

Dear Friend & Neighbor,

November 2023

'Tis the season of cooler weather and preparation for the holidays! We hope you're enjoying the start of this beautiful season and the reason why many of us choose to call New England "home". At Suffield Community Aid (SCA), we're also in the holiday spirit as we gear up for our largest distributions for families and older adults for Thanksgiving and the December holidays. Additionally, this is the time of year where you may see our staff, Board members, and an array of kind-hearted volunteers of all ages at various locations in Suffield raising money through the Salvation Army Kettle Drive, to support our "Return-to-School" Backpack Program.

This year, I write to you with one goal in mind—to illustrate the extent of the programs and services that Suffield Community Aid provides to Suffield residents. It's a tall order! You may be familiar with Suffield Community Aid's mission statement:

"To provide supportive health and social services that positively affect the well-being of Suffield residents during periods of need."

However, I'd like to dive into the nuts and bolts of how we identify "need", knowing that term is oftentimes open to interpretation. Being that Suffield Community Aid is a private, non-profit agency, we define "need" based on financial stress, negative impact on a person's quality of life, and extenuating circumstances. We take an immense amount of pride in our ability to meet residents where they are and offer supports in an individualized way. Our goal is to serve as a safety net during challenging times by maximizing federal and state programs, identifying familial and local supports, and considering private funding and programs to fill in the gaps. It is our responsibility to our donors to ensure that your donations are utilized with the utmost care and consideration. To provide a better inside look at who we help and how, I offer a few real-life scenarios of residents in need who reached out to Suffield Community Aid last year for help.

From a Suffield mom who received help:

"It was a rough half year for me, 2022, and I'm so grateful for all of the help you have assisted me with. I'm so happy to be working again and trying hard to find something permanent—you guys are angels at Suffield Community Aid and have been working with me since 2017. I pray God will line up my stars so that one day I can aid in giving back to those in need in this community and beyond."



Stephanie Salerno pictured with her team: Emma MacDougall, Alyssa Salerno, and Kevin Hull celebrate the outpouring of support from the Suffield community to donate 75 new backpacks to SCA's "Return-to-School" Backpack Program and a check for \$110.

SCA distributed 69 filled backpacks, gift cards, and pre-packed food bags to low-income Suffield families. Funds raised during SCA's annual Salvation Army Kettle Drive were utilized to purchase Walmart gift cards for perishables and clothing.

- **A single parent, who is in the midst of a separation and is unable to sustain employment due to the significant needs of one of their children.** SCA was able to assist with our Food Pantry, applying for a crisis benefit for a fuel delivery, and registering for our Holiday Basket Program.
- **A fixed-income older adult, who has lived in their current rental for over a decade and is now facing a \$400 rent increase or reality of being displaced.** SCA helped complete numerous applications for subsidized senior apartments, sought out state resources for in-home aide services, subsidized Nutmeg Senior Rides transportation costs, and assisted with SNAP and CT Energy Assistance Program applications.
- **A single parent facing significant water damage to the inside of their home and was unable to afford the critical repairs.** Through SCA's Housing Repair Assistance Program, SCA was able to offset the unforeseen and burdensome costs of the roof repair to ensure a dry winter for the family.
- **A fixed-income older adult whose health declined and was hospitalized for an extended period was struggling to make ends meet financially.** By using funds designated to support individuals with cancer and/or heart disease, SCA helped with a 1-time partial rent payment to offset the costs of specialized transportation to medical appointments, assisted with a Medicaid application, and partnered with the family to advocate for the best possible care.

From a Donor:

"Thanks for everything you do! My mom relied on heating assistance for much of her life, so I understand the importance of the work you're doing and am glad to help."

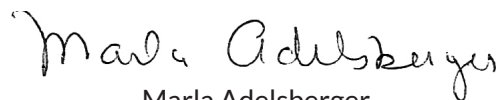
It is because of your support that we're able to provide customized and wrap-around services to residents facing circumstances like those shared above. We hope that you'll consider donating to continue these efforts in any amount that you are able to. Donations can be made in the form of a check, cash, or PayPal. We greatly appreciate your ongoing support and commitment to enable Suffield Community Aid to continue our mission that was started over 100 years ago!

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

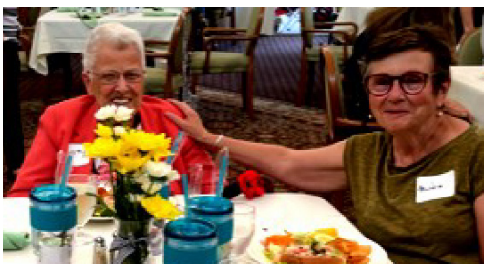
Sincerely,



Danielle Annibalini, LCSW
Executive Director



Marla Adelsberger
SCA Board President



Pictured: Dorothy DeForge (left) and Michele Holcomb (right) were honored at June's Volunteer Appreciation for their respective 30 and 20 years of Meals-on-Wheels volunteering and overall support!

In 2022-2023, SCA's Meals-on-Wheels volunteers delivered 7,764 meals to 73 medically frail and homebound older adults.