



Webster Community Chest
Donor News 2026 Vol 3 #2

CHEST HOSTS FREE CONCERT ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH AT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST. PLEASE COME!

Every summer, the United Church of Christ presents their FREE Caring Concerts on the church front lawn at 570 Klem Rd, Webster. The one tomorrow benefits the Webster Community Chest. It features Rochester band Mitty & The Followers, with their energetic Motown, R & B, and variety act from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m.



Check this out—see them performing Ben E. King’s 1961 hit "Stand by Me" featured on the soundtrack of the 1986 film of the same name.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEDly8Pk3Vc>.

You likely already know this band as they have been playing throughout the Rochester area for the past 15 years. I believe this is their first appearance at the UCC concert series. They get outstanding reviews.

This is a show and a party you won’t want to miss! Freewill offering benefit for Webster Community Chest. Bring a blanket or chair. Bring a friend. Bring a picnic or choose from our picnic menu at the food tent. Red and white hots, hamburgers and cheeseburgers are staples, and they have specialty hot sandwiches that vary. They also have soft drinks, water, chips, popcorn, and ice cream. Concessions open at 6:00 p.m.

Come to United Church of Christ, 570 Klem Rd, Webster, NY 14580. The concert will move indoors if weather is inclement. For additional information contact the church office at (585) 671-3757.



THE CHEST'S DRAMATIC GROWTH

Here is our report on the growth that the Chest has had over the past ten years. Donors who have followed our reports in these quarterly newsletters on the services that we deliver to those in need in our community will not be surprised by this report.

Ten years ago, in 1995, our annual expenditure was \$84,366—typical for that period. By end-of-year 2025, our annual expenditures had grown to \$201,866, largely due to the dramatic increase in the amount of our food programs and financial aid to families facing emergencies, as well as new programs that we have added over the past few years. We are very proud of the impact we have had on our community, none of which could be done without your participation as donors and volunteers.

Our total expenditure was made up of \$136,600 in cash and \$65,266 in goods and services donated to the Chest—principally foodstuffs for our meals programs and household goods for our HomeHub program. The total value of goods and services delivered to our clients was \$188,000.

THE CHEST'S OVERHEAD REPORT

We have been asked, “What percentage of the Chest’s annual disbursements is for overhead rather than for direct services and goods to clients?” That is a good question.

Overhead covers management, administrative, and fundraising costs. We know that our donors want to see the money they donate go towards the goods and services that our clients need. We understand that, but those in the nonprofit business know that these expenses are vital to being able to deliver on their mission statement. We hope that our donors understand and accept that.

Charity ratings services like Charity Navigator and CharityWatch prefer program expenses to be at least 75% (meaning a maximum of 25% overhead) for top efficiency ratings. Most nonprofits, being good stewards of their donors’ dollars, do all that they can to minimize the amount of overhead expense they incur. Here is how the Chest is doing. We think we are exceptional.

First, we have repeatedly noted in our annual reports and newsletters that the Webster Community Chest’s administration is entirely by volunteers. Most non-profits have a full-time director, some support staff, and a facility. These are necessities and we do not fault them for this. However, our expense for these overhead items is zero.

Second, the Chest is a virtual organization. Space that we need for the storage and distribution of food is borrowed, largely from the generous Immanuel Lutheran Church for our end-of-month meals distribution and from Webster Hope for our holiday meals program—run in partnership with them. We hold our meetings in free rooms. Our mailing address is Webster Town Hall. Our expenses for building lease/mortgage, insurance, and maintenance are therefore zero.

We do, of course, have some overhead. Last year we spent \$6,654 on fundraising. Most of this was the cost of delivering our annual appeal flyer in the fall. We hope you remember receiving this. This includes our fund-drive appeal and most of our donors respond to this. Because it goes to every single house and apartment address in Webster and the rest of the 14580-zip code area, it also reaches many families in need and informs them of our services. This is a major outreach to potential clients who desperately need our help and may not otherwise know that we are here.

We also spent \$2,027 which we call “marketing.” Most of this is advertising in the Town’s *Webster Today* magazine. Because it is sent to every address in Webster, it also is outreach as well as reminding our donors of our services.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors since 1948

Anne is a single woman who lost her daycare job and fell behind in rent before finding a job. We covered a month's rent which was enough to prevent her eviction. She has since caught up. We enrolled her in our Meal Center program for meals at the end of each month, just when Food Stamps often run out.

17,614
Ready-to-Prepare
Meals Given,
Over 7,000 to
Children

667
Families Helped
in the Past Year



Ethan, a single dad, was injured and disabled. After his third surgery, his disability payments were cancelled, leaving no income. Exhausting his savings, he faced eviction, but the Chest prevented that. On appeal, his disability benefits were restored.

34
Emergency
Relief
Payments
Made



13
Kids sent to
Summer
Camp

Olivia is in chemo fighting breast cancer and unable to work or go out. She paid rent, but had no money left for food.

The Chest purchased emergency groceries, delivered them to her and registered her for Meal Center end-of-month deliveries.



The class at Kuk Sool Won Martial Arts School donated 185 rolls of toilet paper for our new Summer Hygiene Kits, then challenged Master Jason Lee to jump over the pile. He did.

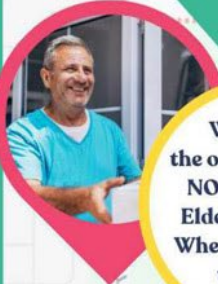
WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE

Master Jason is the instructor for our on-going Women's Empowerment course at Webster Recreation. See our website for more information or call our help line at (585) 671-2060. We also have a craft and social program on alternate weeks.

SUPPORT OUR MEAL CENTER

We accept and distribute unexpired shelf stable food. See www.webcommchest.org/meal-center (585) 671-2060

MEAL CENTER DROP OFF POINTS
Webster Public Library (Webster Plaza)
980 Ridge Road
Webster, NY 14580
or
Bernardi & Company CPA's LLP
40 Barrett Drive
Webster, NY 14580



Webster is the only town with NO wait list for Elderly Meals on Wheels, thanks to the Chest

Read more of what the Chest has done in just the past year with your help.

www.webcommchest.org

*Stories are true, identities are protected.

Other expenses are more mundane. These include \$1,987 for office expenses such as our website, postage, printing and copying, and the like. The single largest expense here (\$1,132) was for volunteer recognition to show our appreciation for all our volunteers without whom many of our services could not be delivered. We also had \$1,480 for liability insurance expenses and \$855 for professional services. This latter included fees charged when donors use PayPal to make donations and the cost of filing our tax statements by a CPA.

Add these up and we spent \$13,977 on overhead items last year. On our total expenditure of \$201,866, this means that our overhead was only 6.9% of the total and that 93.1% of our expenses—your money—went directly to helping those in our community.

CHEST AT JAZZ FEST

We will have an outreach table at the Webster Jazz Festival on Friday night, August 14th, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Stop by and pay us a visit! We'll be in front of Yesterday's Muse bookstore. Have some chocolate on us!

VOLUNTEER

Are you thinking of volunteering to help out on some of the Chest's important programs for the community? Contact Carol Lowe at communitychestvolunteers@gmail.com.

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Thank you for all the ways you support the Webster Community Chest. For more information, visit us at webcommchest.org.

Any questions or comments on your Community Chest? Write me at mgrenier@frontiernet.net.

Michael Grenier, President
Webster Community Chest