

MINISTRY PROGRAM UPDATES

In November, our volunteers and staff distributed Thanksgiving baskets at our locations in Brant Lake, North Creek, and Warrensburg. They included a turkey and ingredients for several traditional side dishes. This program was sponsored generously by HMA Contracting Corporation and helped 160 households in our region to put a Thanksgiving dinner on the table!

The Giving Tree is a holiday gift program that anonymously helps to fulfill the wish list of children at Christmas. A multitude of donors love to shop for the presents. Other donors like to send a monetary donation, at which point volunteers are recruited to do the shopping. The need for assistance far exceeded past years. Fortunately, the generosity of donors and volunteers exceeded previous years donations and gave 239 children, from 101 families, a Christmas they will never forget.

In addition to the many individuals (and often their families) who adopted children, several churches and businesses participated also. We heard many stories from donors about how the Giving Tree has become a special holiday tradition. One family invites friends to be part of the tradition, hosting a holiday party and asking guests to choose a gift from the list to bring to the party. Another family has participated for several years, beginning the tradition when their children were young. Now those children are young adults, and the tradition has evolved to include both sets of grandparents, even the ones who live about 1,000 miles away!

Written by: Daphne Taylor, Volunteer & Program Coordinator



WHAT GIVING MEANS TO ME

Have you ever seen someone do something nice for someone else? Next time that happens, pay attention to the person who is doing the giving. Giving people are wonderful to be around. They are not just generous with their checkbooks, they are also generous with their time, talents, and their words. They encourage others and inspire them to be better than before. They make their friends feel braver, stronger, and smarter, and more than that, their generosity is contagious. Generosity makes us feel good, and when we feel good, we are better at making those around us feel good, too.

Many people give because they believe in the cause and want to help make a difference. Others give because they know someone who benefited from the giving. Whatever the reason, giving is a selfless act that can have a profound impact on the lives of others. Regardless of what you are giving, i.e., monetary, clothing, food, furniture and most importantly your time, know that by giving you are showing that you have a positive attitude toward others and that you care about their well being.

My children have been raised to be giving young people. They know that giving helps make a difference in the lives of others. They give their time to volunteer for their local fire department, emergency squads, and here at North Country Ministry. Giving has made them who they are.

Written by: Laurie Bartlett, Director of Operations



**NORTH COUNTRY
MINISTRY**

Hand of Hope

Winter 2023 Newsletter

Mailing Address: PO Box 478, Warrensburg, NY 12885
Physical Address: 3933 Main Street, Warrensburg, NY 12885
www.northcountryministry.org
518-623-2829

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

North Country Ministry continues on a path to aid many families throughout the southeastern Adirondacks. However, the path is getting longer with the pressures of our nation's economic concerns. Fortunately, the growth in demand for our services is matched by the growth in financial support by you, the donors. The Board and staff are eternally grateful for all of you. Your contributions allow North Country Ministry to meet the needs of the less fortunate neighbors among us.

It is also important to keep in mind that our volunteers are truly the ones without whom our mission would not be fulfilled.

The Board of Directors continues to transition as some members have retired and others have come onboard. Our largest transition to date, has been the retirement of Dr. James Morrissey in December 2022. He served on the Board for 12 years and was the President of the Board from 2010-2018. Dr. Morrissey led the charge through years of expansion to include moving the administrative office from North Creek to the much larger space we now have in Warrensburg. He was also the driving force behind funding and construction of the food pantry building in Warrensburg. He lives and breathes the mission of the Ministry, and we are forever thankful for his service throughout the years. The path that Dr. Morrissey has set for this organization is a ambitious one, but I am very much looking forward to continuing the mission he helped create by offering a Hand of Hope to our communities.

Our Board, collaborating with our Executive Director Kayla Carozzi, monitors the growing needs of our community as we continue to anticipate where we may best address these needs. We are always looking at ways to increase efficiency in our existing operations and how North Country Ministry will manage future growth. Stay tuned!

