



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mar. 22, 2023

Greene County ARPA funds help make lasting impact with new Council of Churches headquarters



SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – The Greene County Commission issued a proclamation on Tuesday, Mar. 22, to the Council of Churches of the Ozarks (CCO), after the nonprofit officially opened its new headquarters facility to the community with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

CCO was one of ten groups that were awarded Greene County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funds under the county’s Community Impact Program (CIP) in June of 2022.

ARPA funds are designed to help with recovery efforts of organizations and small businesses that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The nearly \$23 million allocated for CIP projects were envisioned by the Commission to be transformational or lasting projects that benefit the community for years to come.



CCO is one the area’s largest and oldest charities that works to meet people’s basic needs. The nonprofit used its \$1 million county ARPA award to help construct its new headquarters facility, located on E. Division in Springfield.

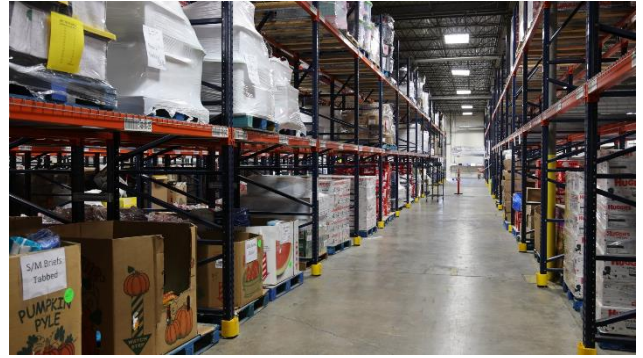
SRC donated its former 57,000 square foot building to the organization with the total cost of the project at \$8.1 million.

“Previously, we had one location focusing on foster care, one location focused on food services. We had another location focused on homeless services,” said Jaimie Trussell, CEO of CCO. “If you went to the wrong door on the wrong day, you couldn’t access all those services. That could be devastating for some families in need.”

Trussell says during the COVID-19 pandemic fewer people were volunteering at CCO, who are traditionally older and more vulnerable, but needs for the nonprofit’s services were increasing.

CCO then decided to raise funds to build a new facility that could combine all its services and staff under one roof.

“We now have one door where a family in crisis can access everything that we have and start a path out of poverty by uniting with other agencies,” said Trussell.



The newly remodeled space now houses the Crosslines Food Pantry, Diaper Bank of the Ozarks, Ambassadors for Children, Safe to Sleep, and several other services.

Families can pick up food, clothes, toys, all in one location. The warehouse holds three times as much storage as CCO's last building.

The new building also can be used for supervised visits and family reunification.

“Through this project we’ve begun weaving safety nets together. Instead of meeting one obstacle and then working on another one, families can work with case managers and service agencies to build a plan to be self-sustaining,” said Trussell.

“CCO has been inspiring hope for families, children, seniors, and adults for more than fifty years,” said Presiding Commissioner Bob Dixon. “We applaud their vast and rich history and congratulate them on the new Dorsey Levell Ministry Center.”

Greene County has received a total of \$56.9 million in ARPA funds to support recovery efforts from the pandemic.

All ARPA funds must be allocated by Dec. 31, 2024 and all projects funded by the county must be completed by Dec. 31, 2026.

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Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving approximately 295,000 people. Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

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