



The Helpers Fund *Always ready with a helping hand*

2010 Holiday Drive

More than 100 adults and children were helped with winter clothing during the Helpers Fund 2010 Holiday Drive which covered both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday periods. The assistance continues into 2011 with assistance going for heating fuel, food, and transportation assistance for those needing help getting to and from medical appointments outside the immediate area.

This was the Fund's Eighth annual drive and one of its most successful. There were 44 adults helped with clothing, and 60 children under the age of 17. Each adult was allowed to choose one item of clothing and children were allowed four different choices. Most of the adult's choices were for winter jackets or "long johns" or sweaters, while the children's requests were centered around winter clothing from jackets to mittens. The children assisted ranged in age from 10-months-old to 16 and 17-years-of-age.

The Fund sends out forms each year to those in the area most in need. These lists are prepared from the Fund's own list of names, as well as names given to the Fund by the local schools, churches, and food pantries who they know to be in need of assistance. The Fund's list of names is checked with other organizations to make sure no name appears on more than one list.

The difficult job in purchasing the clothes was directed by board members Edna Wells of Pottersville, and Bonnie Cleveland of Brant Lake. Clothing was wrapped, packed and delivered to designated areas in Chestertown, Brant Lake, Schroon Lake and Warrensburg for pick-up.

A part of the Holiday Drive program is assistance by members of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Chestertown in purchasing items of clothing. This part of the program is supervised by Fund Board Member Mary Jane Dower of Chestertown in helping the members choose gifts. The Fund provides a separate list of needed clothing to the church. This list indicates the gender, the age, the item needed, and the size, but no name. Each item is cut from the list and placed on the parish's Christmas tree. Parishioners then pick one of the items from the tree and purchase that item. These items are wrapped and returned to the church for pick up by the Fund. More than 40 items of clothing were purchased this year by members of the church.

The Holiday Drive assistance will continue through the year, until the funds collected for the Holiday Drive are exhausted. People who donated to the drive also indicated on their forms where they would like their donation used; that is, for such things as clothing or food or helping families in other areas, or leaving how the money is spent up to the Fund.

The Helpers Fund is a recognized 501(c) 3 charity by the Internal Revenue Service, and operates under the regulations of the IRS. The Fund is also registered with the New York State Bureau of Charities, and incorporation under the laws of New York States Department of State. The Fund assists individuals and families facing catastrophic circumstances in their lives; and serves the residents of northern Warren County and south eastern Essex County. Its area covers Chestertown, Brant Lake, Adirondack, Riparius, Pottersville, Olmstedville, Schroon Lake, North Hudson, Warrensburg, Athol and North Creek.