



To our Donors:

Thank you for your continued support. You make it possible to help so many families in our community whose needs would otherwise go unaddressed.

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER FOOD CRISIS

With the Federal Government shut down and the failure of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits (also known as “Food Stamps”), we have been asked, “How did the Chest respond?”

The crisis began in October. Even though SNAP benefits were provided, it was clear that they would not be in November. By the end of October, families were scurrying to try to lay in some extra food so they could get by. Your Chest’s volunteers geared up to ensure we would have enough to provide four complete meal kits for every family who came to our end-of-month distribution.

In October of 2024, we provided 48 families with three meal kits each serving four people and extra for larger families. This October, we provided 123 families with four complete meal kits. This was the equivalent of 2,240 individual meals! No one was turned away—all who came were given our meal kits.

In November, the number of families increased to 133 and we added a bag of potatoes, a bag of apples, and a dozen eggs, making up



over 2,660 individual meals. We partnered with Webster Hope to provide a separate full Thanksgiving dinner distribution for 227 families. They also received baking items, cleaning products and other extra items. We filled 500 bags to hold it all.

Routinely, we delivered food to clients who were unable to come to the monthly distribution. For December, we added a special distribution of bags of groceries on the 4th for 55 families and will still have our month-end distribution.

The Chest is here to help families in need and our volunteers have been very responsive in making sure that we can continue to do just that. How can you help? Everyone has a few items in their cupboard that they'll toss in a few months when they expire. Pull those out now and donate them to us. We have drop-offs in the Webster Library and at Bernardi & Company, 40 Barrett Drive. Or buy listed items needed for the meal kits on our website and donate those. webcommchest.org/meal-center

WCC WINTER HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Holiday Meals

The holidays are a time for family celebrations, but it's a lot harder to celebrate for people whose budgets don't allow for many necessities, much less special meals. According to our Meal Center co-chairs Bonnie Reynolds and Mary Kay Barrett, our December end-of-month meals distribution on December 18 will include four meals and recipes, including a holiday meal, plus a bag of apples, a block of cheese, peanut butter, and cereal. Children will get a small bag with a special holiday treat just for them and each family will also get a hygiene bag with personal care items and laundry and dish soaps. Families will be given a Wegman's gift card so they can add items of their own choosing to their holiday meal.

Holiday Gifting

We will again be distributing gifts to low-income families with our "Holiday Santa Program." We receive referrals for families who, for a variety of reasons, were not eligible or aware of the other wonderful programs in our area. Families in need are given the opportunity to sign up for Christmas gifts for their children. The gifts are distributed to families along with the meals distribution on December 18, making their holiday preparations easier by combining the two.

We have all the toys that we need but we are still looking for volunteers among our donors and elsewhere to buy coats, hats, mittens, and other winter clothing as practical gifts for these children. If YOU are interested in helping a family with these please send a note to our WCC Benefits Counselors at webcommchest@gmail.com

and they will send you more details. We appreciate your support of this wonderful program.

VOTE FOR OUR TREE (PLEASE!)

Volunteers Trish Knisley and Nancy Robinson decorated a tree on behalf of the Chest for the Webster Museum's Festival of Trees. Saturday, December 6th is the White Christmas celebration in the Village and it's the first day to vote. Please go to the Webster Museum and vote for our tree! The museum will be open 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The event runs from December 6 through December 31 at the Webster Museum at 18 Lapham Park from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. any Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday. You can also vote for our tree online via the museum's website at webtermuseum.org and enjoy a virtual tour of the Festival of Trees. However, you'll be missing a lot of festivity if you don't visit in person.



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

607 Families Helped in the Past Year

34 Emergency Relief Payments Made

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.

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.

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

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)
300 Ridge Road
Webster, NY 14580
or
Bernardi & Company CPA's LLP
40 Barrett Drive
Webster, NY 14580

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.

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

If you did not get our flyer in your mail, please contact us at (585) 671-2060 or webcommchest@gmail.com and we will send another. These went to every residential address in Webster and northern Penfield (14580). They reached not only prospective donors but also low-income families and senior homes who may need our help.

Likely our most important service is our Help Desk at (585) 671-2060. We had 667 families and individuals call for help in the twelve months prior to this past September. We work with over 90 non-profit and government agencies in the area and most of the help needed is provided by these other agencies. We

provided direct help to hundreds of families with food needs and we provided 34 different families with emergency financial help from our Aid to Individuals program.

Our flyer summarizes a few of our services with short stories based on actual clients that we helped over the past twelve months. There were many more than these but these were picked as being representative and highlighting some of the different types of emergencies that we helped resolve. Of course, we changed their names and do not use our client's own images to protect their confidentiality. We hope you enjoy this format.

We do much more than this so visit our website to learn more.

webcommchest.org



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The Webster Community Chest volunteers wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday season, knowing that your generosity has allowed so many families to have one too.

(Contributions by Tracy Dennis, Bonnie Reynolds, and Michael Grenier.)

Our mailing address is:
Webster Community Chest, 1000 Ridge Road, Webster, NY 14580

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You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.