



John Hagmann, new director of the Heleprs Fund in the Fund's Office working at the printer, John is a past president of the Chestertown Rotary.

From the Director's Chair 2015

Season's greetings and Happy New Year.

My name is John Hagmann and I joined the team at The Helpers Fund effective January 1st. I will be filling in the extremely large shoes of Carl Lamm as he takes a break from the day to day operations of the Fund.

I am a full time resident of Chestertown and live on the Route 9 side of Loon Lake. My wife Lynne and I have enjoyed the last eight years in this area and have marveled at the Helpers Fund's depth of involvement in making life a little easier for some of our friends and neighbors in the surrounding areas.

I hope to continue on with the good work that has been done in the past and have faith that we can count on your support going forward as we have in the past.

Have a great New Year and I look forward to working with you.

50/50 Scholarship Winners 2014

This was one of the most successful raffles we've had, said Carl Lamm, Director of the Fund. The results added two additional scholarships to the Fund's Scholarship program for 2015: The winners were:

- 1st Millie Liff, Little Neck, NY
- 2nd John Grady, Chestertown
- 3rd Charles Redmond, Chestertown

Mrs. Liff made a donation of half of her winnings to be placed back in the Scholarship Program. A special thank you to Mrs. Liff and all those who participated.

A Question Frequently Asked

The question we receive is why are the Fund's "executive board" expenses so high? It's a good question, since most charities are rated on the administrative fees in a percentage relation to the money allotted for the primary function of the charity. In the Fund's case it is more important as there are no paid employees and no petty cash in any of the Fund's four primary accounts. There was a boost in administrative expenses in 2014 because the Fund rented office space which added expenses for heating, computer hook up, electricity and rent

Ratio of Board Expenses to Mission

A figure of 20-30 per cent of total income allotted for executive board expenses is acceptable, but many charities are far below that, and some are way above that. When a charity reports board expenses of 5 or 10 per cent you know it is a bookkeeping system

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A Question Frequently. . . . (Continued from front)

that has been installed, on the advice of the charity's accountant, or on the recommendation of a business that rates charities.

Another reason board expenses can become high is the location and area the charity covers. Because of the density of the population a rural charity will spend twice as much on fund-raising activities, than a charity working within a city even if both offer the same assistance

Understanding that, it is safe to say higher or lower executive board expense ratios among charities is primarily the result of the system that has been adopted. Most charities charge all their expenses dealing with their primary goals to each situation much like lawyers and doctors do. For instance if someone calls asking for assistance and is approved everything related to that request is charged to that person's account as part of meeting the primary function of the organization. In such circumstances, the original phone call and the length of the call would be charged to that person's account. If the person requesting assistance was then asked to fill out a number of forms for that assistance, the postage, the cost of the paper and envelope, as well as the printing of the material would also be charged to that person's account and would not be listed as board expenses as it is done with the Fund.

A good example would be the Fund's phone which is used only for business because the Fund's first responder receives all calls. Ninety per cent of all the calls received deal with people requesting assistance, and a miniscule number of calls deal with board business itself. Yet the entire telephone bill each month is charged to board expenses, and not to the account set up for those who call for

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Director Retires

Founder and Director of the Helpers Fund, Carl Lamm, retired from his post effective January 1, 2015. "It has been quite a trip," he said. "We started with \$8.19 in June 1997 and have grown into a complete charity starting its 18th year, expanding our assistance into other areas as we grew.

"It was a bumpy ride at some points particularly at the beginning, but all went well. Our approach was a bit different, somewhat unorthodox, but it turned out very well. The community, as well as the businesses in the area accepted what we did, and the social organizations lent support to our activities and allowed us to reach different levels of success. To all those who have supported the fund, I can only say " 'thank you'. It is that support that allowed us to establish our programs, and without it there would not have been a Helpers Fund.

"I will not be leaving the Fund completely, but will remain on to help in whatever way I can to assure a smooth transition and hope to assist in some of the fund raising activities, and at the same time staying out of the way.

"I will continue working with Todd Waldron and Mark Carpenter with the 5k 10k Races and the 5k Walk Against Hunger as it is a kind of 'labor of love.' Ran for 30 years and it gets in your blood and just stays there.

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A Question Frequently. . . . (Continued from pg. 2)

assistance. As a result perhaps 85-90 per cent of all calls deal with assistance but 100 per cent is charged to the board.

The same thing would apply to printing costs and mailing. When a person calls for assistance that person is sent two forms, one for an explanation of the "Needs" and a second for "Financial" information. That includes a stamped envelope to return the forms, and an envelope and stamp sent to the person applying. Neither the printing costs nor the paper and envelope costs or the postage are charged to the person's account but the expense is charged to board expenses. Fund raising events follow the same bookkeeping method.

From the start our books were kept manually. At one time a number of years back the board looked into computerized bookkeeping programs, but because of the cost at that time we decided against it. We attempted to create a system where each fund raising event was broken down in income and expenses to give us a more accurate account of the totals, but the bill-paying method remained the same.

When we tried to formulize the procedure we had to stop as this required creating forms and adding a time-adding burden to bookkeeping. We continued to rely on the method we had always used.

At the board's December meeting a motion was passed to computerize the system. The Helpers Fund is no longer considered a small charity by the Internal Revenue Service. Because of the Fund's income growth a more complex system, a system that could break down the expenses to the different accounts, has been installed by the new director. The system will be tied to the accountant's system which will make the entire process more efficient.

Director Retires (continued from page 2)

"There are many people and businesses who have supported us for many of those years, and I can only say "thank you," and hope and wish for your continued support."

The Fund's Accounts And Who's Who

Director: John Hagmann

General Fund: *First Responder,*
Bonnie Cleveland

Helpers Chestertown Food Pantry:

Co-Chairs:

Mary Jane Dower

Jim Fregoe

Supervisor: Amy Culver

Volunteers: Margaret Andrews, Helen Devlin

Helpers Fund North Warren Scholarship

Program:

Chair: Nancy Fregoe

Finance: Mark Carpenter

Helpers Fund Scholarship Program:

Co-Chairs: Mary Jane Dower

Jim Fregoe

5k 10k Races & 5k Walk:

Race Director: Todd Waldron; *Asst. Director:*
Mark Carpenter, *Dir. Emeritus:* Carl Lamm



Buckman's
Family
Fuel co. INC.

Chestertown Chiropractic
Dr. Richard W. Loyst

