

# Spring Plans Abound

By Barb Kula

Leo Tolstoy said, “Spring is the time of plans and projects” and CCA has geared up to deliver on both of those! Winter, such as it was, is headed for the finish line. Spring is around the corner. Our calendar is full of events and activities for CCA members to engage in and enjoy this spring and summer. What is coming up?

**The Annual Cargill Cares Alumni Meeting** will be held at the Cargill Office Center the morning of Wednesday, May 22. Ruth Kimmelshue, who leads Cargill Animal Nutrition & Health, will deliver the Cargill business update. In addition, Colleen May, Chair of The Cargill Foundation, will share the latest news about the foundation and the work it supports. Enjoy social time with fellow CCA members, as well as celebrating recognition for outstanding CCA volunteers. Details and registration will be sent April 1. Plan to attend!

Please take a bit of time to explore the other opportunities in this newsletter.

Are you interested in volunteering? We have that. You can focus on helping community food needs, building houses, packing a student backpack, furnishing a house or coaching a kid.

How about spending time with fellow CCA members? We have that. We can take you on a cruise, help you explore local breweries with work pals, socialize over dinner and a show, and take you out to the ballgame.

Ready to learn about financial wellness? We have that. Monthly Vanguard webinars offer instruction on money matters.

Read about all the opportunities for doing good work, having fun and learning. And watch for details and registrations for all our events in the CCA Weekly Announcements.

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## President’s Corner – Phil Deeney



Well, we are close to making it through another Minnesota winter, and for all you “snowbirds” out there, you really did not need to leave the state. The lack of snow cover and our record-high temperatures made this a very mild winter. While we are not out of the woods just yet, we are getting close to spring.

In this newsletter edition we highlight our upcoming CCA Annual Meeting. We are still in the planning stages, but this event will be a terrific opportunity to catch up with some of your prior co-workers. During this event, we will not only have quality time to catch up, but we will hear Cargill business and Cargill Foundation updates from senior Cargill leaders.

On behalf of myself, as well as the entire Cargill Cares Alumni Board of Directors, we would like to invite you to our CCA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 22. So “save the date” and watch for more information in the coming weeks. CCA Membership has its privileges – so while you are at it, reach out to prior co-workers and invite them to join you.

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# Cargill Cares

Alumni Newsletter  
Spring 2024

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# Are you interested in volunteering? We have that. Explore the following opportunities.

## Pack Food from Local Farms for The Good Acre

By Jan Weisberg

Here is an activity that tastes good and does good. CCA will offer five food share packing volunteer events with The Good Acre (TGA), Minnesota's largest food hub. Its 2024 Farm Share program kicks off in June, providing consumers, regardless of their income, access to a wide variety of healthy, seasonal produce from a broad network of local, culturally diverse farmers.



Last year the Food Share Program purchased over \$250,000 in produce from small, local farmers and food producers and connected 600 families to the locally grown food. To learn more about TGA, go to <https://thegoodacre.org/>

CCA's volunteer events with TGA will be on the third Tuesday of each month, starting in June, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the TGA facility in Falcon Heights. Watch weekly announcements for dates. If you have questions, contact me at [janiceweisberg01@gmail.com](mailto:janiceweisberg01@gmail.com)

## Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity will Host the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project this Fall

The 2024 Carter Work Project will launch Habitat's construction efforts at The Heights on St. Paul's East Side (see rendering right) Twin Cities Habitat's largest-ever development!



Get ready to join Cargill employees and CCA members during this one-of-a-kind volunteer event running Sept. 29 through Oct. 4. Although Jimmy Carter will not be attending, you might be able to rub shoulders with **Garth Brooks** and **Trisha Yearwood**, hosts of the Carter Work Project!

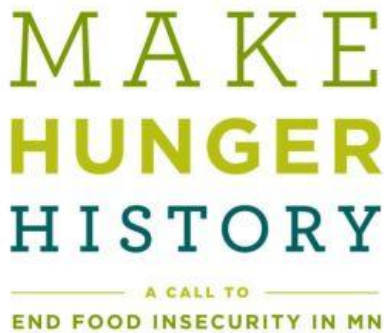


CCA and H4H would love to help you practice your skills at our regularly scheduled H4H shifts. See the CCA Event Calendar for CCA's scheduled H4H shifts.

