

HUMAN SERVICE REPORT

Dear Plainfield Neighbors,

As your Community Resource Director I am eager to help anyone that might be having a difficult time or that might have questions about local support services. I help many different families in town with housing issues, safety issues, budget planning, applications for fuel & medical assistance, transportation issues and referrals for support services such as meals on wheels, LifeLine Program, or in-house care. I help to provide food and other necessary items to those who are in need or crisis. All the conversations and services that are provided are strictly confidential.

Our Food Pantry is now well established and is helping many families. The Christ Community Church continues to allow the Town to use a lovely handicap accessible room to operate our food pantry. Although the Pantry is located at the church there is no affiliation or religious connection to this wonderful resource. The Pantry is well stocked with a variety of non-perishable foods, personal hygiene products and pet food. Our Food Pantry is affiliated and receives wonderful resources from the NH Food Bank. We warmly welcome anyone in town and residents of Cornish that need help getting by. The hours of operation are the 1st Thursday, 3rd Friday & 3rd Saturday of each month from 9-12 noon or when there is a serious need. Again, the Pantry is located in the Christ Community Church (Big Red Barn) on Route 12 A across from the Plainfield Fire Department. Food Assistance, however, is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

As the Community Resource Director my responsibilities include, but are not limited to dispersing aid in the form of vouchers for rent, security deposits, prevention of eviction, fuel, utilities, food and prescriptions when deemed critically necessary for health and safety reasons. An application is required to determine eligibility of services. As Director I work with many local service agencies. Here are just a few that I work closely with, Social Security Administration, State of NH Health & Human Services, Visiting Nurses Alliance, Community Alliance of Human Services, LISTEN, NH Food Bank and Southwestern Community Services in order to provide information, referrals and assistance to residents.

Our Community still benefits from many in town outreach programs. Our monthly Foot Care Clinics provided by Lake Sunapee VNA nurses are very popular. Senior Luncheons still occur on the 4th Thursday of each month at various locations around town. Our fun social gatherings offer wonderful nutritious meals and average 60-70 guests per month. Weekend Care Packages continue to be delivered each week to citizens of Plainfield and Meriden. This program helps to fight 68 hours of hunger to ensure that no child goes hungry.

In the year of 2017, a total of \$7,497.10 was disbursed to assist households in need. The Food Pantry from January-December 2017 provided 5,659 meals to community members.

The breakdown for monies disbursed in 2017 is as follows:

Housing	\$ 350.00
Electric	\$ 1,200.00
Heating Fuel	\$ 1,293.31
Nutrition Support Purchases	\$ 2,157.29
Medical	\$ 421.50
Health & Safety Clean-up	\$ 487.00
11 Summer Camp Scholarships (monies used from donations)	\$ 1,588.00

I want to thank all those local businesses, friends and neighbors who have collected food, donated food and contributed monetary gifts to the Community Resource Room & Food Pantry. With your generous donations in 2017 totaling more than \$4,888.50 Eleven children were able to attend summer camp, 236 weekly weekend care packages to stop 68 hours of hunger were delivered, medications were purchased, septic pumps & furnaces were

repaired, housing modifications for safety were made, heating fuel was provided, LifeLine Systems were set-up for Seniors and general food assistance was available.

Finally, I sincerely appreciate all the tax deductible donations that were made to the the *Schell Community Assistance Trust Fund* in 2017. The sole purposes of this Fund is to aid the town's Human Services Director with the mission of helping Plainfield's residents who are in need of financial assistance. Donations to this fund will be separate from the fiscal year regular operating budget. This will allow donations to the Community Resource Room & Food Pantry to roll over from year to year to support our community outreach programs. If you would like to make a donation to this amazing Trust Fund please make your tax deductible donation to The Town of Plainfield and in your check memo state: The Schell Community Assistance Trust Fund. Wishing everyone a healthy & Happy 2018!

Town of Plainfield's Resource Director Stephanie M. Schell
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Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie M. Schell
Community Resource Director



Annual Sunapee Boat trip, what a wonderful day with all our friends!
Photo: Stephanie Schell

HUMAN SERVICES AGENCIES

Residents of the Town of Plainfield continued to have access to needed social services from the following agencies during 2017:

VNAVNH: Visiting Nurse Alliance of Vermont and New Hampshire Medicare is a certified home care agency that provides home health services to Plainfield residents. PO Box 1339 White River Jct Vt. 05001 **tel. 1-888-300-8853.**

GRAFTON COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER: Provides services to senior citizens: meals, including deliveries of meals, transportation, adult day care, recreation, health screening and social services. PO Box 433 / Lebanon, NH 03766-0433 **tel. 448-4897**

HEADREST: Provides information and referrals for human services in the Upper Valley. Located at 14 Church St./ PO Box 247/Lebanon, NH 03766 **tel. 448-4872. Hotline 448-4400.**

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE: Provides counseling and support for youth and their families, available 24 hours a day; works with court ordered juveniles, maintaining Chandler House, an emergency, temporary home for these clients. A new ride assistance program called CATS is now available to Plainfield residents 940 John Stark Highway, Newport NH 03773 **tel. 863-9529.**

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY SERVICES: Provides and administers Fuel Assistance, Commodity Foods, WIC Program, Neighbor Helping Neighbor, and Eldercare programs along with other human service type programs to eligible applicants. PO Box 1338 Claremont, NH 03743. **tel. 542-9528.**

WEST CENTRAL SERVICES: Provides mental health and behavioral services for no or very low costs to the uninsured. West Central Services is the New Hampshire designated community mental health facility for Plainfield and all of Sullivan County. 9 Hanover Street, Suite 2, Lebanon, NH 03766 **tel. 448-0126.**

MASCOMA VALLEY HEALTH INITIATIVE: A provider of public health services in the Upper Valley. Functions include research, education, planning and prevention activities. PO Box 102 Canaan NH 03741 **tel. 523-7100.**