

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE WEBSTER COMMUNITY CHEST**

I continue to be inspired by the overwhelming number of people in Webster who have supported the Webster Community Chest's Mission of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." Without all of your support, it would not be possible. This year's Annual Report reflects our continued dedication to helping those in need in our 14580 community.

The organization has been very fortunate to have a compassionate and knowledgeable Benefits Counselor, Mary Ellen McDowell, now entering her 23<sup>rd</sup> year with the Webster Community Chest (WCC). In 2020 we welcomed new Board member Sarah Reynolds. She joined Board members, Paul Cordy, Mary Fran Grenier, Michael Grenier, Andy LaManna, Bonnie Reynolds, Dan Robinson, Christina Sleve and Diane Staub. Each of them willingly share their talents for the work of our organization.

In 2020, 1053 calls and e-mails were received. (A substantial number of contacts are for information, and referrals are made to resources already available in the community.) Three seniors received short term funding for their Meals on Wheels (185 meals total). Two Webster children had a WCC scholarship to attend a week of summer camp at the Bay View YMCA. Two families, whose Webster homes were destroyed by fire, received financial help. Two people received emergency food assistance, and seventeen families received financial assistance during their time of crisis or emergency.

In April, the Chest mailed a postcard to 1631 of our most vulnerable Webster seniors. During the early days of the pandemic, the Chest wanted to make sure they knew they could call the Chest to find out what free resources were available to them as they navigated the coronavirus. This postcard generated several responses.

In 2020 the Chest provided monetary awards in memory of Shirley Miller. Shirley was the Benefits Counselor for 24 years. The 2020 awards went to four local high school graduating seniors: Sophia Braithwaite, Jonathan Braithwaite and Ian Avery from Thomas High School, and Megan Mueller

from Schroeder High School. Winners were chosen based on their significant community service.

The Chest also provided funding to three organizations that provide services to Webster residents. In 2020 they were: The Webster Marching Band: funds to provide food for the students unable to provide their own, NEQALS: funds to honor our 2017 commitment to provide funding for their new building, and to Heritage Christian Services: funds to purchase needed supplies for the Webster group homes during the Covid pandemic.

The Annual Fund Drive, which began in the late fall in 2020, has raised a substantial portion of the needed funds to support our services. We thank everyone who has contributed. In addition, many local organizations sponsored fundraising events or made significant donations to benefit the Chest. Highlights included the United Church of Christ (Virtual) Caring Concert, Webster Council of Churches Crop Walk, Webster Presbyterian Church, Trident Precision Manufacturing, the United Methodist Church, and the Nine Mile Point Club. We thank everyone for all fundraising support. All individual and group donations are *always* very much appreciated!

In March, we raised over \$3000 for the Chest with our own fund-raising event - - our fifth Greater Rochester (Marshmallow) PEEP Show. (Due to Covid restrictions, the event was held virtually in 2020.) The 2021 PEEP Show is currently “under construction” and discussion.

To find out about all our services and programs, please visit our website at [webcommchest.org](http://webcommchest.org). If you know of someone who might need assistance, please have them reach out to us by phone at (585)671-2060 or by e-mail at [webcommchest@gmail.com](mailto:webcommchest@gmail.com)

In 2021, with your generosity and dedication to making Webster a “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” community, the Webster Community Chest will continue to work tirelessly towards serving our 14580 community.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Tompkins, President (out-going)