

New Milford Social Services

"To Listen, To Advocate, To Empower"

FALL 2020- Special Addition 2020

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 New Milford Social Services



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- **Page 4:** Connection to local resources- State, local, health and mental health, COVID related, etc.



Greetings from Social Services:

Well dear friends, it has been six months and the world is still looking different than we are used to. We are still restricted for office visits, but we have been working hard in keeping our programs running strong even if we have to connect with you in atypical ways. I want to share a bit more on how we can connect, but first I just want to say that I hope you and your families are remaining safe and healthy during this trying and stressful time. Taking the time to care for those we love and ourselves is so important. Reaching out to talk, to lend a hand or ask for help is essential and key to our well-being. New Milford Social Services has programs that can offer opportunities for you to maintain or increase your wellbeing. We may be able to provide a tool for the toolbox, as some might say. Here are a few things that are going on.

1. **Food Bank-** Operating on Thursdays, 9am-2pm. We will be inside soon and we have a very important message on Page 4 of this newsletter. Please read it carefully.
2. **Energy Assistance-** We have begun to accept applications this winter's heating assistance. This program offers help to offset the cost of heat- whether it be oil, propane, kerosene, wood, or electric. Unfortunately, we are limited for in-person appointments but call us to discuss the process. Please read Page 2 of this newsletter for income guidelines and more detail about applying.
3. **Financial Assistance and Resources-** if you are struggling financially, please contact us. We may be able to connect you to State and local resources that can help.
4. **HOLIDAY SIGN UP IS OPEN!** -Many have called us inquiring about this year's holiday programs. It has taken some work to figure out how to best offer these programs and keep everyone involved safe during COVID. First, thank you for your patience as we have been working hard with our volunteers and partners on the process. This year, **Thanksgiving** distribution will be a pick-up of uncooked food, only. The Dustin Easley Memorial Foundation is unfortunately not able to hold a congregated meal or deliver. If you have a concern over this due to a disability or condition of being homebound, please reach out to us. **Sibling Shopping** is cancelled due to COVID. This breaks our hearts but we look forward to next year! We will miss seeing the excited faces of all the children! **Santa Fund is happening!** It will look different this year. Primarily gift cards will be the option. We hope to provide books, gloves/hats/scarves, and a small toy, as donations will allow. We did hear that Santa should be able to stop in during our distribution day and help us hand out these small treats to our families! The registration form for all these programs is on Page 3 of this newsletter. **PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY DEADLINE to register is NOV. 6th. DISTRIBUTION FOR SANTA FUND will be DEC. 4th to give families a chance to shop.** Income and residency requirements are still in place. Please read the important message at the top of the registration form. **ALL DISTRIBUTIONS WILL BE a DRIVE-UP/ PICK-UP at JPCC.**

We wish you all the best during this holiday season, hoping for peace, kindness, and generosity of spirit for all.



~Ivana

The mission of New Milford Social Services is to help residents meet basic needs of food, housing, clothing, maintenance of health & well-being, and to help provide various seasonal goods & programs for residents experiencing financial hardship.



We support our community through empowerment, advocacy, connection to resources & opportunities to increase the welfare of our residents in need.



Programs:

Eligibility is set by income & residency guidelines

*New Milford Food Bank

*Energy (Heating) Assistance

*Emergency Financial Assistance [limited funding] & Counseling:

Rent/Mortgage
Home bills
Child Expenses
Medical Bills
Transportation Costs
Food & Clothing

*Basic Need Assistance

*Counseling/Crisis Intervention-limited

*Information and Referral: Local, State, Federal resources and entitlement programs
*Renter's Rebate for disabled renters under age 60. [seasonal]

*Family Programs:
Baby Bundle Registration
Camp and Enrichment
Activity Scholarships for Children [limited funding]
Back to School Program
Registration [seasonal]
Winter Holiday Gifts
Children [seasonal]

[Funding based on State grants or community donations]

