Calling All Volunteers!

Looking for other ways to make a difference? Check in calls are a wonderful opportunity to let people know we care, especially for seniors facing increased isolation this holiday season. How are they doing? Do they need anything? Sometimes just a friendly voice on the other end of the line can make someone’s day. Please consider helping us reach out to others. Contact Ryan at rhendrickx@nh-cc.org or 603-663-0223 and let him know you’d like to participate!

Crisis Fund in Action: Susan’s Story

We cannot thank you enough for the overwhelming support of the Crisis Fund, which has raised more than $380,000 to assist individuals and families facing overwhelming hardship and despair during these chaotic times. This includes Susan, a devoted single mother with three young children who made some hard sacrifices to help her family get by. Read her story: cc-nh.org/susan

Grant Recognition

Thank you to the following for awarding grants to support Catholic Charities New Hampshire’s programs and services:
- Alice J. Reen Charitable Trust
- Community Services
- Immigration Legal Services
- The CareGivers
- Tufts Health Plan Foundation
- Vermont Mutual Insurance Group Charitable Giving Fund

Give a Special Gift This Holiday Season

Not sure what to get that special person on your gift list? Consider making a gift to Catholic Charities in their honor! It’s easy – simply go to cc-nh.org/donate and note the name of the person your gift is honoring in the Honor/Memorial Name and gift amount fields. We will send a card noting your donation and your gift of care to the person named on the card. Not sure what to get that special person on your gift list? Consider making a gift to Catholic Charities in their honor! It’s easy – simply go to cc-nh.org/donate and note the name of the person your gift is honoring in the Honor/Memorial Name and gift amount fields. We will send a card noting your donation and your gift of care to the person named on the card.

Mission Renovate & Restore Completed!

For homeowners and at-risk veterans across New Hampshire seeking to get their lives back on track, the future just got much brighter! Liberty House recently completed Phase II of its “Mission Renovate & Restore” campaign, which supports the renovations and retrofitting of Liberty House’s new home in Manchester. This includes Susan, a devoted single mother with three young children who made some hard sacrifices to help her family get by. Read her story: cc-nh.org/susan

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Why is donor support critical to helping immigrant communities during this time?
Donor support ensures that vulnerable and low-income immigrants will continue to receive critical services in these uncertain times. Our clients are experiencing much more immigration needs; they also require financial, mental health and family-based support, among other areas. Because of donors, we’re able to more holistically address their challenges through both immigration legal services and referrals to other community-based services. Think about the COVID-19 crisis. It’s because of them that we’re able to keep clients continually informed about what’s going on and how to get necessary immigration and social services. Think about the COVID-19 vaccine – when it’s ready to be distributed, some clients’ inability to drive may normally inhibit them from receiving it. Donor support means it doesn’t have to come to that.

Welcoming Newcomers
Immigration Legal Services

How would you characterize the program over the past few months?
We’ve had to innovate and adapt to how we continue to meet the needs of immigrant communities across New Hampshire. The most significant change was a complete shift to virtual platforms, relying exclusively on tools such as Zoom or the phone to meet with clients and share key information and policy changes. We’ve also conducted various presentations online and created an informational video on the new Public Charge rule, which was a major change in the processing of family-based green card cases. While the way we do our work is much different than this time last year, it’s been a fairly seamless transition.

How are the struggles that seniors face different right now vs. this time last year?
Generally, our clients are facing more difficult financial situations because of the continued need for in-person and access to basic necessities in a growing issue. Our staff has done an excellent job recognizing the need and going above and beyond, in some cases even personally securing and delivering food to many of our elderly clients. This dedication and commitment have been incredible to witness.

As we move into the new year, what worries you most about the next few months?
There’s a lot of anxiety over the financial and emotional impact of the pandemic. Many of our clients are families struggling to get by, literally on a day-to-day basis. There has also been a rise in domestic violence cases among immigrants over the past few months as families spend more time at home. Our legal team is doing all they can to help these victims escape dangerous situations.

Why is donor support critical to supporting seniors?
It’s been a year of challenges, increased expectations and a few surprises. When the pandemic began, we expected a sharp decline in rides through our Caring Rides program, as many doctor’s offices canceled non-essential visits. But that was quickly offset by a significant increase in rides related to doctors’ appointments and trips to the grocery store. We’re at a point now where overall rides this year have increased 30%! Because of incredible donor and volunteer support, Caring Rides continues to thrive in spite of a challenging world. Many programs that offer transportation services similar to ours have ceased operations due to lack of funding or volunteers.

