



*The Helpers Fund Always Ready With A Helping Hand*

6318B Main Street, P.O. Box 691

Chestertown, NY 12817

# What we've been up to!

## Fall 2022



### Special Notification

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Mr. Carl Lamm.

Carl was the impetus, heart and drive behind starting the "Helpers Fund" in Chestertown. It is an organization that has existed for more than 25 years and exists only because of Carl's caring and concern for others.

He will be missed.

Beginning in 2023 there will be an annual scholarship awarded to one student who has demonstrated an interest in, and commitment to, community improvement. This scholarship will be named "The Carl Lamm Memorial Scholarship".

### General Information

This past year the Fund has continued to fulfill its mission of providing assistance to those members of the community who find themselves needing a helping hand. We have provided various forms of support to people living in the communities of Chestertown, Brant Lake and

Pottersville while adding medical and dental assistance to those qualified individuals in Schroon Lake.

Our greatest concern for the coming winter is the potential for increased requests for heating fuel and heating hardware support. With inflation running at 40 year highs we have concern about the very high cost for heating fuel this year. With HEAP generally being given only once each heating season, the Fund may be called on to assist people at a higher level than in previous years.

During the past six months we have provided assistance in the following areas:

#### General Assistance

- Provided funds for the repair of an elderly woman's furnace who required the repairs to safely operate her furnace during this coming heating season.
- We continue our "partnership" with Hudson Headwaters Health Network by providing financial assistance to a number of individuals and families for medical visits, dental procedures, prescription co-pays and medically necessary materials. This assistance was provided to people in Chestertown, Pottersville, Brant Lake and Schroon Lake.
- Provided and repaired steps to a home to improve safety

when entering and leaving the home.

- Continued our support of High Peaks Hospice to cover expenses incurred, and not reimbursed, by individuals in Chestertown, Pottersville and Brant Lake.

#### Food Pantry

- More than 30 families from Chestertown and Pottersville have participated in the Food Pantry since our last newsletter.
- Continued our purchase of fresh meat for distribution at semi-monthly food pantries.
- Shared over \$2500 in TOPS cards. These cards are used for the purchase of food and household goods not provided in the food pantry. This includes items such as dairy, produce and personal healthcare items.
- Continued our support and sponsorship of the North Warren CSD Backpack Program with a donation in excess of \$5000.
- Distributed more than \$900 of vouchers that were used at the Chestertown Farmers Market to purchase fresh vegetables and fruit.

This overview covers some of the actions taken in support of a number of our neediest neighbors since our last report.

It should be noted that by year end 2022, The Helpers Fund will have expended more than \$53,000 to support the neediest in our community!

Your support and generosity is appreciated!

**Scholarships**

This year we awarded a total of three scholarships to students of North Warren CSD and Schroon Lake School District.

These scholarships were awarded to:

Amelia Hilton of NWCS who will be attending SUNY Brockport - \$2500  
This scholarship was made available by the Susan Jensen Memorial Fund for medical sciences.

Shelbie Rice of Schroon Lake who will be attending North Country CC - \$1500

Trey Pratt of Schroon Lake who will be attending SUNY Oneonta - \$1500

**Special Fund Raiser**



A special fundraiser was conducted under the auspice of The Town of Chester and the Tri-Lakes Community Alliance. The event was organized and promoted by Mr. Al Tolomeo. Half of all the funds that were donated at the event were provided to the Fund the other half was given to another support agency in the area.

The event was very successful and our thanks go out to Al Tolomeo and the North Country Jazz Project Big Band for their efforts and talents in support of our organization.

**“Dinner For Two” Raffle**



Our 21st annual “Dinner for Two” raffle was very successful. Our usual format was followed with the first prize winner receiving twelve (12) \$50 gift certificates to local and area restaurants. Our second place winner received (6) \$50 gift certificates and our third place winner received (3) \$50 gift certificates.

This years winners were:

First Place: Sandy Carpenter of Adirondack

Second Place: Ro Rounds of Chestertown

Third Place: William Thomas Carboy of Chestertown and Fairhaven, Vermont

Congratulations to all of our winners and we are sure they will enjoy their dinners.

**Thank You BBQ**



This years “Thank You” BBQ was held at Cronin’s Golf Resort as it has been in past years.

The event was held on August 25<sup>th</sup> with outstanding weather. Attendance at this years event was the largest that we have ever experienced.

As is usual, a presentation was made covering The Helpers Fund activities over the past year as well as a review of some

of the new activities that were added in the past year.

It appeared that a good time was had by all in attendance and we look forward to next years event.



**Annual Holiday Drive and Gift Distribution**

The annual holiday drive is underway! This is our major fundraiser of the year and is what generally helps us to meet the needs of the folks that we serve.

Last year we were able to serve more than 30 families with 86 adults and children during the holidays by providing them with gifts of clothing and one toy for each child.

This makes the joy of the holidays a reality to many people that might otherwise not experience that happiness.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to add your support to our Holiday Drive and make the mission of the Helpers Fund a reality.

**Outreach**

If you know of someone who may need assistance, please do not hesitate to refer them to the Helpers Fund so we can determine their eligibility for assistance.

Ask them call our line at (518) 494-5565 where they can request an application.

If they should require assistance in completing the required documentation a Board member will gladly assist them in the completion of the application.

**Be Safe, Stay Well and as always ... Thank You!**