PROGRAM UPDATES:



ENERGY and UTILITY ASSISTANCE:



New Milford Social Services is the local agency to assist residents under the age of 60 with financial assistance applications for the following programs. *Please contact our office for more information and guidelines to apply. [If you are over the age of 60 please contact the New Milford Senior Center]*

- **CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)** We are taking applications for the upcoming winter season, prioritizing people with deliverable fuels or those with electric heat on a budget plan. **Please call the office so we can send you the application packet.** In aligning with safety and health guidelines, we are asking for packets to be filled out, signed, and returned to our office as soon as possible. Please include all required income and relevant documentation. An incomplete application can slow down the process. Anyone experiencing trouble with filling out the application packet please let one of our staff know so we can make special arrangements to help. **The first day for fuel deliveries is November 2nd** and a delay in completing your application can delay the certification process with the local community action agency. The income guidelines for this State program are:

60%SMI- CEAP income guidelines: based on Family size

1	2	3	4	5	6
\$37,645	\$49,228	\$60,811	\$72,394	\$83,977	\$95,560

Clean, Tune and Test: Upon request and approval of application, funds will be provided to eligible households to cover the cost of a clean, tune and test of their household's deliverable fuel heating system. Renters must receive written landlord permission and funds will not be taken from the fuel benefit. This is a great way to increase the efficiency of your fuel use!

- **Operation Fuel** is open for the Summer/Fall program until October 30th or until funds run out. Income guidelines remain at 75% State Median Income. This program is open for fuel or electric assistance. Limited one-time grant assistance. Income and household documentation required. You can apply through our office or online at [Operation Fuel-Get help/Get started](#).
- **Aquarion Water Assistance** through Operation Fuel. This program is open and income guidelines remain at 75% State Median Income. Limited one-time grant assistance. Income and household documentation required. Expires on 12/31/2020 or until funding runs out.

The income guidelines for both of these Operation Fuel programs are:

75%SMI- Operation Fuel income guidelines: based on Family size

1	2	3	4	5	6
\$45,213	\$59,125	\$73,037	\$86,949	\$100,860	\$114,772



Renters Rebate:

Applications will be taken now until October 1st. After Oct. 1, you will need to qualify for an exemption before you can apply. **This is a program for CT renters who are elderly or totally disabled (meeting the Social Security definition and over the age of 18) and who are income eligible.** If you qualify, the program will send you a rebate check. The amount of the rebate ranges from \$150-\$900 and is based on your income, certain household expenses (electric, gas, oil, water) that you paid in 2019. The 2019 maximum income is \$37,000 for one person and \$45,100 for a couple. If you are under the age of 60 and disabled, please call our office to request a list of required documents that we will mail to you and ask you to return to us completed.



The Thrift Mart of New Milford is open.

They have been diligently cleaning and sanitizing as well as installing safety measures. They have completely restocked their inventory and welcome their customers back! Masks are required before entering the store and hand sanitizer is available at the door for each customer to use upon entering. The Thrift Mart is on 146 Danbury Road, #1, 10am-4pm. New Milford Social Services offers limited vouchers for clothing purchases at the Thrift Mart. **You must be up-to-date with proof of income and residency.**

SNAP \$\$ at the FARMERS MARKET



We will continue to be at the New Milford Farmers Market each Saturday until October 31st. Stop by and have **\$15 SNAP dollars DOUBLED** for delicious fruit and vegetables! Other coins can be purchased for other foods that the Market has to offer such as dairy, meat and bread!



JOB SEARCHING?



New Milford Businesses are Hiring- Facebook page is dedicated to helping those seeking employment connect with local businesses!

<https://www.facebook.com/NewMilfordHiring>

Onward CT- one stop resource for people of Connecticut who have been impacted by COVID-19 and lost their job:

<https://onwardct.org/>

CT Hires is a website provided by CT Department of Labor: For job search or exploring careers:

<https://www.cthires.com/vosnet/Default.aspx>



Provides all children in New Milford year-round access to food. Sign up on their website at [Camella's Cupboard](#). Food distribution is every Friday, late afternoon.

