

# New Milford Social Services

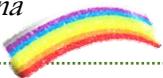


May/June 2021

## Greetings from New Milford Social Services,

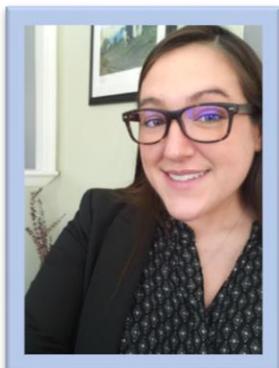
Hello friends! It has been a long time since we have been able to share a newsletter with you. The months have gone by quickly and the world is still not quite the same as it was before COVID-19 entered into it. Over the past year, we have been asked how the people we serve are doing. How is COVID affecting their employment status, family life, finances? We know it hasn't been easy. Nevertheless, for many of the families we work with, it wasn't easy before COVID either. Work schedules have been erratic- one week less hours, the other- more. For those with children, remote learning has added the challenge of childcare. And for all, connecting to resources has been a journey on many levels with closed offices, longer phone waits, transportation issues, or simply the virus itself being the obstacle. Here at Social Services, we did not escape the interruption that COVID brought. Our staff was challenged to change programs to meet safety guidelines; we relied on a smaller volunteer base and more community support to maintain our high quality food and seasonal programs. We also had to do most of this with less staff. As many of you know, Sarah Geary left her position a few months ago. Sarah was instrumental in the beginning of this pandemic with re-organizing the food bank to meeting the new guidelines. She worked hard to bring more food, fresh food, and quality service to our food insecure residents. We can't thank her enough for her commitment and compassion, and we were so sad to see her go. Throughout all these months, with trying to do more with less (with a small but mighty crew!), our clients and our community has stuck by us, and for that we thank you all! At this point, I look back at how we got through it, and how did the residents we serve get through it? I keep coming back to the word- **RESILIENCE**. Resilience is the ability to tap into our strength, to move forward, persevere, and have the hardiness to keep going. How did we find our resilience? That's easy- by witnessing the strength and example of the wonderful, brave people who struggle with financial stress, decisions of childcare, how much food to buy this week, trying to save for emergencies while making sure one gets enough hours at work to pay the rent or mortgage. These are decisions they faced before COVID and after. The people we work with are survivors, unsung heroes- seeking support when needed, building and rebuilding self-reliance, and determination not only to get through it but also to thrive and grow out of it, as best they can. We are here for you, at Social Services. Our doors are open and we will continue to do our best to connect you to what you need to thrive in this ever-changing new world we face. We have recently hired a new Social Worker and we are very excited for you to meet her! Her name is Lauren and she is dedicated and motivated to be part of our team and help to improve the well-being of those in need in our community.

*Here's to our collective health of mind, body, and spirit!*  
~ Ivana



We are SO EXCITED to introduce our NEW Social Worker and Volunteer Coordinator:  
Lauren Haire, MSW

Lauren will be in the office Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. She will also be managing the Food Bank with our volunteer team. Stop by on a Thursday during food distribution to say HELLO!



*The mission of New Milford Social Services is to offer resources and programs to enhance the well-being and self-sustainability of New Milford residents experiencing financial hardship by addressing basic needs including food and household self-sufficiency.*

*We support our community through empowerment, advocacy, compassion and connection to opportunities to increase the resilience of our residents in need.*

### Programs

*(Please note that income guidelines vary per program. Please call us with any questions)*

*\*New Milford Food Bank*

*\*Energy (Heating) Assistance*

*\*Emergency Financial Assistance [limited funding] & Counseling re:*

*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]*



2 Pickett District Rd.  
New Milford, CT 06776  
(P) 860-355-6079  
(F) 860-355-6019

Email: [socialservices@newmilford.org](mailto:socialservices@newmilford.org)

Website: [www.newmilford.org](http://www.newmilford.org)

New Milford Social Services



# 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)** The State has EXTENDED DEADLINES TO APPLY for this year!  
**MAY 20<sup>th</sup>- last day to apply for deliverable fuel heat and receive a delivery**  
**JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>- last day to apply for electric heat**

**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 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

- For eligible electric heating customers, Eversource has extended the MPP program enrollment to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Please contact our office to receive help to enroll.
- Customers already on MPP have until October 31<sup>st</sup> to make up all their MPP payments and will not be removed from the program.
- ~~\*May 20<sup>th</sup>~~ is the deadline to request the COVID-19 Payment Program under the State of Emergency executive order for any household affected by COVID. This is not just for electric but other utilities such as water (Aquarian) **\*Post printing of this newsletter, the Governor extended his order to JULY 20<sup>th</sup>. Eversource will extend their 24-month payment program until July 20<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Operation Fuel has ended their Winter/Spring program. Look for future opening for the Summer/Fall program**

The **Community Fuel Bank** is also available for an emergency assist. Exploring the above programs is part of the process before CFB is accessible.

## *Family & Children*



We are waiting to hear from the United Way about the Back to School Program. As a reminder, this program is for Social Services families with children entering Kindergarten through High School.

