

Concordia Theological Seminary

Food & Clothing Co-op

\$10,000

Individuals from around the world come to Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana (CTSFW) to prepare to serve God's people here in the United States and in mission work around the world. Students have left jobs to come to the seminary and though the flow of financial funds has changed, financial needs remain. Deaconess Katherine Rittner arrived on the campus in 2006 when her husband began his pastoral studies. She was fortunate to have the opportunity to work on the campus in varied departments including the Food & Clothing Co-op.

As a former student wife and CTSFW graduate herself, Katherine knows first-hand what the co-op means to students and their families. The Food and Clothing Co-op offsets student's financial burdens by providing 80-90% of student families with their food and household needs as they prepare to serve God's people in the harvest field. There is no charge to students to use the Co-op, but they volunteer time each month in the food or clothing area and receive points in exchange to "purchase" their items. Food, personal hygiene items, diapers, and cleaning products are given point values so students can spend points as they choose. The clothing is free.

Katherine, an LWML member and now Director of the Food & Clothing Co-op, reports the Co-op spends \$7,500/month on perishable items and additional grocery and paper products. They are supported through donations from individuals, churches and other organizations such as LWML. Grants monies will be used to purchase eggs, milk, ground beef, fresh fruit and vegetables and other perishable items.

For more information, please see their website at <https://www.ctsfw.edu/support-ctsfw/give-for-today/co-op-donations/food-and-clothing-co-op/>