NMSS- holiday closings:

- Monday, October 12, 2020**
- Wednesday, November 11, 2020**
- Thursday/Friday, November 26-27, 2020**
- Friday, December 25, 2020**



2020 HOLIDAY PROGRAM REGISTRATION

For Thanksgiving Food Bag/ Holiday Gift Cards for Children/ Disabled Adults (w/o children) Gift Cards

These programs are for income eligible New Milford residents (under the age of 60). If you have not provided verification of income & residency to New Milford Social Services in 2020, you will need to do so within one week of registering for any programs.

Due to COVID-19, Our Holiday Programs will look very different this year. Unfortunately, we will be unable to hand out wrapped gifts this year and will be offering gift cards to local stores instead. We cannot guarantee the gift cards of choice but we will be handing them out early this year so there is time to redeem them for gifts. *See below for distribution dates.

If you choose to sign up for these programs, we must have up-to-date copies of proof of household income and proof of residency on file in our office.

<p>Today's Date: _____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p># Adults in home: <input type="checkbox"/> # Children (<18 age) in home: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Best way to reach you:</p> <p>Phone #1: _____ <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Phone #2: _____ <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>EMAIL: _____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DUE DATE TO APPLY: By Friday, NOVEMBER 6, 2020</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROGRAM SIGNUP LIST: (Check all that apply)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> THANKSGIVING: _____ PICKUP, Monday, 11/23- Time- To be announced </td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">OFFICE USE ONLY: #</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> SANTA FUND Custodial parents (children in the home UNDER age 18) *DATE to Pick Up- Fri. Dec 4th Time- To be announced (Snow date- Mon. Dec. 7th) </td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">#</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> DISABLED Adult Gift Card (Individuals w/o children in the home) Distribution date- To be announced Store Choice: _____ </td> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">#</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> THANKSGIVING: _____ PICKUP, Monday, 11/23- Time- To be announced	OFFICE USE ONLY: #	<input type="checkbox"/> SANTA FUND Custodial parents (children in the home UNDER age 18) *DATE to Pick Up- Fri. Dec 4 th Time- To be announced (Snow date- Mon. Dec. 7 th)	#	<input type="checkbox"/> DISABLED Adult Gift Card (Individuals w/o children in the home) Distribution date- To be announced Store Choice: _____	#
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<input type="checkbox"/> DISABLED Adult Gift Card (Individuals w/o children in the home) Distribution date- To be announced Store Choice: _____	#						

DUE TO COVID, we will NOT be able to offer Sibling Shopping this year.
 We hope to bring Sibling Shopping back next year- we will miss seeing all the children this year!

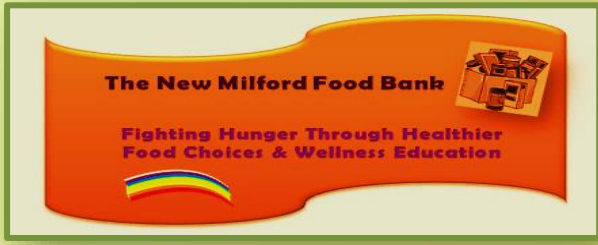
<p>CHILD #1 <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fund for children under 18 years old</p> <p>Child's First Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____</p> <p>Gift Card Request: 1st Store Choice: _____</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">No VISA or MC Gift Cards</div> <p>2nd Store Choice: _____</p>	ASSIGNED FAMILY Number: _____ A
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<p>CHILD #2 <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fund for children under 18 years old</p> <p>Child's First Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____</p> <p>Gift Card Request: 1st Store Choice: _____</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">No VISA or MC Gift Cards</div> <p>2nd Store Choice: _____</p>	ASSIGNED FAMILY Number: _____ B
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<p>CHILD #3 <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fund for children under 18 years old</p> <p>Child's First Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____</p> <p>Gift Card Request: 1st Store Choice: _____</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">No VISA or MC Gift Cards</div> <p>2nd Store Choice: _____</p>	ASSIGNED FAMILY Number: _____ C
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<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">CLIENT ID</div>	OFFICE USE ONLY: Santa Fund: XCEL Sibling Shopping: XCEL Disabled Adult: XCEL Thanksgiving: XCEL	Database Database Database Database	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fund</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Disabled</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black;">SW</td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black;">Income Verified</td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black;">Approval Date</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Disabled	SW	Income Verified	Approval Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Disabled							
SW	Income Verified	Approval Date							

