

**Ripple Community Inc.
Report for Mosaic Mennonite Conference**

Ripple Community Inc.'s mission is to nurture community and connection in Allentown by fostering a sense of community among our neighbors who have traditionally been marginalized and by cultivating connections across social boundaries. Our two main programs are the Community Building Center, which is a day center for socially and economically marginalized residents of Allentown, and the RCI Village housing program, which is a community-supported, affordable housing program.

COVID-19 has kept us very busy this year. We made the decision early on that we would keep the Community Building Center open during the pandemic to ensure that our unsheltered friends were safe and well cared for. Many of our community members live in tents or other outdoor areas and were simply unable to observe the state's "stay at home" orders. With COVID-19 directly impacting so many services, our friends were in need of food, restroom facilities, health services, and a safe, dry space to escape from the elements.



Here are just a few of the ways Mosaic Mennonite Conference has partnered with us this year:

Well-being and safety: Your support has allowed us to keep our community center and open operating while still keeping everyone safe and healthy during COVID-19. Through the Shalom Funds, we were able to create a new staff position so that we could safely and effectively respond to the new needs that developed in our community. We also received thermometers and masks to keep our community members safe.

“RCI gives a place of safety from COVID that I don’t have any place else... that most people don’t have any place else.”

~ *Community Building Center participant*

Feeding the Those in Need: With many soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters closed, food was scarce. Through the Shalom Funds, we were able to serve 500 meals to our unsheltered friends each week through the spring and summer and provide groceries for our neighbors through a temporary food pantry.

Restorative Circles: With heightened tensions related racial justice, protests, and police brutality, our community members needed a safe space to process their thoughts and experiences. Conference Board member, Yvonne Platts, came and led three circle conversations regarding these issues at our community center.

This has been a challenging season, to be sure, but it has also been a season of extraordinary, overwhelming support from the conference. Thank you for your care and generosity, which have allowed us to keep our doors and our hearts open to our community. We are grateful!