The Caring Cupboard program, in which volunteers deliver groceries to homebound seniors across Greater Manchester and Greater Nashua, continues to prove invaluable to seniors facing unprecedented feelings of isolation and depression, having little to no physical interaction with the outside world. Many in senior housing can no longer congregate with friends or enjoy group activities. Some worry when they will see their families again; others are afraid of dying alone. One client shared, “I have nothing to look forward to.” It’s heartbreaking.

But we’re doing all that we can to reach them for now and give them something to look forward to. The frequency of check-in calls to clients increased; we’ve made nearly 2,500 since the pandemic began. Our staff and volunteers really stepped up to let our clients know that they’re not alone and we will get through this together. One client recently shared, “It’s just me here and I really get lonely. It’s nice to talk with someone.”

The pandemic has also exacerbated food insecurity among seniors, especially as the price of food has skyrocketed. Despite increasing the amount of product in each Caring Cupboard delivery, thanks to donor support, clients often call seeking additional foods, unable to make it from one delivery to the next. While the Caring Cupboard has been blessed to place in a position to distribute thousands of pounds of food to hundreds of seniors, the need will continue to grow.

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Why is donor support even more critical this year?
Continued donor support is critical to ensure we can stay ahead of growing client needs and be in a position to offer adequate transportation and food delivery services that make seniors feel less alone, address their food insecurity and bring them much-needed hope for the days ahead. The next few months won’t be easy, but knowing we have the support of incredible people who share in our commitment of protecting the elderly will carry us toward.

Monadnock at Home

How has Monadnock at Home adapted to the pandemic?
With COVID-19 posing its greatest threat to the health of seniors, we’ve refocused with renewed urgency, looking at our clients’ immediate needs as a whole. We make sure they have proper access to food and medications, are informed of changing CDC and other safety recommendations, and maintain adequate connection to the world around them.

We’ve also modified our programs in creative ways. Our regular “coffee klatches” were converted into “parking lot meet-ups,” allowing clients to socialize at a safe distance. We’re also using Zoom more regularly, whether for special online informational programs, holiday/member events, or even tutorials on how members can use the platform to stay connected with their own family and friends.

How are the struggles that seniors face different right now vs. this time last year?
Isolation is a more widespread issue. Many are seeing their family members and friends and have limited in-person contact for safety reasons. With the holidays approaching, these feelings of loneliness and despair could greatly increase. We’re expanding the frequency of check-in calls and offering weekly telephone conferences where seniors can call back each other, offer ideas on coping with all that’s going on and simply share in the feeling that they aren’t alone. Many times, the conversations steer away from the pandemic – and frankly, that’s important. It gives them a welcomed distraction, and some fun and laughter to lighten their days.

Your Legacy

Making a last impact by naming Catholic Charities NH in your will or estate plans. For more information contact Karen Ahlmytan at 603-899-3030.

Kimberly George
Manager, Annual Giving

James Wilkie
Executive Director

Sandra Faber
Executive Director

Why is donor support critical to supporting seniors?
As many of our clients are vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic, we see an increase in the need to reach even more seniors in need across the Monadnock Region. They help provide our clients with proper access to groceries, prescriptions and other vital assistance. It’s because of them that we’re able to keep clients continually informed about what’s going on and how to get necessary transportation and food services. Think about the COVID-19 vaccine – when it’s ready to be distributed, some clients’ inability to drive may normally inhibit them from receiving it. Donor support means it doesn’t have to come to that.

Caring Rides

How are the struggles that seniors face different right now vs. this time last year?
Many individuals we work with have fallen on hard times and normally would be unable to afford the mental health services they need. Because of donor support, we’re one of the few agencies in the state offering sliding scale counseling services, which make it more accessible. Without this support, these individuals might not have anywhere else to turn, especially at a time when most need it more than ever.

Addressing Isolation & Food Insecurity Among Seniors
The CareGivers

What has life at the CareGivers been like since the pandemic began?
It’s been a year of challenges, increased expectations and a few surprises. When the pandemic began, we expected a sharp decline in rides through our Caring Rides program, as many doctor’s offices canceled non-essential visits. But that was quickly offset by a significant increase in rides related to doctors’ appointments and trips to the grocery store. We’re at a point now where overall rides this year have increased 30%! Because of incredible donor and volunteer support, Caring Rides continues to thrive in spite of a challenging world. Many programs that offer transportation services similar to ours have ceased operations due to lack of funding or volunteers.

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