



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

### **OUR 2025 BUDGET CHALLENGE**

Ten years ago, our annual budget was \$88,500. Last year our budget was about \$94,500, but we spent more, largely due to increased demand for emergency aid and for meals for the needy. A 2025 budget of \$100,000 would not have been surprising.

However, our 2024 Strategic Planning Committee identified several areas of need proposed new programs to meet these needs. The Board approved an expense budget of \$110,500. To meet this, we need to be successful in fundraising. Beginning on page 2, we list three events which you will likely enjoy, and which, through your participation and generosity, will enable your Chest to do more.

### **FOUR NEW PROGRAMS**

First, here are the ventures that we hope to fund this year. You perhaps read about our Women's Empowerment project in our 2nd quarter newsletter. Although originally with a narrow target, now anyone who will benefit can participate. Join us! See the update on page 5.

We are expanding the impact of our Meal Center by also providing a quarterly hygiene package to our clients. This includes soaps and shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent, and toothpaste. These items are not covered by SNAP ("food stamps") and we found that many of our clients skimp on these. We gave out 75 bags in April.

The Meal Center also has an outreach program at low-income senior living apartments. We have so far been to Quinby Park Apartments on Shoecraft Road and Ahepa 67 Apartments on Ahepa Drive.

Our HomeHub, which just opened in June, is like a thrift store with no prices. Qualified clients may help themselves. See the article on page 7. In addition, we have increased funding for both our monthly meal center distribution and holiday meals to support the increased needs of our low-income families.

If you would like to help, please consider supporting one or more of the three following fund-raising events.

### **FREE CONCERT WITH RUBY SHOOZ ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 30TH AT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Every summer, the UCC presents their free Caring Community Concerts series on the church front lawn at 570 Klem Rd, Webster. The one next week benefits the Webster Community Chest. It features Rochester band Ruby Shooz. This band has played at the UCC concerts for several years. Ruby Shooz has been thrilling audiences for decades. This group of talented musicians brings back the great sounds and images from the 50s and 60s as well as some newer classics. They deliver good old Rock n Roll with high energy! Learn more about the band at [rubyshooz.com](http://rubyshooz.com).



Ruby Shooz at a past UCC concert (photo courtesy of Susan Reindel)

The concert starts at 6:30 p.m. and goes until 8 p.m. You can bring your own picnic basket, or they have food available starting at 6:00. 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.

Bring your own lawn chairs. Seating is informal at these concerts. If it should rain or thunder during set up, they will move the concert to the sanctuary.



Their name, “Ruby Shooz,” evokes the Wizard of Oz, so just for fun we will have a special guest appearance there by “Dorothy” accompanied by Toto in her basket. Have your picture taken with her! The concert is a fund-raising event and attendees can drop in a donation, if they wish, when volunteers “pass the basket.” Invite a friend to come with you!



### **TEST DRIVE FUND RAISING EVENT AT WEST HERR FORD IN WEBSTER**

FREE Lunch on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> (or free coffee and donuts if you come early!)  
There is only a small catch. If you stop by West Herr Ford, 810 Ridge Rd, Webster, on Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>, they will donate \$40 to the Chest if you register and test drive a new car.



2025 Ford Mustang EcoBoost® Premium Fastback

No appointment necessary, just walk in, and it will be quick – about 15 minutes. West Herr Ford is paying all the expenses of the event. West Herr has also been generous with us at our Holiday meals events. The event runs from 10AM to 2:30PM.



Licensed drivers register for the test drive at our Chest Welcome Table. If you come in the morning, there will be free coffee and donuts. Then they will put up free DiBella's subs and soft drinks for the afternoon. Your family is welcome. Have their picture taken with West Herr's Josh Allen cut-out.

All day long, we will give test drivers free raffle tickets for Buffalo Bills merchandise and other prizes. These include a life size Josh Allen cut-out and an autographed football. Your odds of winning a prize are high!

The new cars will be lined up outside. They are bringing in extra staff from their other dealerships to make it quick for you. Pick which one you want to try out – maybe an F-150 pickup, a hot Mustang, or one of their EVs. If you want to try anything else on the lot, they will bring it around. Hop in, take a short drive, return, and hop out. No hard sales. No obligation.

It will be fun and if we get 50 test drivers attending, we will get a check for \$2,000! This will much help expenses for our Meals Center and for Emergency Aid.

## KITTELBERGER CARD FUNDRAISER

Watch for reminders about this fragrant fundraiser for the Webster Community Chest during the month of September 2025. This fundraiser benefits the new Women's Empowerment Programs. For \$50, you get a card for 12 consecutive months—twelve bouquets, for a total value of \$180! All you must do is go to Kittelberger's, corner of 250 and Orchard Street, present your card at the desk, and you are handed a beautiful bouquet. To the left is one of the bouquets recently received (vase not included).



The bouquets are seasonal, colorful and fragrant, and they last for at least two weeks. Parts of them each month can be dried and saved for arrangements or crafts.

Aside from gracing your home, they make great gifts. If you want to support WCC but don't want the flowers, the Meal Center volunteers love to surprise a client or two each month with a bouquet. They use donated cards for this unexpected gift. Thank you for considering participating in this fundraiser for the WCC.

