



## MARCH 2026 VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Hello and thank you for offering to volunteer your time with the Webster Community Chest. Here is our March 2026 Volunteer Newsletter. It is filled with current information regarding our volunteer opportunities. If you have any questions or would like to discuss WCC volunteer opportunities further, please email WCC Volunteer Coordinator Carol Lowe at [communitychestvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:communitychestvolunteers@gmail.com) and she will respond in a timely manner.

### Call for Grant Writers

Our Food Insecurity Team (FIT) needs your help. The RIT School of Health and Nutrition has completed multiple projects for us. These include:

- Recommending specific recipes, providing nutritional values.
- Evaluating the level of food insecurity in Webster.
- Providing tips for preparing meals and buying food on a budget.
- Providing a list of potential grants to fund the Meal Center and other WCC programs.

We need volunteers to complete grant applications. The 2026 budget only provides 2/3 of what's necessary to maintain current levels of support to our neighbors. The last thing we ever want to do is turn a hungry family away. Remember, over 40% of recipients are children. Please help if you can. Contact Bob Fenton at [bobfenton@live.com](mailto:bobfenton@live.com) for more information.

### Can and Bottle Volunteer

We need one volunteer to pick up deposit cans and bottles every other week at Fairlife, 1410 Ebina Drive, Building 300 in Webster. The cans and bottles need to be taken to a bottle return such as Can Kings (1183 Bay Rd) or Nickel Back (659 Ridge Rd).

The proceeds will then be deposited at Citizens Bank. This is expected to provide over \$1,000 per year to the Chest. More importantly, it can lead to greater involvement by Fairlife in helping the Chest. Current pickups are at 9AM every other Tuesday but

they are flexible about time and date. Call Michael Grenier at (585) 671-8738 or at [mgrenier@frontiernet.net](mailto:mgrenier@frontiernet.net) to learn more.

## **Meal Distribution Report**

THANK YOU to our February Meal Center OUTSIDE & DELIVERY volunteers: Fred, Bob H, Judith, Denise, Bill G, Bill C, Mary Lynne, Michael, Heather, Ellen & Russ, Alicia, Carol, Gary L, and Brittany. It was another COLD one! Here's a pat on the back for surviving another (almost) ARCTIC Meal Center Distribution. THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Charlie, who delivered on Saturday and assisted with food pickup. Also, thanks to baggers Lynn and MaryLynne (who also pick up food at the library), Denise, Judith, Jean, Linda, Carly, Sue, and Trish. We had two dates planned for bagging since we now bag up to 170 bags each month. This crew was so efficient that they got it all done on the first day. Way to go!

February Meal Center Distribution Summary: 125 families fed. Each bag had 4 meals along with recipes, onions, carrots, fresh garlic, laundry detergent, and kid bags. Thirteen lucky clients received beautiful bouquets of flowers. Another client received bags filled with cooking oil and jiffy corn mix – thanks to two generous volunteers – to share with her neighbors in need that have been asking for these items.

Here are some thank you notes we received:

- “Delivery driver was delightful. Thank you so much!”
- “With much appreciation I thank you for all the food, the kid snacks, which they love, and the delivery.”
- “Hey Tracy, Kris, and all other Angels that are part of helping and doing this meal delivery. Just want to say that I so greatly appreciate all of you and everything that you do and give to me. Absolutely nothing goes to waste and I am so so grateful. Thank you to my Angels on Earth. Hopefully I have my surgery on the 5th of May and then after all healing I will be able to go back to normal food. I am so grateful for going out of the way to make sure that I have soft foods. As always, sincerely yours.”
- “Just wanted to say thank you so much. The gentleman dropped off the food and my son went to the door. That was very kind of you. I just wanted to say thank you.”

**Meal Center 2026 Monthly Distributions** (all Thursdays, 3:30-5:00): 3/26, 4/30, 5/28, 6/25, 7/30, 8/27, 9/24, 10/29, 11/19, 12/17.

**Holiday/Seasonal Distributions Dates:** *Easter/Spring 3/31*

## **Important Meal Distribution Volunteer Note**

If you are not a regular outside or delivery volunteer on meal distribution day and you are interested in seeing what the process entails, please contact Tracy at [webcommchest@gmail.com](mailto:webcommchest@gmail.com) or (585) 671-2060. We would love to have you join us, but please let us know ahead of time. Our regular volunteers are very busy on distribution day and won't have time to provide training during this time.

## **Meal Center (Submitted by Bonnie Reynolds)**

- We need a temporary driver for the Meals on Wheels delivery. Meals on Wheels is a Tues/Thurs commitment for one person.
- Volunteers are always welcome. Please know that your effort is not only appreciated by the families we serve, but by us as well.
- We will be looking for helping hands as the season for food drives is upon us. WCC will need volunteers to pick up these items from collection sites and deliver them to our meal center.
- Food Drop-off locations: Webster Public Library and Bernardi & Co. on Barrett Dr. If anyone knows of any additional potential drop-off locations, please let us know. We can use convenient places for the community to drop off donations.
- If you or someone you know would like to coordinate a food drive for our meal center or host a "Fill the Van" food drive, please let us know.
- Our Meal Center is a perfect location to hold a DRIVE-UP Donation Drive. Would you like to organize one for us? We will supply the place and volunteers to receive the food...we just need YOU or YOUR organization/company/group to organize a drive for us! Let us know if you are interested!
- To see our ingredient list, click on this link and scroll down to the bottom section of the page: <https://webcommchest.org/meal-center>
- Do you have any recipes for meals that we can add to our Meal Center repertoire? Please send your ideas to Bonnie at [bonniebythebay2025@gmail.com](mailto:bonniebythebay2025@gmail.com).

## **Secretary Assistants Openings**

WCC is looking for two volunteers who can commit a few hours weekly to assisting our Secretary. One assistant would be a Correspondence Assistant and be in charge of writing thank-yous, etc. (mostly email) and another would be a Meetings Administrative Assistant whose job would include recording minutes at our Board meetings, schedule the meeting room, and various other duties. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie at (585) 770-3326.

## **Women's Empowerment Programs: Want to join us?** (Submitted by Tracy Dennis)

Every Thursday night the Webster Community Chests hosts our Women's Empowerment Programs at the Webster Recreation Center. We alternate between two programs and you are invited to join us at any time.

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

Alternating weeks: CAFES: Creative Amazing Friendship Empowerment & Support from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. It is 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 on all of these programs, please contact us at [webcommchest@gmail.com](mailto:webcommchest@gmail.com) OR (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](mailto: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.