

Human Services Advisory Committee
November 7, 2023

Present: Dave White, Marcia Shell, Alicia Presti, Dawn Berry, and Mary Reidy via FaceTime.

The minutes from September 5, 2023, were accepted.

Alicia thanked the committee for presenting the Appreciation Dinner. Great feedback was received from the participants: delicious food, appreciated the gift bags, and the music was a nice addition.

Report of the Human Service Coordinator for October – Alicia Presti

- Coordinated clothing left over from the swap in August to get to Countryside Church for their sale
- Coordinating winter coat needs to align with the Lion's Club donation that will be made in the coming weeks.
- Multiple GOT LUNCH! meetings this fall. Updates from St Andrew's Church about where the program stands and ways in which to publicize the program. I have worked with the schools to identify families that may be interested in participating. Promoted online and with Susan Covert. GOT LUNCH! now serves 10 families and 21 children. (Dave offered the idea that we might collaborate with local restaurants and other groups to provide opportunities for families using Got Lunch to receive tokens that they may eat out.)
- SNAP training completed last week. Worked with promotional material from the Food Bank to do more SNAP awareness.
- NHLWAA meeting in September had Legal Aid presenting on RSA 165 and the speaker answered questions from attendees.
- Wrapped up the AARP Walk Audits with Anna Wells from Economic Development. Participated online in peer discussion groups and met with our mentor. Anna is writing up the final report from findings and community input.
- Holiday/Christmas wish lists have been distributed to families. I will be working on and distributing wish lists this year to some seniors in our community in order to address their specific needs/requests.
- Lined up food drives with area churches, businesses and schools for Thanksgiving time frame.
- Scouting for Food along with the Lions Club went well last weekend bringing in 1676 food items to the Pantry.

- Trainings and meeting with the Capital Regional Food Program have been underway. Currently signing up households that will receive Market Basket vouchers in December.
- Promoted Rotary's (and interact' s) "Got Projects" which helped about a dozen households last weekend.
- Promoted Fuel Assistance and Medicare enrollment.
- Arranged Contokuleles performance at the Park Avenue Apartments. Ric Waldheim ran with it so I was able to be hands off. Sounds like it was well received and appreciated by the residents who attended.
- Put together 2024 Human Service Department budget and presented to the Select Board last night. Request for welfare amount of \$50,000.
- Welfare assistance for September/ October
Heating = \$963.81
Electric = \$403.78
Housing = \$5498.26
Utilities = \$394.73

Donated fuel expense = \$1377.06

Donated other expense(welfare) = \$935.72

Community HHS Resource Brochure

We reviewed the brochure and updated sections that Mary had worked on. There is a QR code edition that leads to the website. Alicia will work to update the links for Human Services website to correspond with the brochure categories.

Housing Committee Update – Dawn Berry

The committee hosted 5 housing forums. A survey is now available for Hopkinton residents. It want to residents' emails, appears in Susan Covert news, and on the Town website.

Dawn said that she would be available if Alicia needed a last minute shopper.

Next Meeting January 2 at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn C. Berry