Inside work continues at the 2023 Cargill Build.

## Make Hunger History

On January 29, Second Harvest Heartland announced its “Make Hunger History” initiative with a goal to **cut hunger in half** for all Minnesotans by 2030. Hunger rates continue to climb. Federal dollars that helped families during the pandemic have gone away. Meanwhile, sky-high grocery prices are making it harder than ever for people to put food on the table.



The Cargill Foundation generously donated \$10 million to help kickstart this initiative. Colleen May, Chair of the Cargill Foundation, spoke at the event along with Governor Walz and several other community and business leaders. Click on the link below for more information and a short video from that day. You may recognize a few of our CCA volunteers who were packing food!

[Make Hunger History | 2harvest.org](https://www.2harvest.org)

### Watch Cargill’s New Video on Community Volunteering

Cargill has a new three-minute video; “[Together for Community](#)” that tells its story on community involvement. Just click the link to view it.

As stated on Cargill’s website: “Through more than 350 Cargill Cares Councils, our employees around the world contribute millions of dollars and lend more than 100,000 hours of their time and talent to volunteer activities that have a local impact.”

## Help the Critically Ill – A New CCA Project

By Jan Weisberg

Open Arms is a nonprofit that prepares and delivers nourishing meals free of charge to critically ill Minnesotans and their loved ones. Although new to CCA, they are not new to Cargill. For over 20 years, Cargill employees and businesses have provided Open Arms with volunteer, product and financial support. Now, CCA is partnering with Cargill to reinvigorate and grow the relationship.

Ways that CCA members can help:

- Prepare, portion and package meals – group activity (location Minneapolis/St. Paul kitchen)
- Plant, prune, weed and harvest produce – group activity (location various farms)
- Pick up and deliver food to clients – individual activity (location TBD)

To learn more about Open Arms, click [here](#). If you are interested in the above activities, please send me an email at [janiceweisberg01@gmail.com](mailto:janiceweisberg01@gmail.com). Once we hear from you, we’ll determine what, if any, events we will plan for the spring, summer and fall. Thanks in advance for your help!



CCA Members Sherry Flannagan, Terry Garvert, Jan Weisberg and Mary McCullough worked with guests Julie Mazurowski, George and Jenni Baran, and Cargill employees Christal Anderson, McKenzie Hartke and Jerry Lichtsinn



## Partnership Will Provide New Hunger-Relief Services

In March 2024, The Food Group - one of CCA's volunteer organizations - will be joining forces with Hunger Solutions Minnesota. As a branch of The Food Group (TFG), Hunger Solutions will be offering the additional hunger-relief services described in the following links: [Minnesota Food HelpLine](#), [Market Bucks](#), [Food Shelf Capacity](#). The partnership also will enhance statewide food shelf data collection, reporting on hunger trends and food security advocacy efforts.

Come join CCA and TFG's efforts to fight food insecurity on the first Wednesday of every month, from 9 to 11 a.m., at TFG's New Hope site.



The Food Group staffer, Sean, gives a thumbs up to CCA members Tom Whitehead, Mary McCullough, Nancy Whitehead, Lydija Tschumperlin and Eugene Becker. John Tschumperlin is in the background.

## Downsizing?

**Bridging can help needy people while helping you clear your house.**

Many of us are downsizing these days. Consider donating your extra furniture, linens, kitchen and bath essentials, small appliances and electronics, mirrors, artwork and pictures to Bridging. Click here to see [Acceptable Household Stuff to Give | Bridging](#).



CCA Members Kathy and Craig Peterson, Becky Van't Hof, David Braden and Shirley Boyd help sort household goods.

In 2023, Bridging provided basic household essentials to more than 5,000 households – at a value of almost \$2,000 per household. This year, Bridging plans to add a third facility. If this facility handles half of what the current two facilities handle, Bridging will be collecting \$15 million dollars' worth of thrift-valued household essentials and be able to serve up to 7,500 families per year.

