

NCM GOLF TOURNAMENT SUCCESS!

We had an amazing day at Cronin's Golf Resort on Monday, September 18th for our 15th Annual Golf Tournament! We extend our heartfelt thanks to all 45 sponsors, 82 golfers, and the numerous volunteers who made this day possible. The Golf Committee that orchestrated the event included David Riihimaki, Eileen Baughan, Erin Maggi, and Kayla Carlozzi. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of our committee and our incredible supporters, we were able to raise a net total of \$20,685. Your support enables us to continue serving individuals in our 650-square-mile catchment area with emergency financial assistance, food, furniture, and clothing, while also advocating for those who need it the most. Moreover, it was incredibly exciting to surprise our golfers by showcasing our brand-new Mobile Mart!



Annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament



Thank you to our Sponsors!

- Tournament Sponsor - Bill & Lisa Powers
- Hole in One Sponsor - Della Auto Group
- Post Golf Reception - Glens Falls National Bank
- Beverage Sponsor - Mimi Drake & Cerity Partners
- Lunch Sponsor - Racanelli Family
- Closest to the Pin Sponsor - HMA Paving
- Golf Goodies Sponsor - Amsure Insurance
- Goodie Bag Sponsor - Eileen & Nick Baughan
- Longest Drive Sponsor - Rifenburg Contracting Corp.
- Closest to the Line Sponsor - Community Bank
- Closest to the Pin 2nd Shot - Cronin's Golf Resort

Hole Sponsors:

- Borgos & DelSignore, PC, Brant Lake Camp, Carpenter & Associates Insuring Agency, LLC., Commercial Paving Co., LLC, Dr. Kevin Herlihy - Gastroenterology Associates, Echo Lake Lodge (2), Entrepreneurial Operating System - EOS, GarWood Custom Boats, Holiday Inn Resort Lake George, James & Kay Morrissey, Krystal Chrysler Jeep Dodge, Lake George Steamboat, Sustainable PR, Terry and Judith Mooney, The Hub, Underhill Shultes Family, William Strauss Agency LLC

Plus, Many Tee Sign Sponsors



Hand of Hope Fall 2023 Newsletter

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

NCM IS THERE HELPING THOSE FALLING ON HARD TIMES

North Country Ministry is profoundly grateful for the unwavering support of our incredible donors over the years. Your generous contributions have played a pivotal role in strengthening our communities, ensuring they remain healthy and vibrant. Through your donations, we can provide essential support to those in need, offering food to the hungry, warm clothing to the cold, and meeting their most basic needs. Our statistics from the previous summer months show that we are now addressing the demands for our services at levels we've never encountered before. All our programs have experienced unexpected increases. While we are committed to doing whatever it takes to meet these growing needs, it does strain our financial resources. With the year-end giving season approaching, we kindly request your consideration in supporting North Country Ministry. Your continued contributions make a significant impact on our ability to assist those in our community.



North Country Ministry is a non-profit organization that depends entirely on donations to sustain our programs and services. This holiday season, we are on track to assist over 24,000 individuals with clothing, food, furniture, casework services, and provide holiday gifts for their children, along with Thanksgiving meals. If you're interested in contributing to support our programs and services, simply use your phone's camera to scan the QR code to the right.



HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Our Giving Tree Program is now open for families to sign up. This program offers families in our catchment area the chance to register their children's holiday wish lists. We then collaborate with our generous donors to match these children's wishes with the goal of making their holiday dreams come true. Many of our donors enjoy personally shopping for these children or families and dropping off the gifts at our office upon completion. For those who prefer to provide monetary donations, we organize volunteers to shop for these holiday lists on behalf of the children or families. This presents a wonderful opportunity to help families in our community have a stress-free and joyful holiday season. If you're interested in shopping for a child, a family, or becoming a volunteer shopper for this program, please get in touch with Chris at chris@ncmfriends.com or call 518-623-2829, extension 305.



SCAN TO DONATE!



CASEWORKER CORNER

A family of four who had been relying on our food pantry faced a dire situation when the father was diagnosed with cancer. Already struggling with rising living costs and having spent their savings to put their eldest daughter through college, the mother took a temporary leave from work to care for her husband and their younger son. The daughter contemplated leaving college to work full-time, but her parents encouraged her to stay. To cover expensive medical co-pays, they sold assets like the father's car and furniture.