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

The Webster Community Chest Women's Empowerment Programs meet every Thursday night at The Webster Recreation Center at 1350 Chiyoda Drive. We alternate Women's Self Defense Classes and CAFES (Creative Amazing Friendship Empowerment and Support).

Since we began in February, we have hosted 10 self-defense classes (6:15-7:15 pm), taught by Master Jason Lee of Kuk Sool Won in Ontario; the next class is July 31. We have also hosted 10 CAFES nights (6:00-7:30 pm.), learning card and jewelry making, diamond and rock painting, crocheting, sewing cloth napkins, and goth-glue watercolor painting. We also have an exciting multi-class journal-making series coming up in September. For the journal-making class, we do need to know how many women plan to come so we have enough supplies, so please let us know if you are interested. The next class is on August 7.



Two of the crafts done in the past ten weeks

We would LOVE for you to join us. ALL women of ALL fitness levels and abilities are invited to either or both programs. Please contact Tracy at [webcommchest@gmail.com](mailto:webcommchest@gmail.com) or (585) 671-2060 for more information.

## COMMUNITY CHESTS ARE RARE

Most towns had a Community Chest after World War II, over 300 in New York—that's why there is a Community Chest card in your monopoly game! It was a national movement and a familiar concept to everyone. Webster is the only town in Monroe County that still has its Community Chest, one of apparently only eleven remaining in the whole state. Rochester's Chest became a regional United Way agency, as did those of other cities. Though independent, we are a recognized United Way donor-designee organization. Other small-town chests could not be sustained and were absorbed by the nearest United Way. As a local Chest, we provide services that no other town enjoys.

Map of New York Community Chests. Besides Webster, there are Chest organizations in Alfred, Waverly, Afton, Hamilton, Little Falls, Bainbridge, Port Washington, Cedarhurst, East Northport, and Woodmere.



## THE CHEST'S HOMEHUB IS OPEN!

After a whirlwind of cleaning and setting up, HomeHub opened to clients for the first time during WCC's June 26th distribution. Fifteen families enjoyed "shopping" for free household goods they needed in the new space donated by Immanuel Lutheran Church. And what a beautiful and organized space it is!

WCC volunteer Trish Knisley, inspired by a need noted by a volunteer colleague, began developing HomeHub last winter. Trish first researched the benefits to people in acute need. People who have lost everything in a fire or evicted from their furnished place or suddenly divorced or who do not have what they need for so many reasons. Furnishing their living space means they can make it into a home, feel comfortable connecting with family and friends, spend what money they have on essential needs like food, clothing, and housing. A bed needs bedding, a bath needs towels, a child needs a storybook to read, sometimes a meal needs a pot in which to cook it.

Trish envisioned a space that would be warm and welcoming, one that promised a boutique experience for clients and supported their dignity. Along with Nancy Robinson, Carol Lowe, and Sharon Pratt, Trish created a space that does all that and more.



Trish sees HomeHub as facilitating WCC's commitment to "neighbors helping neighbors" in a way that maintains client dignity. It brings people who donate together with people who can use their donated goods. Trish and her volunteers have created not just a boutique space but a personal shopping experience for each client who comes hoping to find what they need. And if they don't find it, the volunteers keep track of who needs what so that when that item comes in, it can be held for the client.

The HomeHub opening experience was a positive one for volunteers as well as clients and has already received more donations on display than available on June 26. A BIG thank you to those who have already contributed. The community has been generous from the beginning and that generosity continues to fill HomeHub's space.

Donations of clean and gently used or new items for kitchens, bathrooms, and bedrooms (including kids' books) are accepted at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 131 W Main St from 3:00-5 pm during WCC's regular distribution usually on the last Thursday of each month. Donors may park behind the church, then approach a volunteer by the door and tell them you have a donation for HomeHub. Any volunteer will find someone to help you. Right now, clients are especially in need of towels and sheet sets.

Please contact WCC to get more information on donation drop-off or arrange for pickup: [webcommchest@gmail.com](mailto:webcommchest@gmail.com) or (585) 671-2060.

## **CHEST JOINS LOCAL COALITION**

The Webster Community Chest is a charter member of the new Webster Food Insecurity Coalition which first met on May 20. Initiated by Webster HOPE Director Margery Morgan, the coalition has ten Webster agencies that are working to alleviate food insecurity issues in Webster. They will share information and plan to identify and address unmet needs in the Webster Community.

The team's first project was to create a flyer to inform people in need of the resources already available to them. On one side the flyer lists fifty-eight Webster programs that can help with food insecurity and other needs. The other side provides the contact information for the nineteen agencies listed.

Please share link to the flyer—[webcommchest.org/community-resources](http://webcommchest.org/community-resources)—with anyone you know or meet who may need help with food insecurity or other needs.

Thank you for this and all the ways you support the Webster Community Chest. For more information about what we do, visit us at [webcommchest.org](http://webcommchest.org) or follow us on Facebook.



(Contributions by Kathy Taddeo, Bonnie Reynolds, Mary Kay Barrett, Jason Lee, Tracy Dennis, Margery Morgan, Robert Grenier, and Michael Grenier.)

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