



## CareLink

City of Bettendorf  
1609 State Street  
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722

The goal of the Bettendorf CareLink Program is to assist as many Bettendorf needy families as possible, with the most common need being that of rent and utility bills. This program began assisting families in January 2002, and was modeled after other similar programs previously set up in Davenport and Moline.

Churches were being asked by many individuals, mostly unknown to the church or its staff, for a multitude of areas of assistance, and in many cases each individual making the same requests to a large number of local churches.....mostly for financial assistance.

In an effort to help in whatever manner they could, the churches partnered with the Bettendorf Police Department and John Lewis Community Services. Each individual church determined their available funds monthly contribution to the Bettendorf CareLink Program, and administration of the assistance is handled directly by CareLink for Bettendorf residents and by John Lewis Community Services for Davenport residents. Currently John Lewis Community Services is undergoing reorganization and CareLink Bettendorf handles all requests.

Each church is provided a color-coded referral slip. All requests coming to the church offices must be in person; telephone callers are so notified, and one referral only can be presented at CareLink for assistance.

Bettendorf Christian Church Missions currently funds CareLink at \$1,800 per year. During 2007, eleven Bettendorf churches participated in the program, with assistance being provided to 68 families. During 2008, several churches had to lower their monthly support; thankfully Bettendorf Christian was not one of them. The need continues to grow and funds rarely cover the year's needs. BCC also contributes to holiday baskets or special needs if funds allow.

The CareLink Program has been a great asset to the churches in our community and a great benefit for families in need. They have a place to direct families who are looking for assistance. CareLink provides a central location to coordinate requests for help, a person who can help assess their needs and determine the most effective way to address those needs.

CareLink Program Coordinator  
Christy Davis  
Bettendorf Police Department