



Pictured Barb Orton & Kathi Morrisseau Pictured Barb Orton & Carol Beneszewski



Pictured many of the volunteers what joined us for the evening

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

On Wednesday, September 28th, over 60 volunteers gathered for a nice evening of cocktails, food and friendship at our Volunteer Recognition dinner. This event was held at Forest Lake Camp, where volunteers, board members and past board members were invited to attend. Kathi Morrisseau was given a certificate in recognition of 10 years of her volunteer service. Carol Beneszewski was given a certificate in recognition of 20 years of her volunteer service. We would like to extend our thanks to all of our volunteers, their were many that were unable to join us that evening. Please know that we are extremely fortunate for your unwavering commitment to North Country Ministry's programs and the communities we serve.

That evening we heard from Don King, the new Board President, as he thanked everyone for joining us and offered his thanks for all the hard work the volunteers do to make North Country Ministry such a special place in the community. Kayla presented on the statistics over the summer months, mentioning that the Brant Lake and Warrensburg food pantry both fed over 95 people the last week in September. Barb Orton, board member and Volunteer Committee Chair, thanked the volunteer committee for their work and all of the volunteers for their tremendous time and effort they continue to devote to North Country Ministry.

We also heard from Br. Jim that night (pictured with Kayla), who is an original staff member of North Country Ministry and one of the founders. Br. Jim shared a story of a family that came to the ministry years ago, needing help with their electrical bill as their power had been shut off. Br. Jim happily listened to this young mothers need's and immediately helped them with their electrical bill to restore their power. The next week the young mother came back in and gave Br. Jim a small token of thanks (the clay light bulb pictured that Kayla is holding) that her son had made as a thank you gift for helping his family. Br. Jim kept this token of appreciation for many years, as it was presented to him in 2010 (as noted on the back side of the light bulb). When he looked at this light bulb it always reminded him how important it was to listen to those who need our services. Br. Jim presented this light bulb to Kayla as a reminder of the importance to listen, and how one small thing we do for the community can largely impact a family's lives.



**NORTH COUNTRY  
MINISTRY**

# Hand of Hope

Fall 2022 Newsletter

Mailing Address: PO Box 478, Warrensburg, NY 12885  
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www.northcountryministry.org  
518-623-2829

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM DAPHNE!

North Country Ministry is excited to welcome Daphne Taylor to the team as our new Volunteer & Program Coordinator.

We are excited for Daphne's enthusiasm and knowledge of the area, as she has lived in the region for nearly 20 years. Now residing in Minerva, she enjoys being outdoors and going on adventures with her two dogs - Ruby and Mabel.

Daphne has a long history of service at area nonprofit organizations and is excited to bring her passion to further the mission of North Country Ministry. Primarily, Daphne will work with all of our wonderful volunteers to deliver the programs and services offered by our organization.

We have been blessed to have Barb Orton, Board Member and Volunteer Committee Chair, who has done the bulk of our volunteer work over the past few years. She has grown our volunteer base to over one hundred volunteers and has done an incredible job overseeing and expanding our programs. As Barb would like to enjoy retirement and volunteer her time in the programs, we have welcomed Daphne to take over a lot of the day-to-day activities.

"I'm excited to join the team and get to know the fantastic team of volunteers here at North Country Ministry. I look forward to learning about what calls each of our volunteers to give their time so generously!" In addition to being the "go to" person for our volunteers, Daphne's responsibilities will include scheduling of the volunteers in our programs, ensuring our volunteers and programs have what they need for supplies (Food Pantries, Clothing Center and Furniture Program), developing the new "Mobile Mart" food distribution program, and assisting with the other seasonal programs such as our upcoming Thanksgiving Baskets and Giving Tree. Daphne will also work on our website and social media.

Welcome aboard Daphne!



## GLENS FALLS NATIONAL BANK NOVEMBER THANKFUL CAMPAIGN



We are thankful to Glens Fall National Bank, who recognized North Country Ministry in their November Thankful Campaign in 2021. We were one of twenty organizations that were awarded \$5,000. This donation was in support and thanks for the work that North Country Ministry has done and continues to do in the community to help local individuals and families.

## CASEWORK CORNER

The Adirondacks is known for its glorious fall beauty. While the leaves change colors and the nights grow longer, heating and electricity costs increase for all families. HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) which helps many in our community with their heating costs does not begin until November, although September and October can bring cold nights to our community especially in the northern half of the Adirondacks. North Country Ministry's casework team receives multiple requests for assistance with heating costs as soon as the fall begins. This year we are seeing record costs for minimum deliveries. For example, this September the cost had doubled from September of last year. Last year, because of your generous donations, we were able to assist 50 local families with heating costs.

Written by: Rebecca Bammert

## HOLIDAYS ARE ON THE WAY

With the upcoming holiday's on the way, we know it is an important time for us to prepare for the needs of our community members. This is a very busy time for North Country Ministry, between casework increasing with heat and electrical emergencies and the increase we have seen in the food pantries. We are trying to be as prepared as we can to accommodate for all of our clients during the holidays with food for their tables and gifts under their trees.

The Thanksgiving Basket sign ups are at both of our food pantries. Last year we supplied meals to 200 families in our area. HMA Paving has teamed up with us, here at North Country Ministry, again to provide baskets for families which include everything a family would need for their Thanksgiving tables.

Our Giving Tree Program has also opened for families to sign up. This program provides families in our catchment area the opportunity to register their children's holiday wish list. We then work with our donors to have those children's holiday wish list adopted so that their wishes can be filled. The majority of our donors love to shop for these children or families and drop the presents off to our office when they are finished. Other donors like to send a monetary donation, at which point we recruit volunteers to shop for those holiday lists for those children or families. This is an incredible opportunity to help families in our area enjoy the holiday season without stress.

If you are interested in shopping for a child, a family, or becoming a volunteer shopper for this program, please contact Daphne (daphne@ncmfriends.com or 518-623-2829 ex. 305).



## 14TH ANNUAL FALL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

We cannot thank the golfers, donors, volunteers, and Cronin's Golf Resort enough for such a successful golf tournament. Though the weather only allowed us to play 9 holes, we still raised \$20,500! We welcomed 22 teams of golfers and had the most successful golf tournament to date. Congratulations to Chic's Marina, as they sent the winning team! Thank you to our sponsors who made the day possible.



### Our Sponsors:

Tournament Sponsor - D.A. Collins  
Post Golf Sponsor - Glens Falls National Bank  
Registration Sponsors - Bill & Lisa Powers  
Lunch Sponsor - Racanelli Family  
Closest to the Pin Sponsor - HMA Paving  
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Closest to the Line - Sheila Michaels

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## SUMMER MONTHS STATISTICS June - August

### Brant Lake Food Pantry

Served 398 Households, which was 1081 People

### Warrensburg Food Pantry

Served 373 Households, which was 1047 People

### Warrensburg Clothing Center

Saw 793 visitors, which provided clothes for 2305 People.

### Casework Statistics

Served 292 Unique Clients  
Provided \$17,789 in Financial Assistance  
Our caseworker saw an increase of 43 clients over the previous year. She also handled an increase of 31 homeless cases over last year.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don King - President, David Riihimaki - Vice President,  
Wendy Waldron - Treasurer, Gary Pogozelski - Secretary  
Immediate Past President - Bill Powers

Carl Cedrone, Mark DelSignore, Curtis Dybas, Sue Himoff, Dr. James Morrissey,  
Barbara Orton, John Schroeter, and Lynn Underhill.

During our September board meeting we welcomed Elizabeth Barton-Navitsky, Eileen Morrissey Baughan, and Erin Maggi, to the board.