs and many of the kids who live there attend A.L. Lotts Elementary School and are part of our community. Alongside our ministry partner, KICKO, Cedar Springs has been at Lakeview monthly for the past year, hanging out with the kids and getting to know the families there. If your family attends A.L. Lotts, if you're interested in helping with our plan to have homework help afternoons in 2026, or if you would just like to connect with the community around our church, we'd love to have you join us!



iii December 1

KARM: Serving with a Smile

Knox Area Rescue Ministries, 418 N. Broadway Street, Knoxville, TN 37917

SERVICE TIME: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

AGE RANGE: 16 & up



▶ Prepare and serve a delicious dinner for the residents of KARM (Knox Area Rescue Ministries), and learn about the ways that God is at work in the lives of our unhoused neighbors in Knoxville.

ABOUT: KARM's mission is to seek to rescue the poor and needy of the Knox area by providing recovery services in Jesus' name. They provide emergency overnight shelter and meals. They also offer innovative training programs which seek to end the cycle of homelessness.



Example 2

Hands & Hearts: Informational Meeting

CSPC Elementary Ministry Building, Room E120, 9132 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN

SERVICE TIME: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

AGE RANGE: 12 & up



▶ Did you know that there's a knitting ministry that provides for tangible needs of families being served at East TN Children's Hospital? Did you know that they meet monthly right here in your own church? In addition to serving families, the monthly craft meetings are an incredible opportunity for friendship and fellowship. Come learn about this amazing ministry and how easy it is to dive right in! No experience is necessary (knitting and crochet instruction is available).

Note: While joining the monthly meetings is a blast, several people choose to knit, crochet, sew, or quilt from home. You can learn about that option at our informational meeting. Or maybe you have yarn, fabric, or other items you'd like to donate. If so, please Contact Mary Rochelle at maryrochelle9326@gmail.com.



ABOUT: Hands and Hearts knitting ministry meets at CSPC on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This group began in 2015 knitting and crocheting hats for children that were undergoing chemotherapy, and to date, they have donated over 5,600 hats! The ministry has since expanded and is making a variety of items for the NICU, as well as older children. They sew blankets, quilts, burp cloths, sheets, and various cuddle items for children.

Example 2 December 4

Samaritan Ministry: Hope for the Holidays Party

CSPC Watershed, 9132 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923

SERVICE TIME: 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

AGE RANGE: 14 & up



▶ Cedar Springs hosts this party each year for the Samaritan Ministry clients and their families to enjoy a hot meal, Christmas carols, and share laughter and memories. Volunteers are needed to help set up, greet our guests, serve lunch, and clean up afterwards. We also need drivers who are willing to pick up and drop off guests who don't have transportation for the event.

ABOUT: Samaritan Ministry is a faith-based organization founded in 1996 to serve people who are living with HIV/AIDS. Since 2013, Samaritan Ministry has also been engaged in the fight against the opioid epidemic and the associated syndemic of HIV, Hepatitis C, and overdose.



Example 2 December 10

KARM: Serving with a Smile

Knox Area Rescue Ministries, 418 N. Broadway Street, Knoxville, TN 37917

SERVICE TIME: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

AGE RANGE: 16 & up



▶ Prepare and serve a delicious dinner for the residents of KARM (Knox Area Rescue Ministries), and learn about the ways that God is at work in the lives of our unhoused neighbors in Knoxville.

ABOUT: KARM's mission is to seek to rescue the poor and needy of the Knox area by providing recovery services in Jesus' name. They provide emergency overnight shelter and meals. They also offer innovative training programs which seek to end the cycle of homelessness.



As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

- 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

Example 2 December 11

Lakeview Community Christmas Celebration

Lakeview Clubhouse, 9831 Sugar Magnolia Way, Knoxville, N 37922

SERVICE TIME: 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. **AGE RANGE:** All ages welcome



▶ Celebrate the holiday spirit and spread cheer as we connect with our neighbors at our Christmas outreach event! We'll have a KICKO sidewalk Sunday school lesson, cookie decorating, crafts, facepainting, and games for all to enjoy. Let's come together to celebrate, serve, and spread joy!

