

## 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 electrical, fuel and medical assistance, transportation issues and referrals for support services such as Meals on Wheels, Life-Line 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 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

In addition to our Food Pantry we have also teamed up with The Upper Valley Humane Society. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month UVHS comes to Plainfield with their FREE Mobile Pet Food Pantry. We are delighted that so many residents are taking advantage of this amazing resource.

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, Service Link, State of NH Health & Human Services, Visiting Nurses Alliance, Community Alliance of Human Services, LISTEN, The Haven, West Central Services, 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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. An in school snack program has also been established. Any child who feels hunger pains throughout the day can visit the nurses office to receive a nutritious snack.

In the year of 2018, a total of \$16,318.71 was disbursed to assist households in need. As you can see \$6,318.71 was spent over budget, but please refer to the breakdown below. In the end due to the generosity of many community members and their donations

everything balanced out and my budget was not in the red. The Food Pantry from January- December 2018 provided 9,156 meals to community members.

The breakdown for monies disbursed for assistance in 2018 is as follows:

<b>Housing</b>	<b>\$ 1,640.00</b>
<b>Electric</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>
<b>Heating Fuel</b>	<b>\$2,931.04</b>
<b>Nutrition Support Purchases</b>	<b>\$ 2,880.13</b>
<b>Medical</b>	<b>\$ 394.76</b>
<b>11 Summer Camp Scholarships (monies used from donations)</b>	<b>\$ 1,210.00</b>

I want to thank the Town of Cornish, all those local businesses, local trust funds, friends and neighbors who have collected food, donated food and contributed monetary gifts to the Community Resource Room & Food Pantry. With generous donations in 2018 totaling more than \$6,318.71 all needs were met in our immediate community. Eleven children were able to attend summer camp, 236 weekly weekend care packages to stop 68 hours of hunger were delivered, medications were purchased, housing modifications for safety were made, heating fuel was provided, electricity was reconnected, 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 *Schell Community Assistance Trust Fund* in 2018. 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.

**Thank you to all the residents of Plainfield for supporting our community outreach programs to enhance the lives of all our neighbors! Wishing everyone a Healthy & Happy 2019!**

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie M. Schell  
Community Resource Director