



December 2013

Dear Friend of Community Warehouse and Milwaukee Working,

As we reflect on 2013, Community Warehouse has been blessed in so many ways. First and foremost, we are blessed by the lives that have been changed as a result of the support we have received from so many friends.

*Consider this story of one of our many employees who are genuinely interested in developing a better life for themselves and their family.*



*Rodney was very young when both parents died. He lived with foster parents until age 17. The foster parents made a conscious effort to raise him in a Christian environment. A series of events caused Rodney to have a very bad taste for the US justice system. He developed a rebellious attitude and was eventually put in prison on weapons charges. Rodney started working for Community Warehouse in July 2012 and found a place where he was accepted, where he had a regular work routine, and where his childhood Christian upbringing was rekindled. Rodney is working hard to support his family, is demonstrating good skills in carpentry and equipment maintenance, and is a steady, reliable worker.*

We could not have helped Rodney without support from friends like you.

Community Warehouse and Milwaukee Working employ a total of 35 individuals. Most of our employees find it nearly impossible to get work in the Milwaukee area. Businesses are reluctant to hire them because of past prison records and lack of work experience. It is so exciting to see how God is transforming these men and women into reliable, productive workers at Community Warehouse.



*Tyrone was raised in Milwaukee by his mother, along with four siblings. His mother tried to provide guidance for his life, but as a young man he got into drinking and gangs. Because of bad choices he spent 7 ½ years in prison. He has one daughter, age 7, who was born when he was in prison. While in prison he tried all of the major world religions, but came to Christ and has chosen to follow Him. Tyrone has been working at Community Warehouse for about 4 months. He is engaged to a lady who attends church regularly with him. Tyrone is a happy employee who works hard, interacts well with customers, and is building a relationship with his daughter. He has a big smile that encourages everyone around him.*

Most of the other men and women who work for Community Warehouse have similar stories. Your support of Community Warehouse has helped to transform these lives.

Consider the following facts:

- Although CW sells donated building materials and our employees construct things for sale, our income does not cover our operating costs.
- In order to balance our budget we depend on contributions. This year in December we need to raise \$70,000 to pay operating expenses.
- We operate in formerly abandoned buildings. There are significant repairs that are critical to our ability to help these men and women stay employed in meaningful work and provide responsibly for their families.
- The average age is 45, they have from 1 to 9 children to support, and they work for limited wages. We'd like to provide a small dollar gift to each employee to help them with family expenses during the Christmas season.
- More money is needed in our *Benevolence Fund* to assist employees when family emergencies occur.

[Would you consider a year-end gift to Community Warehouse?](#) Your gift will help us continue to expand the employment opportunities for men like Rodney and Tyrone who are working to change their lives.