ABOUT: Lakeview Apartments at Westland is just 10 minutes from Cedar Springs and many of the kids who live there attend A.L. Lotts Elementary School and are part of our community. Alongside our ministry partner, KICKO, Cedar Springs has been at Lakeview monthly for the past year, hanging out with the kids and getting to know the families there. If your family attends A.L. Lotts, if you're interested in helping with our plan to have homework help afternoons in 2026, or if you would just like to connect with the community around our church, we'd love to have you join us!



December 13

Amachi: Holiday Party

CSPC Fellowship Hall, 9132 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923

SERVICE TIME: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

AGE RANGE: All Ages Welcome







▶ We are so excited to help current Amachi mentors and their mentees celebrate the holiday season at Cedar Springs! We will be providing them with several different craft opportunities, and we also plan to serve and enjoy a pizza lunch with our guests. We will need folks to help with all of the fun festivities, so join us as we spread cheer and the love of Christ to our Amachi friends.

ABOUT: Amachi responds to the needs of children with one or both parents in prison. Through Amachi, mentoring matches are made and vital support is offered. Children with mentors do better in school, get along better with their families, and are less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol than their peers. Having a mentor is great for any child, but for a child whose parents are incarcerated, it's a lifeline, showing by example that there is a better way.



iii Flexible Opportunities

Help Us Support Our Unhoused Neighbors!

▶ Fig Tree is a place to be seen and known, offering a variety of services, as well as a gathering place for friendship and community. While striving to create a safe community for everyone, they prioritize the most vulnerable neighbors. They offer showers, laundry, computers, hot meals, and other community resources.

For more information, please visit https://connectioncenter.tv/

As the cold weather sets in, our community is in urgent need of supplies for our unhoused neighbors. Fig Tree is asking for your help in providing essential items to keep them warm and comfortable during this challenging time.

Right now, they urgently need **backpacks**, along with **underwear** and **socks**, which are vital for preserving dignity. With winter approaching, they are also in great need of:

Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Jackets, as well as Blankets and Sleeping Bags (this is an urgent need)

Additionally, Target and Walmart gift cards would be a huge help, allowing their volunteers to purchase exactly what their guests need. If you're part of a group interested in serving, consider preparing a meal for their Saturday morning outreach — a wonderful way to give back!

Every donation, no matter how small, makes a big difference. Help Fig Tree bring comfort and warmth to those who need it most!

For more information or to arrange a drop-off, please contact Kristine Townsend at kristine@cokesbury.tv

Amazon wishlist:







iii Flexible Opportunities

ELL

▶ Did you know that Cedar Springs has a robust English Language Learning ministry (ELL) that serves nearly 200 international neighbors from about 25 different countries? And did you know that while we do provide English classes, you do not have to be an English teacher to participate in this outreach? There are a myriad of ways to serve, such as joining our weekly "Talk Time," a casual conversation time that provides friendship and community for ALL who participate!

If you have a heart for our international neighbors and you can be a friend, ELL could use your help at Talk Time on Mondays from 9:30-11am in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact hellofriendsknox@gmail.com.



If preparing meals is your gift, each Thursday during the ELL class at CSPC, we provide refreshments (morning) or a light meal (evening) for the participants. We are looking for volunteers to join a rotation and help provide food for this incredible outreach opportunity. Interested in helping? Contact Carol Vanderhoff at 717-940-6475 or sign up directly via the QR codes.

Morning Volunteers

Evening Volunteers







Exible Opportunities

Help Us Welcome Refugees to Knoxville

▶ Bridge Refugee Services, Inc.'s mission is to provide opportunities for refugees to rebuild their lives after suffering persecution so that they may become productive, contributing members of the community. While Bridge is a welcoming force for refugees arriving and restarting their lives in Knoxville, they can't do this work without community support!

Ways that you can help meet needs and serve our refugee community include:

- Helping with transportation to appointments
- ESL/ELL tutors and teachers
- Food Rescue drivers to pick up donated food from partner stores
- Administrative support
- Volunteer support for G.R.O.W. (Growing Refugee Opportunities and Wealth) Program, including sewing experience and childcare help

They also eagerly welcome donated items to offset shopping costs for the 400+ clients they serve. Items include:

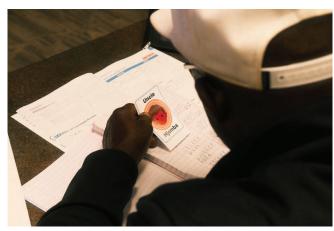
- Toiletries and cleaning supplies
- School supplies
- Winter wear (coats, scarves, hats, gloves)
- Diapers and other baby items

Join us as we make Knoxville a welcoming home for refugees! For more information or to serve, please email volunteerknox@bridgerefugees.org.









