



The Helpers Fund Always Ready With A Helping Hand

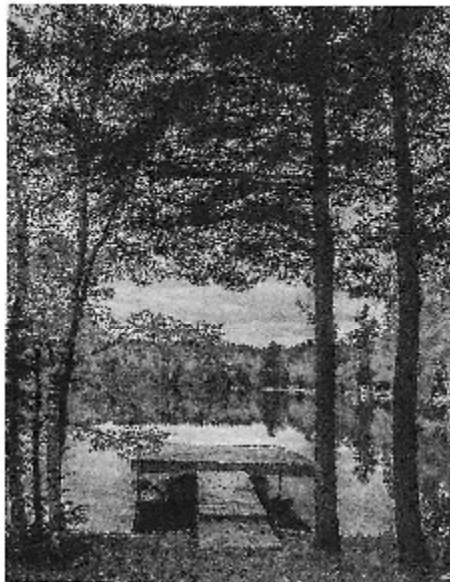
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Chestertown, NY 12817

What we've
been up to!

Spring 2024

General Information



Passage of an Era

It is with fond appreciation and sincere gratitude that the Board of the Helpers Fund recognizes the retirement of Mary Jane Dower from the Board of Trustees.

Mary Jane has served selflessly as a member of the Board since the founding of the Helpers Fund in September of 1997.

During her 26 years with the fund, M.J. has provide invaluable insight, direction and participation to help make the community a better place to live and work.

Mary Jane will be missed. Thank you for all you have done.

The Helpers Fund continues to be a positive force in our local community as has been demonstrated by our activity since our last newsletter.

The organization has provided assistance to individuals in the area that are experiencing financial difficulties in their daily lives.

One of the greatest areas in need to folks in our area this past winter was the ability to keep themselves and their loved ones warm during the long winter nights.

We have continued our efforts to supply heating fuel to those is our community that don't have the ability to help themselves during the coldest months of the year.

Our concern over the need for heating assistance this past winter played out as expected with the Fund being asked to provide heating and energy assistance totaling more than \$5000.

We were asked to provide heating assistance to those folks that had used all of their HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) benefit and faced a long cold winter without the help of the Fund.

Additionally, during the past six months we have provided assistance in the following areas:

General Assistance

- In the process of providing both a heating unit and propane fuel tank for an elderly woman who currently heats her home using an old wood fired cook stove.
- Repaired an automobile heater for a disabled veteran who faced using their automobile this winter without heat.
- Continued our support of High Peaks Hospice to cover expenses incurred, and not reimbursed, by individuals in Chestertown, Pottersville and Brant Lake.
- Repaired the electrical panel of an elderly individual who's electrical service had been discontinued for faulty equipment.
- Provided funds for medical assistance to a young area resident who had been severely injured in an automobile accident.
- Sponsored the Spring 2024 annual dental clinic at the North Warren Central School for students.
- Helped support volunteers in the Minerva School District in their efforts to continue the Backpack Program.
- Provided required medical supplies for a young woman suffering from a degenerative condition.

- We continued our "partnership" with Hudson Headwaters Health Network by providing financial assistance to a number of individuals and families for medical visits, dental procedures, prescription co-pays and medically necessary materials. This assistance was provided to people in Chestertown, Pottersville, Brant Lake and Schroon Lake.

In Schroon Lake the Helpers Fund provided financing for the development of a storage facility and materials for medically required materials, such as blood pressure machines that are issued to financially eligible patients.



Ann Coberg and HHHN Staff at opening of Schroon Lake Medical Supply Cabinet

Food Pantry

- Provided semi-monthly nutrition to more than 33 families from Chestertown and Pottersville have participated in the Food Pantry since our last newsletter.
- While most of us take for granted the availability of a holiday meal during the fall, winter and spring of the year, to many folks in our community this is a luxury that they cannot afford. With this in mind the Fund, through the Food Pantry, provided the essentials of

holiday meals to an average of 34 families for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

- Shared more than \$3500 in TOPS cards with clients of the Food Pantry. These cards are used for the purchase of food and household goods not provided in the food pantry. These items include things such as dairy, produce and personal healthcare items.
- Purchased and provided more than \$500 in TOPS cards to assist people requiring immediate assistance with food that were not regular users of the Food Pantry.

This overview covers some of the actions taken in support of a number of our neediest neighbors since our last report.

It should be noted that by year end 2023, The Helpers Fund had expended more than \$65,000 to support the most needy in our community!

Your support and continued generosity is appreciated! It makes things happen.

Scholarships

Scholarship applications have been provided to both North Warren Central School and Schroon Lake Central School to be used by students to apply for scholarships awarded by the Helpers Fund.

The deadline for submission of student applications is May 17, 2024.

"Dinner For Two" Raffle

Our 23rd annual "Dinner for Two" raffle has kicked off. Our usual format is being followed with the first prize winner receiving twelve (12) \$50 gift certificates to local and area restaurants. Our second place winner will receive (6) \$50 gift

certificates and our third place winner will receive (3) \$50 gift certificates.

We ask for your continued support of this effort as it the only fundraiser, beside our annual Holiday Drive, that is used to generate revenue for our efforts throughout the year.



Jim Fregoe and Ann Coberg mixing the tickets

Annual Holiday Gift Distribution

This past holiday season we were able to provide gifts to a total of 110 people as a result of your generosity. We provided two items of clothing to 53 adults and four items of clothing and at least one toy to a total of 57 children.

This makes the joy of the holidays a reality to many people that might otherwise not experience that happiness

Annual Holiday Drive

This past years annual Holiday Drive was the most successful in the history of the Helpers Fund.

The Board of Directors would like to **thank you all for your generous support** of our efforts to provide a little comfort and help to those folks in our community that need it most.

Outreach

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.

If they should require assistance in completing the required documentation a Board member will gladly assist them in the completion of the application.

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