You must be the primary custodial guardian of the children you are registering. We are hoping registration will begin soon and *spots will be limited.* *You must be up-to-date with proof of income and residency.*

*You can start to email or call us about your interest in participating and we hope to be able to send you a registration form soon. As it was last year, distribution will be drive-by, most likely at JPCC. Date and time TBA. We will notify fully registered families.*

[socialservices@newmilford.org](mailto:socialservices@newmilford.org) or 860-355-6079

## *Family & Children*

### *Summer Camp at Parks & Rec*

There are still some scholarship funds available to help cover the cost of Parks & Rec Summer RecOn Camp. Please contact our office by phone or email at [socialservices@newmilford.org](mailto:socialservices@newmilford.org) to make your request.



## *Disabled Adults*

### RENTER'S REBATE:

Applications Accepted  
Now until October 1st.



This is a program for CT renters who are **elderly or totally disabled** (meeting the Social Security definition and over age 18) and who are **income eligible**. If you qualify, the State will send you a rebate check. The amount of the rebate ranges from \$150 to \$700 (\$900 married) and is based on your income and certain household expenses that you paid in 2020. To qualify you must have lived in a CT rental unit for at least 1 year. **The maximum income is \$37,600 for one person or \$45,800 for couples.** Applications for persons under age 60 will be taken at our office. Please call for an application packet. Be prepared to share proof of rent and utilities (electric, gas, oil, water) paid in 2020 and proof of total income for 2020 including SSDI, SSI, Tax Return, Pension, and any other income received.



## SNAP \$\$ at the FARMERS MARKET



We will be at the New Milford Farmers Market Saturday's from June through October 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 bakery!

**Food Programs at New Milford Social Services**



The New Milford Food Bank is open every Thursday, 9am-2pm for residents experiencing food insecurity. Due to COVID-19, we are operating out of the JPCC cafeteria. Please bring your own bags and carefully follow traffic and parking guidance. Masks recommended.

**~COVID-19 RESOURCES- VACCINE Clinic**

~NEW MILFORD OFFERS COVID-19 PFIZER CLINICS~

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 4pm -6pm \*\*

@John Pettibone Community Center

Walk-up clinic but can preregister at

[www.newmilford.org](http://www.newmilford.org)

ID asked but not required.

A guardian must accompany children.

[\*\*please check Town website for any changes to the schedule]



**~COVID-19 RESOURCES- Internet Temporary \$ Assistance**

**EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT**

**WHAT IS IT?**  
The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic.

**The benefit provides:**

- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband services;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**  
**A household is eligible if one member of the household:**

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guide lines or participates in certain government assistance programs;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch or breakfast program;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

**THREE WAYS TO APPLY**

- 1**  
Contact your preferred participating provider directly to learn about their application process.
- 2**  
Go to [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](http://GetEmergencyBroadband.org) to submit an application and to find participating providers near you.
- 3**  
Complete a mail in application and send it along with proof of eligibility to:  
Emergency Broadband Support Center  
P.O. Box 7081  
London, KY 40742

**LEARN MORE**

Call 833-511-0311, or  
Visit [fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](http://fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit)

**~COVID-19 RESOURCES- HOUSING & UTILITY**

**MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>: CT LAUNCHES Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance for CT Residents and their Landlords:**

Eligible CT Households:

- Those who have qualified for unemployment or have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship **DUE TO COVID-19**
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Household income at or below 80% of the HUD AMI:

The 80% AMI for New Milford is:

Household of 1:	\$54,950.00
Household of 2:	\$62,800.00
Household of 3:	\$70,650.00
Household of 4:	\$78,500.00
Household of 5:	\$84,800.00
Household of 6:	\$91,100.00
Household of 7:	\$97,350.00
Household of 8:	\$103,650.00

**Have you been financially impacted by COVID-19?**

Apply for **UniteCT**, a rental assistance program supporting CT residents who earn up to **80% of the HUD Area Median Income** and their landlords.

You may qualify for the opportunity to receive...

- ✓ Missed gas & electric outstanding payments
- ✓ Missed rent or future rent payments

**UniteCT**

**Questions?**

[www.bit.ly/UniteCT](http://www.bit.ly/UniteCT)

1-844-UNITECT  
1-844-864-8328

scan QR code:

**UniteCT**

**HOMEOWNERS:** The Governor has reached an agreement with over 50 credit unions and banks in CT to offer mortgage relief for homeowners who continue to face hardship due to COVID-19. For more information: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOB/Consumer/Consumer-Help/COVID-19-Mortgage-Relief>

The CT Housing Finance Authority has guidance for homeowners: <https://www.chfa.org/>

Fannie Mae homeowners who have been affected by COVID-19 can look for mortgage relief options at <https://www.fanniemae.com/here-help-homeowners>

## Community Culinary School

*For vocational training in the culinary field.  
ServSafe certification earned.*



### **APPLY NOW**

for classes in SEPTEMBER.  
Financial assistance is available.  
SNAP and WIOA job training provider.  
<https://buff.ly/3vJW61C>



## **JOIN VIA ZOOM**

**6 Boxwood Drive Unit #6, Brookfield**

Information Session

May 25 from 7-8 pm

[boxwoodinfosession.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/boxwoodinfosession)

For many area families, owning a Habitat home costs less than a rental! Working families can buy their first home with fixed payments and then build a nest egg for their future.