The growth of Bridging also means it will need more volunteers to sort and prepare those household essentials for needy families. Join CCA members who volunteer at Bridging from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: April 24, June 5, September 4 and December 12.

**“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.”**

**-- Oscar Wilde**

## Feed My Starving Children

Every day around the world:

- one in five children goes to bed hungry
- poor nutrition accounts for 45 percent of the global deaths among children under five years of age.

We have an opportunity to help through volunteering at FMSC. Impact hundreds of kids and anticipate the joy and happiness of a child receiving the nutritious meal you hand packed for them.



On February 22, 16 CCA members and guests volunteered at a metro mobile pack. They left knowing they helped to ensure hundreds of children did not go to bed hungry.

Four more two-hour shifts are coming in 2024. Look for upcoming dates in the Monday email announcements from CCA.

## Virtually Mentor a Student with BestPrep

Interested in mentoring a high school student virtually this spring? Volunteer with Cargill Foundation partner [BestPrep](#).

Volunteers correspond with students once a week, for eight weeks, discussing career skills and the workplace. Mentors help students realize how concepts discussed in class connect to the world by sharing their own experiences. Students are given discussion topics for each week's email, so these guidelines help focus the conversation. During the eight weeks, mentors and students meet once for one in-person event at Cargill on Wednesday, May 1.

Interested in volunteering? Contact J.B. Scherpelz at [jb\\_scherpelz@cargill.com](mailto:jb_scherpelz@cargill.com)

## Fill Kids' Backpacks

Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 1, 2024! That is the date for the Greater Twin Cities United Way Action Day, when CCA members join many other volunteers to fill backpacks with needed school supplies for students in the metro area. This event has been extremely popular in past years, so make sure to plan your vacation or your golf tee-off time around this date and time. A special inducement: the Lynx and the Timberwolves will host this year's event at Target Center!



## Outlook Upbeat at Prodeo

By David Braden

While our monthly work with Prodeo Academy was suspended during COVID, the school moved into two new locations. We were able to return in the summer of 2023, and CCA members helped paint the interior of one school and helped students with high school applications at their new Columbia Heights campus.

See photos of the new Columbia Heights facility at [Prodeo Academy - DSGW](#)

Barbara Luke and Bob Bridges are old hands at Prodeo.



We anticipate new opportunities to use and grow our own talents as we support the astounding progress of these otherwise underserved students. It may be anything from physical work such as painting, sorting teaching materials, or constructing bulletin boards, to helping their placement staff in academic efforts. We would love to welcome more CCA members to our team!

If you would like more information, please contact me at [dbbraden@gmail.com](mailto:dbbraden@gmail.com)



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# Do you want to spend time with fellow CCA members? We have that. And Invite a Friend!

## Dinner Dates for You and CCA

Check out the upcoming events that involve food along with fun activities.

On April 17, join us for “Beautiful – The Carole King Musical” at The Chanhassen Dinner Theater. Registrations are due by March 23, for the lunch and matinee performance. Click [here](#) for more details and to register.

In August, sail with us on an August dinner and boat ride; and we are looking for another dinner/theater option for the fall. Details to be announced soon.



Brad and Tracy Newell at The Chan.

## Brewing up Connections

Join us for a cold one! The monthly Tap Connection is a chance to renew old Cargill acquaintances over a beer at a local craft brewery. We have visited over a dozen microbreweries over the past year. We meet the first Thursday of the month from 4 to 6 p.m. Come raise a mug and chat with Cargill friends. Check out the latest locations each month on the weekly CCA Announcements, every Monday morning.



The monthly brewery visits are a hit with many CCA members and guests.

## Groundhog Sees his Shadow -- Early Start to CCA Golf Season?



Great news this year: tradition has it that when Punxsutawney Phil rises from his burrow and sees his shadow on February 2, an early spring follows in six weeks. Early spring means CCA Golf is likely to start early.

