



SEPTEMBER 2025 VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Hello and thank you for offering to volunteer your time with the Webster Community Chest. Here is our September 2025 Volunteer newsletter, filled with current information regarding our volunteer opportunities. If you have any questions or would like to discuss WCC volunteer opportunities further, please send an email to Volunteer Coordinator Carol Lowe at communitychestvolunteers@gmail.com.

Ruby Shooz Concert a Success

Thank you to the Webster United Church of Christ for selecting the Webster Community Chest to be the beneficiary of funds raised at the Community Concerts series on July 30 that featured Ruby Shooz. Attendees and volunteers all had a great time! Thank you to Andy, Martin, Lynne, Garrett, Addison, Analise (AKA Dorothy) and her family, Sharon, Michael, and Bonnie and her family for all your hard work at this event.



Kittelberger Flower Card Fundraiser

The Webster Community Chest is selling Kittelberger Flower Cards 9/7 to 9/27. Each card gets you 12 months of flowers (\$180 value; \$15 monthly value) for only \$50! This fundraiser will support our Women's Empowerment Programs!

If you would like to purchase a flower card(s) and donate it to WCC, we will randomly gift the bouquets to Meal Center and Thanksgiving distribution clients each month. For each \$50 card, you will be gifting 12 bouquets of flowers to 12 different families! Flowers for you and Flowers for your Neighbors in Need! Everyone enjoys the gift of beauty.

Please contact Tracy at webcommchest@gmail.com or (585) 671-2060 to order your card(s) and discuss payment options. Thank you for your support of our programs!

Dollar Tree Order Pickup and Delivery

We need a couple of volunteers to pick up bulk orders from the Dollar Tree on Hard Road and deliver them to Conifer Cove. At this time, we are unsure of the dates the orders will be delivered to the store. If this is something you are interested in helping with, please respond to Steve Yahooodik, the board member in charge of this project at syhoodik@gmail.com.

Webster Garlic Festival

Volunteers are needed to help at our booth at the Garlic Festival on Sunday, September 7. You will be handing out literature with an experienced volunteer who can answer questions. We have three two-hour shifts: 10 a.m. to noon, noon to 2 p.m., and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteering gets you free entry into the festival. This year's event features 160 vendors, including garlic growers, craft and food vendors, live animals, and food trucks. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Michael Grenier at mgrenier@frontiernet.net.

Meal Distribution

A HUGE thank you for braving the rainstorm AND for filling the Benefits Counselor role this month goes out to: Denise, Carol, Fred, Judith, Bob H., Harb, Heather, Bill, Ellen & Russ, Rick, Trish, Nancy, and Mary Lynne! You all are some of the most amazing volunteers and human beings I have ever met!

Summary of August Meal Center distribution: 107 families registered, 83 families fed, and 26 of those families received a delivery. Meal bags had four meals each. We also had peanut butter, jelly, bread, FRESH cheddar cheese, soup, and kid treats. All bags included flyers from the Monroe County job recruiters. Four lucky recipients received \$10 Starbucks gift cards!

Our September 2025 Meal Center Distribution is Thursday, September 25, 2025. We need two more volunteers. Please send email to webcommchest@gmail.com if you are interested.

The remaining Meal Center monthly distributions in 2025 are 9/25, 10/30, 11/20, and 12/18. All are on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Collaborative Distribution

Guess what is right around the corner? Our Thanksgiving collaborative distribution! Webster Community Chest is the lead agency for this event so we need all the help we can get to collect enough items to fill 250 bags with all the fixings for a festive Thanksgiving dinner. We will also include extra food and high-need non-food items for all families who register for this program (each bag will have an estimated value of \$50-80). We are currently looking for donations (pledges) of coffee, tea, sugar, flour, boxed macaroni and cheese, spray cleaner, and dish soap. WCC is waiting on responses to pledge requests before posting other needs. Our Thanksgiving distribution is Tuesday, 11/18 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Can you or a group you are a part of pledge to donate a certain number of these items? Please let us know via contact information below. Another option is that we can accept gift cards or monetary donations, and we will do the shopping for you.

We are also asking our "Yarn Artists" to make scrubbies for these bags. If you are able to make some, please contact us for instructions.

For donations/pledges and any questions, please contact Tracy (Benefits Counselor) at (585) 671-2060 or webcommchest@gmail.com

Thank you for helping us bring a wonderful Thanksgiving to many Webster families!