Exible Opportunities

Volunteer Ministry Center's "Under the Tree" Drive

▶ Volunteer Ministry Center's mission is to end and prevent homelessness in Knoxville. Their "Under the Tree" drive serves those who are either working toward or have already achieved housing through VMC's robust Case Management Program.

Please help collect any of the following NEW items (for either men and/or women):

- Sweatpants and shirts
- Pullovers with hoods (L-XXL)
- Socks
- Underwear
- Sports Bras
- Hats
- Gloves
- Coats

- Assorted Hygiene Products
- Shampoo for different types of hair
- Bodywash
- Body lotion
- Adult Coloring Books
- Coloring Pencils
- Puzzles

Once items are collected, they may be dropped off by December 15-18 (Mon.-Wed. 8am-5pm and Thurs. 8am-7pm) at VMC's main office, located at 511 N Broadway, Knoxville, TN 37917 (look for the Bush Family Refuge sign). When items are dropped off, please specify that they are for the Under the Tree Holiday Drive. You can also have Amazon do the work for you by ordering directly from VMC's Amazon Wish List, found by scanning the QR code.

Note: If you would like a tour of VMC to learn more about how they're ministering to our unhoused neighbors and ways that you can help, please contact Kathryn Ann Laux at kathrynann@cspc.net or 865-360-5040. She is also happy to take your donated items to VMC if you're unable to do so, but please connect with her first before dropping donations off at the church.





Are You Ready?

Here at Cedar Springs, we're committed to helping you LIVE DEEPLY, and an important part of that is a deep commitment to God's call to love our neighbors and make disciples of all nations.

We'd be honored to help you walk through the process of discerning where God is uniquely calling you to serve in missions. A great way to get more deeply involved is by participating in the **Global Mission Group**. This group of Cedar Springs members actively and intentionally walks alongside our local and global missionaries and ministry partners throughout the year, providing friendship, encouragement, and accountability through regular communication, short-term mission trips, and general ministry oversight.

We believe that you can be "on mission" anywhere, and being part of the Global Mission Group is one way to find a deeper purpose in life through loving others and serving the world. The Mission Ministry plans to host a "Connect with Missions" event on Sunday Morning, February 8, 2026 (last day of the 2026 Mission Conference) for anyone interested in learning more about the Global Mission Group and the many opportunities to serve on one of its teams. Scan the QR code for more information about the GMG or email Allie Dempsey (alliedempsey@cspc.net) to be added to the email list for details!



#cspcserves

We want to see where you're serving! Post your pictures on social media and use **#cspcserves**.





We'd love to share your posts, so please tag us @cedarspringspc and @cspcmissions. Let's show our community what Living Deeply looks like this holiday season!





Still Looking For Ways To Serve This Holiday Season?

Did you know that Cedar Springs partners with over 50 different ministries in and around Knoxville?

Each year, we publish a **Local Mission Directory** with the purpose of introducing you to our partners and providing you with multiple volunteer opportunities and specific ways that you can pray for each ministry!

Check it out by scanning the QR code below.

If you need help finding your place to serve, please reach out to Kathryn Ann Laux

(<u>kathrynann@cspc.net</u> or 865-360-5040) in the Local Mission Ministry.

She would love to help connect you to opportunities where you can use your God-given gifts to serve our community!





SAVE THE DATES!

CEDAR SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN

MISSION CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 1-8, 2026



20 HUBS x 25 PLANTS BY 2030

The Church is God's method for reaching the nations with the Gospel.

The mission ministry is in year three of the 20:25:30 Mission Initiative, aimed at establishing and fortifying as many churches as possible by 2030. In 2026, the focus will once again be on the 20:25:30 Initiative as well as celebrating the stories thus far! We will feature guests from around the globe who will highlight the efforts being made in global mission. Join us as we hear inspiring stories of God's work within the global church!































CEDAR SPRINGS

PRESBYTERIAN

Live Deeply

KATHRYN ANN LAUX Local Mission Coordinator

> SUSIE ISAAC Mission Associate

If you have any questions about these or any other local service or outreach opportunities, please contact Kathryn Ann Laux at kathrynann@cspc.net, or feel free to call the Cedar Springs office at (865) 693-9331.