The casework team stepped in by connecting them with a health insurance specialist, providing immediate fuel assistance, helping them apply for the Heating Emergency Assistance Program, offering gas cards for medical appointments, arranging a Thanksgiving Basket, and facilitating contact with a National Grid advocate for financial assistance. Additionally, they ensured the daughter's enrollment in the SUNY SNAP program to secure access to nutritious meals during college.

Written by: Rebecca Bammert

MOBILE MART IS ON THE ROAD!

After much anticipation, NCM's Mobile Mart program hit the road for the first time on Tuesday, October 2nd! Our mobile food pantry is designed to reach the most remote areas within our service region. We currently have two scheduled routes: the northern route, covering Brant Lake, Chestertown, and North Creek, and the southern route, focusing on Warrensburg, Stony Creek, and Luzerne.

The van will visit each route every two weeks, providing three meals for six days to those along the routes. This bi-weekly schedule allows for program growth and the potential creation of additional routes during alternate weeks.

At present, the program is serving 48 individuals across nine towns and 17 households. We plan to introduce new routes in the upcoming year to address the needs in additional towns.

(Pictured: Dr. Morrissey, Director Emeritus, with Chris Jones)



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

We were delighted to host a dinner of gratitude for our volunteers on Thursday, October 5th at Forest Lake Camp. The room was filled with dedicated volunteers, their spouses, and our staff for an evening of delicious food, friendly conversations, and the well-deserved recognition of their remarkable efforts.

The love, compassion, and commitment that our volunteers pour into running our programs bestow upon our clients the dignity they truly deserve during their times of need. Our volunteers establish meaningful connections with individuals and families, making them feel warmly welcomed within our space.

In the past year alone, thanks to our volunteers, NCM has successfully launched two new programs: the Clothing Center in Brant Lake and the Mobile Mart, while also reopening the Furniture Barn program in Warrensburg.

We cannot express enough gratitude to all of our volunteers for their unwavering commitment to the organization and their dedication to our programs and the individuals we serve. During our dinner, we had the honor of recognizing those volunteers who helped initiate the Brant Lake Food Pantry for their five years of dedicated service. We also celebrated many volunteers who have surpassed 10 years of devoted service to NCM.



SUMMER MONTHS STATISTICS July - Sept

Brant Lake Food Pantry

Served 520 Households, 1,364 People
21% increase from the last newsletter

Warrensburg Food Pantry

Served 448 Households, 1,682 People
21% increase from the last newsletter

Warrensburg & Brant Lake Clothing Center

Saw 971 visitors, which provided clothes for 3,262 People. 5% increase from last newsletter.

Casework Statistics

Served 377 Unique Clients, 31% increase.
Provided \$28,051 in Financial Assistance

Our caseworkers assisted 22 households with mortgage/rent payments, totaling \$8,635 provided.

FILL A GLASS WITH HOPE

In September, patrons shopping at the Warrensburg Grand Union generously contributed \$3,205 to support NCM's Warrensburg Food Pantry. This initiative was part of our efforts to raise awareness during Hunger Action Month, aimed at assisting local pantries in stocking dairy products. Milk ranks among the most sought-after items in food pantries, as it delivers crucial nutrients, particularly for children.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the members of our local community who participated in this campaign. Your support is instrumental in aiding our food pantry, which has witnessed a substantial increase in individuals seeking our services.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Riihimaki - President,
Wendy Waldron - Vice President
Bill Powers - Treasurer
Gary Pogorzelski - Secretary
Elizabeth Barton-Navitsky, Eileen Morrissey-Baughan, Mark DelSignore, Curtis Dybas, Patti Hammond, Sue Himoff, Erin Maggi, Barbara Orton, John Schroeter, and Lynn Underhill.

NCM STAFF

Kayla Carlozzi, Executive Director
Laurie Bartlett, Director of Operations
Rebecca Bammert, Director of Case Management
Erin Fritz, Community Caseworker
Christopher Jones, Volunteer & Program Coordinator
Gary Plansker, Director of Maintenance
David Patterson, Maintenance Assistant