



The Helpers Fund Always Ready With A Helping Hand

6318B Main Street, P.O. Box 691

Chestertown, NY 12817

What we've
been up to!

Spring 2021



A year has passed since we first started experiencing our new world, with Covid-19 as the governor of what we could do and how we could do it. We have been successful in adjusting to our "new" world and facing the challenges that Covid-19 has presented.

We have modified our procedures in the Food Pantry to conform to the rules required by the Town to operate the pantry under pandemic conditions. We have addressed all requests that were received and continued to make an impact with our support of folks using Hudson Headwaters Health Network.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel last summers "Thank You BBQ" and are concerned about whether there will be one this summer. Not knowing what the status of Covid-19 and accompanying state regulations will be in ninety days presents the potential that we may have to forego it again this year.

We continued to provide financial support to local organizations throughout the pandemic. It is our strong belief that local organizations are a critical part of the fabric of the community and as such should be

supported during times such as those we are now facing.

Since our last newsletter we have provided more than \$43,000 in support to individuals and organizations in our community.

Assistance provided since last fall included:

General Assistance

- Administered financial assistance, through our partnership with Hudson Headwaters Health Network, to several families for medical visits, dental procedures, prescription co-pays and medically necessary materials. This assistance was provided to people in Chestertown, Pottersville and Brant Lake and totaled more than \$4500. This volume of support was provided even with medical visits and dental care being limited as a result of the Pandemic.
- Supplied more than \$9000 in heating assistance during this period to both individuals and institutions within our community. As part of our effort to support local organizations, heating assistance was provided to churches in Pottersville, Chestertown and Brant Lake. This assistance was provided to help offset some of the financial shortfall that may

have been experienced by these organizations as a result of reduced attendance at weekly services.

Food Pantry

- More than 40 families from Chestertown and Pottersville have participated in the Food Pantry since our last newsletter.
- Purchased and distributed turkeys, hams and over 350 pounds of fresh meat at semi-monthly and holiday food distributions.
- Shared over \$3500 in TOPS cards to be used for the purchase of food and household goods not provided in the food pantry. This includes items such as dairy, produce and personal healthcare items.

This is a brief overview of some of the successful actions that were taken to assist our neighbors since our last report.

Special Project

The Helpers Fund was contacted by Dr. John Ruge in his role as Town of Chester Medical Officer. Dr. Ruge in the course of a visit to residence in the community identified the need for a handicapped ramp to access the home.

There was concern that the resident, who is confined to a wheel chair for a significant amount of time each day was put in jeopardy of falling each time they

had to leave their home and climb down a rickety set of stairs.



After some discussion it was determined that the Helpers Fund was in a position to assist this qualifying individual in the placement of the required ramp.

The fund secured a local contractor who constructed a platform and switchback ramp at the residence of the handicapped individual.

The placement of the ramp and landing went a long way in providing a much safer home environment.

Annual Holiday Drive and Gift Distribution

This year marked the continuation of our annual holiday clothing distribution.



No changes were made to the program and we provided two items of clothing to each adult. Four items of clothing and one toy, was given to each child under 18.

More than 275 gifts and toys were distributed in this years effort.

Recipients of the gifts were quite appreciative of the effort and one commented that this would "truly make Christmas" for them.

"Dinner For Two" Raffle

Our 19th annual "Dinner for Two" raffle is under way. This highly anticipated and favorite event will include the usual prizes:

First Prize - 12 \$50 Gift Certificates

Second Prize - 6 \$50 Gift Certificates

Third Prize - 3 \$50 Gift Certificates

All gift certificates will be to local restaurants in Chestertown, Schroon Lake, Warrensburg and Lake George. These restaurants include: Mario's, The Place, O.P.'s, The Ice Cream Parlor, The Olde Log Inn, Trail Break, Café Adirondack and the Adirondack General Store to name a few.

We hope you take part in this year's event and wish you the best of luck in your quest for a dinner bonanza.

Chester Senior Citizens Assistance

With the aging of our local population a senior organization was initiated in Chestertown. The start of this organization, just prior to the onset of Covid-19, has presented the group with some interesting challenges to make their organizational meetings as safe and secure as possible.



Linda Muench, Director, Chestertown Seniors

The Fund was requested to assist the Senior group in the purchase of cleaning and safety supplies as well as an air circulation and filter device.

The fund accepted this request and purchased the necessary supplies and filters to make the events held by the Seniors more enjoyable and safe.

The purchases provided a level of confidence to people attending meetings that the room and the quality of the air that they were breathing was clear of bacteria.

Outreach

The Fund continues its commitment to step up outreach activity. The purpose of this effort is to make people in the community aware of the Helpers Fund and its mission to help those who need assistance with an unusual situation or event in their lives.



As part of our outreach effort we have placed banners at both the Dynamite Hill youth baseball field and the Brant Lake youth ball field, which are located behind the town offices. We hope that this effort will assist us in getting the word out to people who may need some assistance.

If you know of someone who may need assistance, please do not hesitate to refer them to the Helpers Fund so we can determine their eligibility for assistance.

Ask them call our line at (518) 494-5565 where they can request an application. The application will be sent to them without delay.

**Be Safe, Stay Well and as always ...
Thank You!**