



SEPTEMBER 2026 VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Hello again and thank you for offering to volunteer your time with the Webster Community Chest!

If you have any questions or would like to discuss WCC volunteer opportunities further, please email our Volunteer Coordinator, Carol Lowe at communitychestvolunteers@gmail.com and she will get back to you in a timely manner. If you are no longer interested in receiving this email, please send a separate email to communitychestvolunteers@gmail.com stating you do not want to receive the monthly newsletter and/or would like to be removed from the distribution list.

Call for Grant Writers / Individuals with Grant Expertise (submitted by Bob Fenton)

WCC is always looking for ways to fund/expand our programs for those in need. Are you a grant writer or do you know someone who is? Do you know specific grant providers that could help fund WCC programs? If so, please contact Bob Fenton at bobfenton@live.com. We need these critical skills to expand our current grant efforts. To date, we have raised more than \$18,000! Even if you don't have the time to write the grants but can provide tips and suggestions to improve our chances for success, please reach out. Thank you!

Provide the Protein Food Drive (submitted by Bob Fenton)

The Webster Rec Center has graciously agreed to serve as an on-going food donation site for the Meal Center. We're focusing on three of our highest cost ingredients: canned tuna, canned chicken, and protein pancake mix. How can you help?

- Consider donating one or more of these ingredients.
- Get the word out! Tell your friends, neighbors, relatives and random people you meet.

- Post the attached document on your favorite social media sites. (see the end of this newsletter)

As always, many thanks for all you do. You are truly neighbors helping neighbors!

	Provide the Protein Food Drive	
Neighbors Helping Neighbors		Neighbors Helping Neighbors
What : Support our monthly recipe-based meal distributions to those in need How : Donate canned tuna, chicken and protein pancake mix Where : Webster Recreation Center 1350 Chiyoda Dr. Webster, NY When : Starts August 24th		
 	 	 

Wegmans East Avenue Grocery Run (submitted by Steve Yahoodik)

Webster runners, walkers, and friends of the Webster Community Chest:

This year the WCC has a Participating Team for the annual Wegmans East Avenue Grocery Run. This is a great way to get some exercise while helping the WCC and other charities throughout Monroe County. The event this year is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th.



There are a variety of distances for both walks and runs so you don't have to be an Olympic quality athlete to participate! Additionally, there is also a virtual Run/Walk option available.

If you are interested in participating, you can click on this link to take you to the registration page: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Groups/11070/Groups/2161725>

For more event information use this link:
<https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Rochester/EastAvenueGroceryRun>

During the registration process, you will also be able to make a direct contribution to the Webster Community Chest if you would like! If you know of a runner or walker who might also like to participate, please forward this information to them as well. The WCC appreciates all the support from our volunteers, and we thank you for your continued efforts.

Meal Distribution Impact (submitted by Tracy Dennis)

135 families were fed! Meal bags had 4 meals and there was also jelly, bread, cereal, and produce bags. All families were given a hygiene item (or 2) thanks to leftovers from our Summer Event. 13 lucky clients received a beautiful bouquet of flowers. The Meal Center Team was there this month to hand out Rhino's pizza coupons and the WCC Cookbooks (in honor of longtime volunteer Joyce Tompkins), thanks to a donation from Joyce's church, Webster Presbyterian. Special bags this month were gluten free (x2), soft foods (x2), low sodium (x2), and low carb/low sugar. A huge thank you to Michael for putting these bags together. #3 & #4 of the thank yous listed below are from recipients of those special diet bags!

Here are some THANK YOUs to share with YOU because YOU are what make these monthly Meal Center distributions successful!

1. "Thank you so much for all the food and also the pizza certificate."
2. "Thank you for the wonderful food gift bag yesterday, toiletries, cookbook with wonderful recipes and uplifting note message found in the food gift bag."
3. "Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!! We are so grateful for our food bag. It's been a really hard month and this is such a blessing. Surprised with the produce, recipe book and extra surprise. Thank you!!!!!"
4. "I just want to say thank you so very much. Y'all are just absolutely incredibly awesome. I'm so very, very grateful. I keep praying that health and life will return soon. But not until it's time. Nothing before its time. I just want to tell you that I love you from the bottom of my heart. And someday I will be there with you, doing all those fun things again. Thank you so very much. And this looks like an absolutely incredible week to enjoy my food. And thank you so much for the fresh vegetables, for the free pizza, and the cookbook. You guys are just absolutely incredible. I love the fact of the personal touch. Chef names and where they are from...and I could go on and on, but you know what I mean this is just so awesome. I feel like I'm actually having it from you. I truly am grateful. What a wonderful tribute to Joyce Tompkins... you know she's smiling."