Christmas/Winter Holidays Gift Program Needs Some Special Volunteers

In November we will begin collecting information from local families who can use some help with holiday gifts for their children. We are looking for one or two volunteers who would like to partner with our Benefits Counselors to make this program a success. Please contact Tracy to ask questions and discuss this opportunity at webcommchest@gmail.com or (585) 671-2060.

HomeHub

HomeHub has been open three times so far with a total of 40 families "shopping" in our new space. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who has donated items, helped sort and stock donations, and helped during hours we are open. Thank you to everyone who has already donated home goods for this new program. We gladly accept any of these donations:

- Towels and sheet sets (all sizes)
- Gift cards to Savers, Goodwill, Target, Walmart, or any other place that sells home goods (we will use these to shop for items needed)

- New and gently used (clean) items in these categories
 - SMALL appliances (coffee makers, microwaves, toaster ovens, air fryers)
 - Serving/cooking utensils, and silverware
 - Serving bowls, everyday dishes, glassware (nothing too delicate, please)
 - Pots, pans, and baking dishes
 - Bedding (sheet sets, blankets, quilts, mattress pads)
 - Kids' books

Please contact WCC to get more information on donation drop off or arrange for pick up. webcommchest@gmail.com or (585) 671-2060.

Women's Empowerment Programs: Want to Join Us?

Every Thursday night, the Webster Community Chest 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. 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: 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!

For more information about these programs, please contact us at: webcommchest@gmail.com or (585) 671-2060.

Phillips Village Pantry Project

Eleven Phillips Village volunteers have delivered over \$4,000 worth of groceries to the PV Pantry in the first six months of 2025! They contributed over 60% of that themselves and are on target to have doubled their efforts by the end of the year. Kudos to volunteers Judith, Gina, Nancy H., Heather, Ellen, Christina, Tracey, Nancy R., Alex, Augie, and Kathy. Our thanks also to Tracy, Kris and Carol, our consultants and emeritus volunteers.



Envelope Stuffing: A Work-at-Home Project

For our Meal Center distribution at the end of September, we will be including an envelope from the Webster Chamber of Commerce. 120 envelopes will need to be stuffed. A bundle of 60 kits can be done in an hour or two. We will repeat this for the October distribution as well. Contact Michael Grenier mgrenier@frontiernet.net if you can help with this.

Help Us Build a Business Mailing List: A Work-at-Home Project

For our annual fund drive, we have not solicited businesses in many years due to the lack of a mailing list. We would like to build a list of local businesses from members of the Webster Chamber of Commerce. We need several volunteers who can look up members at their website and copy their names and addresses into a document. Detailed instructions will be provided. Contact Michael Grenier mgrenier@frontiernet.net if you can help with this or would like more information.

Fund Drive Envelope Stuffing Volunteers Needed in November

As you probably know, most of the money we raise each year comes from our annual fund drive. We send out a flyer in the Fall to every address in Webster. This is handled by our printer and a professional mail house. We follow this up with a personalized letter to past donors who did not respond to the first mailing reminding them of our need for their donation. Setting up this mailing involves folding and inserting the letter in an addressed envelope, adding a return envelope and the flyer, and sealing the envelope. This is likely to garner us another \$20,000 in donations, so it is well worth the time.

For this we need volunteers! If you can help, you will receive a packet of materials for 100 envelopes. If you think you can only do a half-batch, we'll take that. Contact Michael Grenier at MGrenier@frontiernet.net if you think you can help with this.

Meal Center: Food Drives, Bag Packing, Order Pickups

Many thanks to Lynn, Jean, Jane, and Gabriella who packed 90 bags of meals during the insufferable August heat.

Anyone interested in preparing bags for the meal center on September 10 around noon please let us know. We need someone with an SUV or large space car to do a curbside food pickup at Walmart. We need a shopper who can go into the store and buy cases of canned food. If you are interested in any of the above, please call Bonnie Reynolds at (585) 770-3326.

Our Meal Center always needs food donations (we are overflowing with bags so hold off on those for now)! Donations can be brought to our monthly food distribution or

dropped off at the Webster Public Library (look for the drop off wagon across from the checkout desk labeled “Webster Community Chest”). If you know of any additional potential drop off places, 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. We have the van, we need the donations of food, and we need you to help us make this happen! 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!

Visit our website here webcommchest.org/meal-center to see a list of products we are in need of for our Meal Center bags.

Do you have any recipes for meals that we can add to our Meal Center repertoire? Please send your ideas to this email address for us to investigate.

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.