

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE WEBSTER COMMUNITY CHEST

Last year on April 22nd, we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Webster Community Chest in 1948. Since then, the folks at the Chest have worked hard to help those in need and make this an even better community.

The Chest relies upon the donations of the citizens and businesses of the greater Webster community for its operations. Most of our donations (57%) came from individuals. Donations from local foundations and churches were 25% of our funds. Several organizations sponsored fundraising events and we thank the Lions, Webster Schroeder art teachers and students, the United Church of Christ, West Herr Ford, and Webster Masons. We also get donations from businesses, clubs, and other groups. Note that we do not take government money for our operating expenses.

We are inspired by all of you who support the work of the Chest. We do all we can to ensure that you get the greatest possible value for your donations. Our administration is entirely volunteer, we have no facilities, and overhead expenses are taken only when unavoidable, so almost all of our funds go directly into meeting the needs of local residents.

This past year 362 families contacted us for assistance. Our Benefits Counselors match needs to other resources in our community that can help right away. When there is no immediate recourse in an emergency, we provide direct aid. Most clients are single parents, disabled, or elderly. If you know of a resident who might need assistance, please have them reach out to us at (585) 671-2060 or at [webcommchest@gmail.com](mailto:webcommchest@gmail.com).

Our new Meal Center operation has expanded greatly. In 2022, we provided over 3,000 ready-to-prepare meals to needy families. This past year, we distributed nearly 7,000 meals. Distributions is made at month-end as food stamps run out for many families. We continue to subsidize Meals on Wheels for elderly and disabled residents who are on the waiting list. In other local communities, these folks would not get meals for months until government approval is given, but here they get meals right away. We made five Shirley Miller Awards to local graduating high school seniors to recognize exemplary efforts as young volunteers and to encourage community service in their schoolmates.

Your donations also sent low-income children to a week in summer camp and provided funds to several local organizations with programs benefiting residents. In partnership with a local foundation, we aided clients to put their children with disabilities into developmental therapy programs.

It is the people of our community who make this such a wonderful place to live! I would like to recognize the members of our Board of Directors and our officers who have all volunteered their time and skills to oversee the operations of the Chest. Many other residents have been generous in donating their time to assist in the delivery of needed services and to help raise funds. Anyone who is looking to serve our community as a volunteer should go to <https://webcommchest.org/> to learn more about us or to make a donation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Grenier, President, Webster Community Chest