



APRIL 2026 VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Hello and thank you for offering to volunteer your time with the Webster Community Chest. Here is our April 2026 Volunteer newsletter.

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 spreadsheet.

Spaghetti Dinner (submitted by Michael Grenier)

Thank you to all of you who helped at the Spaghetti Dinner Event in February. Eight community volunteers, 5 board members, 2 Benefits Counselors and 12 students came together to make the dinner a seamless process. Some volunteers helped set up, assisted in the kitchen, welcomed and seated guests, took orders and served the meal. Others washed pots and pans and did final clean up. We raised \$651 for the Chest after food expenses.

We had 74 dining guests, which was pretty good—actually better than our last dinner in December 2024 despite the snowy weather. We had budgeted \$750 for income from the spaghetti dinner, so this is a bit short. On the other hand, we may be able to get a Fall event in the next round, which would give us two this year and do better than budget.

I might sound trite, but it is absolutely true that we could not do this without you. I enjoyed the evening very much. It was good to be with you all.

Can and Bottle Fund Drive (submitted by Michael Grenier)

We need one volunteer to pick up cans and bottles every other week at Fairlife LLC, [1410 Ebina Drive, Building 300, Webster, NY 14580](https://www.fairlife.com/locations/1410-Ebina-Drive-Building-300-Webster-NY-14580). The cans/bottles need to be

taken to a bottle return such as Can Kings or Nickelback. 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 9:00 a.m. every other Tuesday, but they are flexible about time and date. Call Michael Grenier at (585) 671-8738 or by email at mgrenier@frontiernet.net to learn more.

Phillips Village Little Pantry (submitted by Kathy Taddeo)

The volunteers who deliver monthly to the Phillips Village pantry have been extra busy so far this year. In addition to delivering their own donated purchases and purchasing and delivering Webster Community Chest and Meal Center donations, they have also been purchasing and delivering extra food from gift cards donated by an anonymous and very generous donor.

Thank you to our donors and thank you to our volunteers: Judith, Gina, Nancy H, Bob H, Heather, Drew/Brianna, Liz, Ellen, Christina, Tracey, Nancy R, Deb, Alex/Augie and Kathy.

Meal Distribution Report (submitted by Tracy Dennis)

THANK YOU to our March Meal Center OUTSIDE & DELIVERY volunteers: Fred, Bob H, Judith, Denise, Bill G, Bill C, Mary Lynne, Heather, Alicia, Carol, Gary L, Rick. Thank you also to our Rotary visitors for lending a helping hand: Larry, John, Susan & Dolly; we loved showing you what we do and we hope you enjoyed working with us.

It was another COLD one so here's a pat on the back for surviving another (almost) ARCTIC Meal Center Distribution (I really hope that I have something different to say about the weather next month).

March Meal Center Distribution Summary

145 families were fed. Each bag had 4 meals along with recipes. Many families received taco kits and kid bags (if there's children in the home). Thirteen lucky clients received beautiful bouquets of flowers. Another client received boxes of diapers for her newborn baby!

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

Holiday/Seasonal Distributions Dates: To be Determined

Please 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 or 585-671-2060. This cannot be stressed enough. People are showing up and busy volunteers are being pulled from their duties to interact with “nonscheduled volunteers.”

Easter Meal Distribution Collaboration (submitted by Tracy Dennis)

THANK YOU to our EASTER 2026 volunteers: Fred, Bob H, Judith, Denise, Rick T, Kathy T, Carol, Bill C, Sharon D, David D, Gary L, Brittany & Alicia. The holiday collaboration events are a great example of what we can do by working together. Our volunteers always enjoy working with volunteers from other agencies. Hard work but a fun time had by all. THANK YOU!

210 families were fed!!! Every family received 2 full bags of groceries to help them create a beautiful Easter meal including fresh baked DiPaolo rolls, a box filled with fresh produce and a dessert. Families also received some paper products, cleaning supplies, a gift card & more. Special thank you to our corporate supporters: West Herr (West Herr Butter is Better), Village at Unity (chocolate bunnies and jellybeans) as well as all the other donors to this program.

To anyone who worked the Easter 2026 event, please send any feedback to Tracy at webcommchest@gmail.com. Your feedback often helps us when making future plans.

Meal Center (submitted by Bonnie Reynolds)

Over 170 meal bags were given out, including 10 that were delivered Saturday. Thank you, driver Charlie. The meals included were tuna casserole, shepherd's pie, Italian night, and a new one we call Trish's Chili Mac since it was her recipe. Some extra taco fixings and soup were given out as well. 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

Many thanks to our baggers Linda, Ann, Lynn, Jean, Cheryl, Carly, Trish, MaryLynn, Ellen and husband Russ. Thanks to Lynn and MaryLynn for Library pickups.

Bob got over 200 boxes of cereal from a South Plank school food game; they collected boxes to make a dominoes challenge. Those will be great for the summer giveaways.

In April, we will need two dates for bagging: Friday the 17th and Thursday the 23rd, at 11 a.m. Please let Trish or Bonnie know if you can come.

We will start asking for peanut butter and jelly as summer approaches (as we usually do) since kids are home.

We welcome help, grocery bags preferred with handles, and ideas for food drives or shelf stable recipes.

Food Drop Off Locations: Webster Public Library and Bernardi & Co. on Barrett Dr. If anyone knows 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.

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>

Secretary Assistants Openings (submitted by Bonnie Reynolds)

WCC is looking for two volunteers who can commit a few hours weekly to assist our secretary. One assistant would be a Correspondence Assistant and oversee writing thank you notes (mostly email), etc. The second would be a Meetings Administrative Assistant whose job would include recording minutes at our Board meetings, scheduling the meeting room, and various other jobs. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie at (585)770-3326.

Women's Empowerment Programs (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. 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!

JOIN US IN 2026! For more information on all of these programs, please contact us at 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

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.