5. "Thank you so much for that food delivery yesterday. When I was unpacking it, I was so excited to see all the goodies that it contained. This helps me out a lot. I appreciate you guys."

Meal Center Distribution Dates: (all Thursdays, 3:30-5:00): 9/24, 10/29, 11/19, 12/17
Holiday/ Seasonal Distributions: Thanksgiving Event: 11/17

If you are not a scheduled regular OUTSIDE/DELIVERY volunteer and you are interested in observing one of our meal center distributions, please contact Tracy at [\(585\) 671-2060](tel:5856712060) or webcommchest@gmail.com.

Meal Center Impact (submitted by Trish Knisley)

170 meal bags were packed in August. The bags included ingredients to prepare four recipes: lentil sloppy joes, loaded potato soup, chicken risotto, and tuna noodle casserole. Bonus Meal: coupon for a medium Rhino's pizza. Extras were cereal, peanut butter, jelly, bread, and produce (celery, cucumber, red onions and potatoes).

We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

Bagging: Judith, Cheryl, Anne, Jean, Delia, Sam, Beth, Wyatt and Linda V.
Produce bagging: Nancy R., Judith, Sam, Lynn F., Mary Lynne, and Linda V.
Food Pickup at Wegmans: Bob H., Bill C., and Bob F.
Saturday Deliveries: Charlie delivered 4 meal bags
Pickup at Webster Library and Webster Rec Center locations: Mary Lynne

Mark Your Calendar for Bagging and Pickup

September Food Bagging at Immanuel Lutheran Church: Thursday, September 17 at 10:30 a.m. (new time)

Food pickup at Holt Road Wegmans: Wednesday, September 16 at 1:00 p.m.

RSVP to Trish at (585) 704-3936.

Thank You for Staying Committed to Our Mission

Our specific needs:

- A Canned Goods Drive or donate food listed on our website: webcommchest.org

- Our current Drop-off locations: Webster Community Library, Webster Rec Center (this drop-off location only proteins: chicken, tuna, pancake mix), and Bernardi & Co.
- We are accepting: brown grocery bags, suggestions for shelf-stable food drop-off sites, and hosts for Fill-the-Van events.

Can you help Webster neighbors by partnering with us?

Phillips Village Little Pantry (submitted by Kathy Tadddeo and Ellen Moody)

Our teams deliver food to the food pantry at Phillips Village, a 500-unit low-income housing neighborhood off Phillips Road in Webster. Each of our volunteers shops and delivers once a month and is part of a team of 3 who deliver in the same week. Each volunteer contributes the food they purchase with their own funds.

We meet once a year to discuss policy, strategies, challenges, satisfactions, and plans for future improvements. There is frequent communication between team members and between organizers and volunteers. We're a congenial group and are always happy to add 2-3 new members each year.

If you are interested, please contact Ellen Moodie at emoodie8157@gmail.com. She will happily answer any questions you have and explain next steps if you decide to join us.

Women's Empowerment Programs (submitted by Tracy Dennis)

Most Thursday nights, the Webster Community Chest hosts our Women's Empowerment Programs at the Webster Recreation Center. We hold two programs and you are invited to join us at any time.

Women's Self Defense classes, taught by Master Jason Lee of Kuk Sool Won of Ontario. 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. These classes are for women of all ages 13+ and all fitness levels and abilities.

Every other week: CAFES: Creative Amazing Friendship Empowerment & Support: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Community building for women through structured craft activities. Join us to learn a new craft, spend time with some amazing women, or even teach us a craft if you would like to be a guest artist! JOIN US IN 2026!

For more information (including current schedule) for both of these programs, please contact Tracy at webcommchest@gmail.com or [\(585\)-671-2060](tel:585-671-2060).

Thank you for your continued support of the Webster Community Chest and our community.

Your Friends at the Webster Community Chest

Carol

Webster Community Chest Volunteer Coordinator
communitychestvolunteers@gmail.com

Webster Community Chest is committed to helping those in our community in need and does not discriminate on account of race, color, ethnicity, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, creed and/or religion, sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive autonomy or otherwise as may be prohibited by federal and state law.