- Fabulous Ranch-style condo with private entry
- Corner unit, bright and sunny interior
- Newly renovated kitchen and baths
- Real hardwood floors recently refinished
- Park-like setting 1,155 sq. ft. with 1 car garage
- Large living room, 2 BR and 2 full baths, washer/dryer
- Additional sizable sunroom off kitchen
- Low common charges include maintenance, snow removal, garbage pick-up, insurance, and water

### **To apply:**

Contact [info@housatonichabitat.org](mailto:info@housatonichabitat.org) to register for invitation-only

**Open House**

**June 5 from 12 to 4.**

**Application a requirement to attend.**

**Complete a pre-screen application**

See our residency, income and debt-to-income ratios needed to qualify on our [website](#)

- 1.Total household income range \$55,000 - \$65,000
- 2.Live or work in Greater Danbury area
- 3.Demonstrated need for affordable housing

[housatonichabitat.org](https://www.housatonichabitat.org) | 51 Austin St, Danbury, CT |  
203-744-1340 x 104

For more information: [info@housatonichabitat.org](mailto:info@housatonichabitat.org)

Ask about of homeowner program for [Veterans!](#)

## HEADSTART Pre-School Information

The EdAdvance Head Start: Three to Five program located at Hill & Plain School is currently recruiting income-eligible families with children between 3 and 4 years of age. Children must turn 3 years by 12/31/21. The program provides a quality preschool experience that focuses on Kindergarten Readiness, Health/Nutrition, Social Services, and Parent Involvement. The Head Start hours are 9:15 to 1:15 Monday through Friday. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Contact Merriah Waters at 860-304-4648 for more information.



### 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>

We also try to list available jobs at our office, so please stop by or call us. Geron Nursing is currently hiring.

**TBICO is an area agency dedicating to helping people re-enter the workforce, build-up their employable skills, become self-sufficient and financially mobile.**

203-743-6695 <http://www.tbicoworks.org/>



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.



### **OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY**

Thursdays, 2pm-6pm

Drive up Service  
Upper Level of  
New Milford United Methodist Church  
68 Danbury Road

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month



*We all can benefit from support- ~Counseling Resource:*

THE WOMEN'S CENTER OF GREATER DANBURY: Safe haven; offering individual counseling and support groups for victims of domestic violence & sexual assault and for those dealing with other major life transitions as separation, divorce, grief, loss and self-esteem issues. For more info, call 203-731-5200 and their website [www.wcogd.org](http://www.wcogd.org).

NEW MILFORD HOSPITAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: NMHBH provides mental health services for adults. Call 860-210-5350 for more information or for an appointment.

GREENWOOD COUNSELING REFERRAL:

Free clinical assessment and list of 3 local therapists to help you. 860-567-4437.

INTERFACE CENTER is a private not-for-profit practice located in New Milford; experienced staff with many sub-specialties for adults and children. Call 860-354-5116

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S AID:

NM office offers many services for parents & children: free or insurance based. For info or an appointment, call 860-354-8556.

FORTITUDE CENTER: Offers mental health and addiction counseling to people of all ages. Call 860-799-5750; 143 West St Suite V, New Milford.

For further resources ask one of social workers; 860-355-6079

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HOTLINE NUMBERS:

\*Suicide Prevention: 1- 800-273-TALK (8255)/ 1-800-784-2433 / text TALK to 741 741

\*Adult Crisis Hotline: 1-888-447-3339

\*Crisis/ Youth Crisis- dial 211

\*Domestic Violence Hotline: 203-731-5206

\*Sexual Assault Hotline: 203-731-5204

\*SAMHSA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services) 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

\*Learn more @ [www.drugfreect.org](http://www.drugfreect.org)



New Milford Coalition for New Beginnings has resources and contact information for addiction, prevention and substance treatment.

In addition to resources to grow family and children relationships through asset building. <https://www.newmilfordcan.org/>

CONFIDANT HEALTH: New APP to connect to therapist, prescribers & coaches: Get started at:

<https://confidanthealth.com/how-it-works/>



# BreakTheStigma

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Food Bank days for distribution:

MAY 2021						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				6	7	1
2	3	4	5	13	14	8
9	10	11	12	20	21	15
16	17	18	19	27	28	22
23	24	25	26		29	
30	31					

JUNE 2021						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Attention New Milford Youth gr.4-12. You are invited to design a lamppost banner that will fly on NM Green and answer the question: *What does your heart beat for?* For deadline & guidelines visit: <https://www.heartbeatsnewmilford.org/>

Office Closed



***New Milford Social Services will be CLOSED on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> in honor of Memorial Day***

The Town will host a Memorial Day Parade Monday morning, May 31st, on the Green.

“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths.

These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.” ~ Elisabeth Kubler- Ross

You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have.

PRESORT STANDARD  
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2 PICKETT DISTRICT RD  
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860-355-6079  
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