Food Bank- IMPORTANT:



The New Milford Food Bank will be **MOVING INSIDE VERY SOON!** We will continue to offer as much choice as possible making a variety of shelf stable foods, vegetables, meats and dairy as they are available. *Hours of operation will remain every Thursday from 9am-2pm at JPCC.*

Participants will still drive up and follow the same traffic pattern. There is a limit to how many people can be inside so please follow the instructions of our volunteers and staff. **MASKS MUST BE WORN and Social Distancing is required.** There is a hand sanitizer unit at the front entrance. **Please BRING YOUR OWN BAGS.** Volunteers will place your food choices in your bags. If you have a physical disability that prevents you from entering the building, please let our check-in volunteer know. Arrangements can be made to bring food to your car.

If you or a family member are feeling ill or in quarantine for COVID-19, please DO NOT COME. Please call our office for other arrangements. If you are a Senior participant and cannot make it to the food bank, please contact the Senior Center at 860-355-6075.

Every participant must be registered prior to coming to the food bank. If you are NEW to the Food Bank and experiencing food insecurity, please contact our office prior to coming to the food bank. We welcome you but need to speak to you first and discuss resources and the food bank process.

The Food Bank closes during severe weather. Closures and delays will be posted on local news channels.

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider”

COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

**There are many community resources regarding, jobs, State resources, health, mental health and stress reduction due to COVID, support groups, and family and children in our Summer newsletter. A copy will remain on our website and if you would like a copy sent to you, please contact our office.*



? Rent and Evictions during COVID-19 Crisis:

The CDC has issued a nationwide eviction moratorium, which extends to December 31, 2020. [As of now, Connecticut has a moratorium on evictions in place until October 1st]. This national moratorium may prevent landlords from evicting tenants who have not paying any portion of their rent or late fees or whose lease has ended. This is NOT AUTOMATIC. Each adult in the household MUST give the landlord a signed declaration indicating that they fall within the criteria of not paying rent or end of lease. This moratorium may also help even if your case is pending or you lost your court case but the marshal has not yet evicted you. For more details and a copy of the declaration that needs to be signed go to [CTlawhelp.org-evictions during coronavirus crisis](http://CTlawhelp.org-evictions-during-coronavirus-crisis) or ask our office.



Utility Moratorium and Payment

Plans: The Shut-off moratorium for non-hardship residential customers will conclude on September 30, 2020. However, PURA has extended enrollment for the COVID-19 Payment Program for residential and non-residential customers through November 1, 2020. The COVID-19 Payment Plans are available to any customer requesting financial assistance, requires no initial or down payment, waiving of fees or interest in the calculation of the payments, and can be up to twenty-four months in length. These plans are to facilitate the repayment of past due balances in addition to customer’s current bills and a customer on a COVID-19 Payment Plan cannot be disconnected if they remain current on the agreed payment terms.

If you are experiencing hardship and think, you may qualify for an energy assistance program, please contact our office.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

860-355-6079



PERMIT NO. 10
NEW MILFORD CT 06776
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PRESORT STANDARD

NEW MILFORD SOCIAL SERVICES
2 PICKETT DISTRICT RD
NEW MILFORD CT. 06776