Written by: Don King, President of the Board of Directors

Save the Date

**NORTH COUNTRY MINISTRY'S
BOOT SCOOTIN' BALL
FRIDAY, MAY 5TH
6-10PM @ THE QUEENSBURY HOTEL
DANCING, DINNER AND A
LIVE AUCTION!
FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW**



VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We are so thankful for our volunteers and all who help North Country Ministry to offer a Hand of Hope to those in need. As we look to expand our programs in the coming year, we are looking for more volunteers to help make this growth possible. Anyone interested in volunteering regularly or occasionally should contact Daphne at daphne@ncmfriends.com or (518) 623-2829 x305.

SEASON OF GIVING



HMA donated 130 Thanksgiving baskets that NCM distributed at the Warrensburg and Brant Lake food pantries.



Adk Episcopal Mission's Taste n' See donates gallons of soup to the Brant Lake food pantry each month.



The American Dairy Association North East partnered with our local Grand Union in the Milk 4 U campaign. Together they raised \$3,187 for NCM to use towards milk for our food pantry.



Haun Welding Supply met their budget goals for the year, which meant their staff was able to choose a non-profit to assist. They chose NCM for 2022!



Knights of Columbus, Glens Falls Council #194 donated 56 youth sized coats. This donation will help keep the children in our local communities warm this winter.



Customers from the local Grand Union, donated \$670 worth of food through the Best Wishes Fundraiser. This food stocked our food pantry shelves just in time for the winter holidays.



Glens Falls National Bank chose NCM as one of the 20-nonprofit recipients for their Annual Thankful Campaign.



The Adirondack Pub & Brewery donated a \$1 to North Country Ministry for every beer they sold during the Worlds Largest Garage Sale in 2022.



NCM is thankful to receive multiple donations of hygiene items and household cleaning supplies from the Ben Osborn Memorial Fund throughout the year for both our food pantries.

CASEWORKER CORNER

Christmas starts early here at North Country Ministry. In October, families start coming to us to sign up for our Adopt a Family Giving Tree Program. Our staff meets with each family to get the wish lists for their children. During these interviews, families often bring up other crucial casework needs. For example, they may be without heat, food, or gas to get to work. Casework often doubles or triples during this time and even though we work diligently to prepare every year, there are always some last-minute cases. This year we received a call from a grandmother we will call "Mary." Mary stated that the father of her grandchildren had lost his battle with addiction and had passed away earlier in the month. The mother of her grandchildren was incarcerated after the death, as she, too, was currently battling addiction. The children arrived at Mary's home with only the clothes on their backs and she was not prepared for the holidays. After a few phone calls and some great volunteer assistance, we were able to get together not only to have a very nice Christmas for the children, but also to provide some needed baby furniture, hygiene items, warm winter clothing, and baby formula. Mary was overwhelmed when she arrived a few days later to pick up the items. In the midst of such a loss, we were able to bring some joy to a family that desperately needed it.

Written by: Rebecca Bammert, Director of Case Management

AUTUMN MONTHS STATISTICS Sept - Dec

Brant Lake Food Pantry

Served 454 Households, which was 1192 People

Warrensburg Food Pantry

Served 423 Households, which was 1241 People

Warrensburg Clothing Center

Saw 1158 visitors, which provided clothes for 4573 People

Casework Statistics

Served 550 Unique Clients

Provided \$45,029 in Financial Assistance

Our caseworker gave emergency funding to 37 households, which amounts to \$19,036 for heating fuel alone in those four months.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Elizabeth Barton-Navitsky, Eileen Morrissey Baughan, Carl Cedrone, Mark DelSignore,
Curtis Dybas, Sue Himoff, Erin Maggi, Barbara Orton, John Schroeter,
and Lynn Underhill.

During our December board meeting, we said "see you later" to Dr. James Morrissey. Dr. Morrissey has been a part of the NCM Board of Directors since 2010. NCM is eternally grateful for his passion, time, and talents that provided for more than 12 years to the organization. At this meeting, Dr. Morrissey was unanimously voted a Director Emeritus.

These are by no means all of the donations NCM has received this year. We are thankful for ALL of our wonderful community businesses, organizations, and individuals that contribute to offering a Hand of Hope.