

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, as well as applications for electrical, fuel and medical assistance. Additionally, I assist with transportation issues and referrals for support services such as Meals on Wheels, Life-Line Medical Alert Programs, 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 very well established and helps many families. This past year the food insecurity in our immediate hometown has become very evident. The Christ Community Church (Big Red Barn Church located on Route 12A) 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 with the NH Food Bank & Feed America which provides wonderful resources. We warmly welcome anyone living in the towns of Plainfield, Meriden and Cornish that find themselves in need of stretching their grocery budget. 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. Food Assistance is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for emergency purposes

In addition to our Food Pantry we have also teamed up with The Upper Valley Humane Society. On the 3rd Saturday of every month from 9-11 am UVHS comes to Plainfield with their FREE Mobile Pet Food Pantry. We are delighted that so many residents are taking advantage of this amazing new resource. On average 300 pounds of dry cat and dog food is given out.

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, DHMC Financial Forgiveness Program, State of NH Health & Human Services, Visiting Nurses Alliance, Volunteers in Action, 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 benefits from many in town outreach programs. Our monthly Foot Care Clinics provided by Lake Sunapee VNA nurses are very popular. Our Annual Community Flu Clinic sponsored by Upper Valley Public Health Council & Dartmouth Medical Students was a huge success providing over 225 FREE Flu vaccines. The UVHS also provided a reduced fee rabies clinic in Meriden this past spring. We hope to continue this service next spring. The newly established Community Health Closet has been assisting many neighbors in need with adaptive medical equipment. Senior Luncheons still occur on the last Thursday of each month at various locations around town. Our fun Super Senior social gatherings offer wonderful nutritious meals and average 60- 70 guests per month. Weekend Care Packages continue to be delivered each week to residents 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 and is thriving. On average 25 students utilize this resource on a weekly basis. Any child who feels hunger pains throughout the day can visit the nurse's office to receive a nutritious snack.

In the year of 2019, a total of \$25,119.39 was distributed to assist households in need. As you can see \$5,119.39 was spent over budget, but please refer to the breakdown below. In the end due to the generosity of many community members, Town of Cornish and their donations in 2019 everything balanced out and my budget was not in the red. The Food Pantry from January-December 2019 provided 10,605 meals to community members.

The breakdown for Human Services monies disbursed for assistance in 2019 is as follows:

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|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Housing | \$2,587.00 |
| Utilities | \$1,000.00 |
| Heating Fuel | \$1,000.00 |
| Medical Needs Assistance | \$334.46 |
| Nutrition Insecurity Support Purchases | \$1,250.00 |
| 15 Summer Camp Scholarships | \$ 2,630.00 |

I want to thank our local businesses, local nonprofit trust funds, friends and neighbors and the Town of Cornish who have collected food, donated food and contributed monetary gifts to the Community Resource Room & Food Pantry. With these generous donations in 2019 totaling more than \$6639.29 all needs were met in our immediate community. Fifteen children were able to attend local day summer camp, 246 weekly weekend care packages to stop 68 hours of hunger were delivered, assistance with making full or partial rent payments was provided to ensure secure housing needs, prescription medications were purchased, housing modifications for safety were made, heating fuel was supplied, electricity was reconnected, transportation needs were met, Life Line Medical Alert Systems were set-up for Seniors aging in place and general food assistance was made readily available.

Finally, I sincerely appreciate all the tax deductible donations that were made to the Schell Community Assistance Trust Fund in 2019. The sole purpose 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. The Trust Fund has done some amazing things in 2019 to support our community members in need. Here are a few highlights:

- * **Assistance to a disabled senior couple.**
- * **Provided temporary respite care in a skilled facility to a loved one with dementia while his spouse had surgery & rehabilitation.**
- * **Replaced a widow's damaged furnace to ensure safe heating of her home.**
- * **Assisted a homeless family of five to find a safe place to live.**
- * **The installation of two Lifeline Medical Alert systems.**

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 2020!

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie M. Schell
Community Resource Director