Keep posted on CCA weekly announcements and the CCA website for golf season announcements. Joe Fournier will be sending the season schedule, so keep your eyes peeled and start practicing.

If you have not played golf with the CCA League, contact Joe to make sure you are on the invite list. All members of CCA are eligible. Rounds are scheduled for every Thursday, starting at 10 a.m. It is a wonderful way to reconnect with those you knew while working for Cargill, and an even better way to make new friends. If you have any questions or want to sign up, please contact Joe Fournier ([fournier\\_joe@hotmail.com](mailto:fournier_joe@hotmail.com)) or Wayne Koester ([wrkoester@msn.com](mailto:wrkoester@msn.com)). Happy Golfing!

## Take Me Out To the Ballgame!

By John Keefe

With spring training well underway, baseball season is just around the corner. Join us this summer for a game or two!

- **Minnesota Twins** vs. Tampa Bay Rays – Wednesday, June 19, game time 6:40 p.m., ticket cost of \$34 due by May 22, handicap seating available. Come early for a tour of Target Field. Twins curator Clyde Doepner will once again be offering stories of Twins history and a tour of the stadium. For full details of the tour and game registration, click here: [Twins Registration](#).
- **St. Paul Saints** vs. Omaha Storm Chasers – Tuesday, July 23, at 7:07 p.m., tickets are \$25.50. It will be a full evening of baseball and fun (love that pig). Registration will be on the Saints portal. Click on [Saints game](#) for more details and to register.

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## Get On Board!

Cargill Cares Alumni is recruiting new board members for the 2024-25 year. The Board works to ensure CCA members have access to volunteer activities, learning opportunities and social events that fit their interests. If you are interested in joining the CCA Board of Directors, please contact Phil Deeney at [philldeeney@comast.net](mailto:philldeeney@comast.net).

# Ready to learn about financial wellness? We have that.

## Vanguard Webinars on Financial Education

Vanguard Webinars are offered monthly to CCA members. Click on the links to find out more about the upcoming sessions:

- [Women and Investing](#) – March 14
- [Getting on Track for Retirement](#) – April 11
- [Saving and Paying for College](#) – May 9

## Share the CCA Experience: Ask a Friend to Get Involved

CCA reconnects members with prior coworkers and helps to make a difference in our communities. Since CCA membership growth is dependent on personal relationships, you can help. If a Cargill friend is thinking of *maybe* joining CCA, make that happen!

### IF YOU:

### CONSIDER THIS:

See an event on the CCA calendar that you are interested in, but concerned about going to it alone...	<b>Invite friends</b> to attend the CCA event with you. A friend <b>does NOT</b> need to be a CCA member. It can be a friend, family member or a current or former Cargill employee.
Wonder what a former colleague is doing and you want to connect with them, but you do not know their contact information...	Use the CCA membership directory (click <a href="#">here</a> ) to find out if the former colleague is a CCA member. If they are, <b>send them an email</b> and invite them to an event. (Note: you must login to access the membership list. You will see only the info authorized by the member, but you can still send an email.)
Run into a former colleague and talk about each other or other Cargill colleagues...	Ask the former colleague if they are a CCA member. If not, introduce them to CCA and <b>invite them to join</b> . It is easy to join! Go to the CCA website (click <a href="#">here</a> or google “Cargill Cares Alumni”) and find the yellow “Click to Join Us” button on the Home Page.



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## Cargill Cares Alumni – Twin Cities

Phil Deeney - President

Barb Kula, Ceal Regnier, Colleen Porter - Newsletter Coordinators

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Website – Cargill Cares Alumni at <https://cargillcaresalumni.wildapricot.org/>

Click to view [CCA Board Members](#)

The CCA newsletter is published quarterly in spring, summer, fall and winter. It is distributed to Cargill retirees and other alumni, as well as Cargill senior leadership. If you have articles to share, stories of volunteer activities or other items of interest, please send them directly to Barb Kula at [b.l.kula@comcast.net](mailto:b.l.kula@comcast.net).

Contact the CCA office at [cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com](mailto:cargillcaresalumni11@gmail.com) or leave a message at **952-742-6188**.

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