

SAVE *the* DATE
NORTH COUNTRY MINISTRY'S

Cocktails for Charity
Black & White Spring Fundraiser

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 FROM 6PM-10PM
FORT WILLIAM HENRY, CARRIAGE HOUSE
48 CANADA STREET, LAKE GEORGE, NY 12845

To purchase tickets and for more information please visit our website, www.northcountryministry.org/cocktailscharity

SPONSOR *the* EVENT

Premier Event Sponsors

Platinum \$15,000

This sponsorship level will receive special reserved seating for 10, two bottles of wine at your table, and promotion of your sponsorship on signage at the event, on our website, and on social media.

Gold \$10,000

This sponsorship level will receive special reserved seating for 8, two bottles of wine at your table, and promotion of your sponsorship on signage at the event, on our website, and on social media.

Silver \$5,000

This sponsorship level will receive special reserved seating for 6, two bottles of wine at your table, and promotion of your sponsorship on signage at the event, on our website, and on social media.

Bronze \$2,500

This sponsorship level will receive special reserved seating for 4, a bottle of wine at your table, and promotion of your sponsorship on signage at the event, on our website, and social media.

Evening Event Sponsorship Opportunities

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Entertainment Sponsors - \$2,000 | Coffee & Dessert Sponsors - \$750 |
| Signature Cocktail Sponsors - \$1,500 | Centerpiece Sponsors - \$500 |
| Appetizer Display Sponsors - \$1,000 | Photo-op & Prop Sponsors - \$250 |

Please visit our website to sponsor our event www.northcountryministry.org/cocktailscharity
Or contact Kayla, at kayla@ncmfriends.com



Hand of Hope
Winter 2024 Newsletter

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

CHRISTMAS WISHES DO COME TRUE

Thanks to the generosity of many, this holiday season brimmed with joy for the 277 children whose Christmas wish lists were fulfilled through our Giving Tree Program. These children were members of 114 local families who experienced a Christmas morning that will be etched in their memories forever. This year marked a record-breaking achievement for the program, and we extend our deepest gratitude to our donors for their invaluable contribution.

The support we received not only facilitated the provision of essential items like warm clothing, but also granted numerous cherished gifts that these children had eagerly anticipated on Christmas morning. The thoughtfulness of our donors ensured a festive and joyous occasion for those families, underscoring an act of compassion that resonated deeply with their parents. Recognizing the universal parental aspiration to create special moments for their children, the outpouring of support of those who understand the challenges faced by these families during the holiday season is truly commendable.

In the spirit of Santa Claus, presence in the lives of these families was marked by anonymity, leaving behind a trail of love, compassion, and joy. The commitment made by our donors in making a difference has transformed the holiday season for these families, embodying the true essence of the festive spirit.

This year, we encountered a powerful story that underscores the impact of your generosity. A recently divorced father, facing the challenges of securing a new home and providing for his children during Christmas, reached out to us. Although he missed the deadline for our Giving Tree program, our incredible business donors provided toys for just these types of situations. Rebecca, one of our compassionate caseworkers, invited the father to choose Christmas presents for his kids.

Through this brief engagement, Rebecca learned more about this father's struggles, and she took proactive steps. Rebecca spoke with the landlord to cover the deposit and secured a reduced amount. This small act of kindness by the landlord freed up funding for Rebecca to also cover the last little bit of the first month's rent that the father was missing to fully secure his new home. NCM was able to provide a joyful Christmas for his children but also lifted a significant burden for the father, who was deeply moved when he received the news.

Your donations do not just create holiday cheer, they transform lives and bring hope to those facing challenges. Please consider continuing to support us in making a positive impact on more families like this one.



North Country Ministry is a non-profit organization that relies solely on donations for our programs and services. We are on track to provide more than 24,000 people with clothes, food, furniture, casework services, emergency fuel and mortgage/rent payments. Interested in donating to support our programs and services - use your phones camera to scan the QR Code to the right.





In October of 2023, NCM proudly launched our newest food-focused program, The Mobile Mart. The Mobile Mart is a food pantry on wheels that primarily serves families with limited food access. Our Mobile Mart van can reach people who live in remote areas, have personal mobility difficulties, or have limited or no access to reliable transportation.

This program has already served an average of thirty-one homes a month, providing hundreds of meals to families in Diamond Point, Lake Luzerne, Stony Creek, Warrensburg, Brant Lake, Chestertown, Minerva, and North Creek.

Behind the genius of the Mobile Mart, is the vehicle itself. The van is an incredible blessing for North Country and features two shelving walls, each stocked with nonperishable food items. There is also an onboard deep freezer, where NCM provides frozen meats and vegetables. Individuals with mobility issues can easily access the Mobile Mart thanks to a built-in handicap ramp that folds into itself for convenient storage. We encourage our clients to come on board the van and shop for themselves. The idea behind the program is to provide families with options for eighteen meals each. The van allows us to stock a variety of food items so that clients have choices.

The Mobile Mart would not be a success without the help of our dedicated team of volunteers. Our volunteers serve roughly five hours every time the Mobile Mart goes out. They are the face of the program and are helpful in many ways. One way is by offering helpful suggestions to clients as they shop. Our volunteers are the ones who stock the shelves, fill the van with gasoline, and bring smiles to many faces. Currently, our volunteers drive two separate routes, a northern and southern route. For this program to continue to expand and reach new towns and clients, we need additional volunteers. If you are interested in helping with the Mobile Mart, please reach out to Chris Jones, Volunteer and Program Coordinator christopher@ncmfriends.com

Written by: Chris Jones



CASEWORKER CORNER

Often our clients are unable to afford the gas for continual treatments, especially if these appointments are several times a week or far from their home. Currently, we have a client who has a daughter with medical needs that require a specialist from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The travel to and from Philadelphia has become an added financial burden to this family which is already under immense stress. Imagine having to wonder how you will afford to get your child to a needed treatment, or having to decide what bills to skip this month because this trip is now a regular added expense. Our support, through our gas card program, has enabled this family to put more of their energy into the treatments and healing of their daughter instead of worrying about the financial burden of travel.

The last time we met, the family was looking forward to hopefully visiting some places their daughter may like while in Philadelphia so the trips are not always as daunting as one can imagine. They expressed their gratitude, in the knowledge that the alleviation of gas costs could now go towards something positive for their daughter to look forward to while fighting her battle. This family is just one example of the many clients NCM is helping to support through our gas card program. It may seem like a small service to provide, but even the smallest acts of support provide a great relief to those we serve!

Written by: Erin Fritz

FALL MONTHS STATISTICS Oct - Dec

Brant Lake Food Pantry
Served 524 Households, 1,114 People
29% increase from the previous newsletter

Warrensburg Food Pantry
Served 538 Households, 1,536 People
9% increase from the previous newsletter

Warrensburg & Brant Lake Clothing Center
Saw 1,054 visitors, which provided clothes for 3,365 People

Casework Statistics
Served 489 Unique Clients
Provided \$35,155 in Financial Assistance
Our caseworker team provided 24 homes with heating assistance which amounted to \$7,784 in funding.
Casework was up 30% from the season prior.

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, 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
- Mike Mello, Maintenance Assistant